

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY STANDING ORDERS REVIEW: MEMBERSHIP CONSULTATION

Introduction

As explained in the September 2018 Newsletter (on page 11), the Society's Charter, Statutes and By-Laws dating from 1965, when we received our Royal Charter, have been under review for some time. The proposed revised document, which aims to modernise our governance taking into account inter alia the growth of the Society, changes in technology and communications, and current legislation, has been prepared by a small working group and discussed by Council. See the Newsletter article for more details.

The purpose of this consultation is to enable members to discuss the issues and send feedback. We greatly value your input and hope that as many members as possible take part, either on the blog or by email to Katy Henderson at charter@lms.ac.uk.

At the end of the consultation, comments will be collated and considered by Council. Council will then prepare a new version of the revised document prior to seeking legal advice on the wording. The intention is that a final version will be ready for the June 2019 General Meeting, and that voting on the revised rules will take place at the 2019 AGM. Please note that only members in good standing will be able to vote, according to the Society's current voting rules. If you have any queries about your membership status or dues please contact membership@lms.ac.uk.

The Standing Orders Proposals document

The Standing Orders Proposals document is presented in three columns. The left-hand column contains the existing Standing Orders, the middle column gives the proposed new version, and the right-hand column contains brief remarks on the changes and is colour-coded.

Below are the main points at issue, marked red in the right-hand column of the Standing Orders Review document. The numbering refers to the middle column.

* * * * *

Charter 7

Council recommends that the procedure should be changed. Instead of holding a General Meeting, the Members would elect by ballot a panel whose task it would be to decide the question. See the discussion of Statute 31.

Charter 9

An explicit statement has been inserted that the number of Members-at-Large should exceed the number of Officers.

* * * * *

Statute 4

The age-related criterion for Associate Members has been removed.

Statute 18

Council proposes raising the number of members required to requisition a Special General Meeting to 2.5% of the Ordinary Members. In 1965 this would have been 20 Members; now it would be 42.

Statute 23

Council proposes that the ballot should take place prior to the AGM, with the results announced at the AGM, and that the President-Designate should become a President-Elect.

Statute 31

This allows for removal of a Trustee if they are not a fit and proper person according to relevant legislation.

However, suppose the Trustees became reasonably convinced that, through the action of a Trustee or Trustees, the Council would be in contravention of employment law, commercial law, or financial or any other relevant legislation. Then, according to the current Standing Orders, this would have to be dealt with by a Resolution duly passed at a General Meeting. This would clearly not be possible if the matter was of a confidential nature (for example in the case of an accusation of sexual harassment).

Council proposes that the power would remain with the Members, but that instead of calling a General Meeting Council would hold a ballot of Members to decide the composition of a panel whose purpose would be to decide the issue. This panel must uphold the law as regards confidentiality, must take appropriate professional advice, and must ensure that their procedures and conclusions are consistent with current legislation. It is also proposed that Council have the power to suspend one of its members suspected or accused of such actions by a 2/3 rounded down majority.

* * * * *

By-Law I.4

Council proposes that the maximum number of consecutive one-year terms of office for Officers should be 8, followed by a 2 year gap.

By-Law I.5

Council proposes that for Members-at-Large the maximum number of consecutive two-year terms of office should remain at 3, but with a 2 year gap.

By-Law III.1

This change of date codifies the current practice. It allows Members to add to the slates prepared by the Nominating Committee.

By-Law III.2

Council proposes inserting a new clause that no-one can stand for 2 officer positions at the same time.

*Caroline Series, President
Stephen Huggett, General Secretary
4 November 2018*