

Committee on the IIS Constitution and Bye-Laws

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Report to the BoT on the Proposal to modify the IIS Constitution and Bye-Laws

The Committee on the Constitution and Bye-Laws was asked on October 25, 2010 to review the proposal of 5 IIS members to modify the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the IIS. The Committee has discussed this draft of a new version of the Constitution thoroughly during a couple of teleconferences which included Brad Maxwell as representative of the petitioners. The Committee unanimously found the paper consistent with other provisions of the Society and had no concerns as to its legality. This last point needs perhaps additional confirmation by a professional lawyer familiar with the relevant US laws and fiscal provisions for non-profit organizations such as the IIS.

In the detailed discussion on the paper a few additions and alterations of the original version were proposed and some of them accepted by the petitioners and included in an updated proposal (v3.1). This version has been reviewed and is now submitted to the Board of Trustees of the IIS.

The Committee fully supports the aim of the proposed changes and amendments, e.g. a better representation of the Chapters and Divisions in the governing bodies of the Society. However, the Committee had one major concern with the proposed new version of the Constitution. This concern relates to the increased complexity of the potentially future organizational IIS structure. A consequence could be considerable additional administrative workload between and during the triennial IIS elections. The Committee feels that structural clarity and simplicity in IIS organization and election processes are essential elements in motivating members to commit themselves in diverse IIS functions and participate actively in the elections. The Committee sees some room for improvement in this important practicability aspect while the petitioners did not fully share this view.

Best regards

Dietrich Gantz