



Students Of Philosophy Association

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13 September 2021

Referendum – Proposed Changes to By-laws

Whereas, the volunteer coordinator position is no longer used.

Whereas, the SoPhIA Review Editor-in-Chief position is officially registered with ASFA.

Whereas, the SoPhIA Review Editor-in-Chief has been a position within SoPhIA for several years.

Whereas, to prevent ambiguity in executive status of executives voted on in the GA to be deemed as a full executive.

Whereas, to allow changes to by-laws at our General Assembly instead of our two-step method.

Proposal to alter by-law Section III number 5 letter g (Sect. III 5.g)

We propose to alter the bylaws in section III number 5, letter g to allow for changes to by-laws at the General or Special General Assemblies. ASFA (our umbrella association) follows their by-law regarding this similarly to our proposed change (they can alter by-laws by vote at a GA). We do differently and wish to have parity with ASFA in this regard. We propose this because the

current method involves calling to question at referendum (we vote at the General Assembly to have the question voted on at the general and by-elections, and only once approved at the GA and voted on at the ASFA elections does it become a valid by-law change). We think this two-step method is cumbersome and superfluous: if we meet quorum at a General/Special assembly, then there is no need for a quorum vote again at an election. Moreover, a referendum can be called if quorum is not met.

The current by-law reads: *“The General Assembly and/or Special General Assembly may not alter the by-laws, but may call to question at referendum changes to the by-laws.”*

Our proposed change: *“The General Assembly and/or Special General Assembly may alter the by-laws on condition a quorum vote on the change is met, or may call to question at referendum changes to the by-laws.”*

Proposal to Add New Executive Position “SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief” into the By-laws under section IV, number 7

Be it resolved that the official executive list under section IV, number 7, the “SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief” executive position be added for numeral x. The Editor-in-Chief position was created in 2016 and was voted on in 2018, but never added into the official by-laws. Previously this was the duty of the Volunteer Coordinator which has since been unofficially removed as an executive position. We have had a journal coordinator every year since the inception of the journal.

Proposal to Remove the “Volunteer Coordinator” Description under section IV, number 8.

Letter h)

Be it resolved that under section IV, number 8. Letter h) the Volunteer Coordinator position description be removed from the by-laws. The Volunteer Coordinator is an obsolete position that was not used in several years and the duties of coordinating the SoPhiA Review journal has since become the duties of the “SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief”.

Proposal to Add the “SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief” Position in Section IV, number 8., letter h)

Be it resolved that under section IV, number 8. Letter h) the new SoPhiA Review Editor-In-Chief position be added. It shall read:

“The SoPhiA Review Editor-in-Chief: shall be responsible for accepting submissions from students as well as hiring a team of editors for the creation of an undergraduate student journal titled ‘The SoPhiA Review’. The Editor-in-Chief shall also be responsible for any duties deemed fit to the creation and upkeep of a journal and not limited to: printing, publishing, distributing, calling out for submissions, managing editors, and reviewing submissions.”

Proposal to Add Wording to Sect. IV Number 10.

Be it resolved under section IV number 10., letter f (bylaw section IV 10.f), the wording “or voted on by members” and “General or” be added. The old and new wording is shown below.

This change is proposed because we have had confusion with this wording in the past, and this

change would better account for those voted on in the General Assembly by its members to be full executives with all the powers of an executive. I believe this wording is more clear and less ambiguous. There is no change to the power of appointed members. Members voted on by the membership in any General Assembly are deemed as full executives.

Current wording: *“Appointed members are not deemed as Executive Members and may only act as signing authorities or booking officers when their positions are ratified in the Special General Assembly.”*

Proposed wording: *“Appointed members are not deemed as Executive Members and may only act as signing authorities or booking officers when their positions are ratified or voted on by members in the General or Special General Assembly.”*

Thank you,

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