

Background

Since 1999 our bylaws have been revised only once, in 2018. The 2018 amendments were ***all passed unanimously*** by the Executive Council at our Kyoto meeting in June by the members of the Executive Council but are still waiting for ratification by the membership. After our June 2018 meeting it has emerged that our bylaws require further revisions. It seemed appropriate to address those problems first and only then send the modified bylaws to the membership for ratification. On June 26, 2019, the Executive Council passed a series of additional changes to our bylaws. All changes were ***passed unanimously or with overwhelming support*** (one abstention).

We ask you to vote YES and ratify these changes.

To help you with your decision, in this document, we will explain the reasons for the proposed changes. We have also attached the original and the revised bylaws.¹

The 2018 Revision

The 2018 revisions can be organized under six headings: 1) the post and duties of the Treasurer, 2) fiscal rules concerning the Executive Director, 3) the President's responsibilities for the Annual Meeting, 4) the relationship between the Nominations Committee and the Executive Council, 5) the annual meeting of the Executive Council, and 6) SASE's place of incorporation.

1. The Treasurer

The Problem

SASE's bylaws included no reference to a Treasurer although a Treasurer de facto had existed for many years.

Proposed Changes

The Treasurer is elected by the general membership and serves for a two-year term that can be renewed once. The Treasurer is ex-officio member of the Executive Committee and the Executive Council. The Treasurer shall have signature authority over SASE financial accounts, along with the Executive Director. The Treasurer (and not the Executive Director) presents the budget at the annual meeting of the Executive Council. The Treasurer decides on how to deposit SASE funds.

Consequences

The role of the elected Treasurer is to oversee SASE's budget and provide continuity in financial matters.

2. The Executive Director

The Problem

The financial rules under which the Executive Director operates were not spelled out in sufficient detail.

Proposed changes

The Executive Director is responsible for determining the dates when membership and registration fees are altered. The Executive Committee is to evaluate the performance of Executive Director periodically, deciding on the Executive Director's annual salary. The rules applied to the salary annual review are submitted to the Executive Council. The expense caps are to be altered so that the Executive Director may make non-budgeted

¹ In MS Word, you can easily compare the two using Review, Compare.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

expenditures under \$2,000; non-budgeted expenditures between \$2,000 and \$5,000 must be submitted to the President and Treasurer for approval; and non-budgeted expenditures over \$5,000 must be submitted to the Executive Council for approval. And SASE's fiscal year will be January 1 through December 31 rather than July 1 through June 30.

Consequences

The remuneration and the financial conduct of the Executive Director is clarified.

3. President's responsibilities for the Annual Meeting

The Problem

Current bylaws do not specify that the ultimate responsibility for the Annual Meeting is with the President. This has been de facto practice.

Proposed changes

The President is chair of the Annual Meeting Program Committee. The members of the Annual Meeting Program Committee and the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee are appointed by the President and do not require approval from the Executive Council.

Consequences

The changes make explicit existing practices that empower the President to do the job.

4. Relationship between the Nominations Committee and the Executive Council

The Problem

Currently it is specified that the Executive Council selects the Nominations Committee. This creates conflicts of interest.

Proposed changes

The Nominations Committee is appointed by the President under consultation with the Executive Committee and not the Executive Council.

Consequences

The change eliminates a conflict of interest.

5. Executive Council's annual meeting

The Problem

The number of issues the Executive Council must discuss each year has been growing. There are very strict time limits for the meeting. Council members already have to add at least one extra night for their conference expenses. Currently, meetings run 6 to 8 hours. Even though this has never been a problem, encouraging all SASE members to participate in the annual meetings of the Executive Council could paralyze the organization.

Proposed changes

The mention that meetings of the Executive Council are open to all SASE members is removed.

Consequences

It allows the Executive Council to control its agenda and makes it easier to complete business.

6. Place of incorporation

The Problem

SASE was originally domiciled in Washington, D.C. at the founder's, Amitai Etzioni's address.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Proposed changes

We moved the address to Timonium, Maryland, the address of SASE's current Certified Public Accountant.

The 2019 Revision

The 2019 revisions can be organized under five headings: 1) the journal, 2) committees, 3) the term of the President Elect, and 4) election nomination rules, 5) miscellaneous editing. The four topics are reasonably independent of each other. We will discuss them in this order.

1. The journal

Summary: Insertion of SER in SASE's bylaws.

The Problem

SER has been one of the most valuable parts of SASE. It was launched in 2003, after our bylaws were originally written.

Proposed Changes

To include that SER is an official publication of SASE into our bylaws:

“SASE shall maintain and support the journal Socio-Economic Review.”

Consequences

This will acknowledge SASE's responsibility for SER and motivate SASE's oversight.

2. Committees

Summary: Codifying existing committee structures plus adding the Network Organizers' Forum, recasting the Membership Committee as Membership and Diversity Committee, renaming the Network Committee as Network Oversight Committee.

The Problem

In terms of official SASE committee structure, current bylaws mention the Executive Committee, the Annual Meeting Program Committee, the Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee and the Nominations Committee (listed on our web site as Elections Committee). Over the years, SASE de facto has operated the following committees: the Membership Committee, Networks Committee, Early Workshop Committee and various award committees. While we don't need to enshrine each committee into our bylaws, we should include the important ones.

Moreover, Network Organizers felt that they are not sufficiently integrated into our organizational structure and requested “a forum to formulate a common position on important issues, exchange information and ideas about running the networks, and more generally constitute a formal point of contact for the Council and for individual network organizers.”

Proposed Changes

The revision lists the main committees and at the request of the Network Organizers and upon the recommendation of the Network Committee, adds a new one: the Network Organizers' Forum (NOF). Every network organizer is ex-officio member of NOF. The NOF would delegate one non-voting member to the Executive Council by vote of its members where each network will have one vote. The bylaws will leave the other details of operation to the NOF itself.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Upon the recommendation of our Working Group on Diversity, the Membership Committee would be replaced with the Membership and Diversity Committee.

The Network Committee is renamed as the Network Oversight Committee to clarify its function and its separation from the Network Organizers' Forum. To avoid conflicts of interest, network organizers will not serve on this committee.

Permanent Committees currently in the bylaws	Permanent Committees currently listed on our web site	Permanent Committees in the proposed revised bylaws and to be listed on the website
Executive Committee	Executive Committee	Executive Committee
Executive Council	Executive Council	Executive Council
Annual Meeting Program Committee	Program Committee	Annual Meeting Program Committee
Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee	*	Annual Meeting Local Arrangements Committee
Nominations Committee	Elections Committee	Nominations Committee
Network Committee (mentioned in passing)	Network Committee	Network Oversight Committee
	Membership Committee	Membership and Diversity Committee
	Early Career Workshop Committee	Early Career Workshop Committee
	SER Best Article Award Committee	Listed as Award Committees
	Alice Amsden Book Award Committee	
	Fondation France-Japon/SASE Best Paper Prize Committee	
		Network Organizers' Forum

* The Annual Meeting Local Arrangement Committee is a technical committee and normally not listed on the web site.

Consequences

Putting these committees in the bylaws clarifies their formation and operation. More importantly, it represents a commitment to what each committee is designated to do. It commits us, for instance, to continue the Early Career Workshop, to annually assess our membership and its diversity, etc.

The new Network Organizers' Forum will coordinate the work of the organizers across networks. The NOF's delegate will give them voice on the Executive Council.

The bylaws retain the possibility of the creation of other ad hoc committees.

3. The term of the President-Elect

Summary: The creation of a full-term President-Elect and replacing non-immediate Past President with President-Elect on the Executive Committee.

The Problem

As current bylaws specify, the President-Elect is supposed to be responsible for finding the venue for the Annual Meeting during their presidency. Given the timing of SASE elections in the spring, this means that they have less than 3 months to find and nail down a place so that it can be announced when they become President. In

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

practice, and for good planning and logistics reasons, the location of the Annual Meeting is decided before a President is elected. Moreover, the current bylaws describe a series of situations when the President-Elect is supposed to substitute in case the President is unavailable. This assumes that the President-Elect serves parallel with the President.

Proposed Changes

The revision would create a President-Elect, who serves an entire year in that capacity. During that year, their main task is to find the conference venue for the following year (during their presidency). This would give sufficient time for the preparations.

The revision would eliminate the non-Immediate Past President as an Officer of SASE and replace them with the President-Elect on the Executive Committee. (Currently, Presidents after they step down, serve two years on the Executive Committee. The President-Elect is not listed as a part of any committee in the current bylaws.) We propose to create a leadership structure that most associations like ours have: at any given time, there is a President-Elect, a President and a Past President.

Consequences

This creates a sturdy, overlapping leadership with better continuity. As in the past, those elected President will serve for three years but serving one year as President-Elect up front, as opposed to a second year as Past Past President. This gives the President two years to prepare the Annual Meeting and an entire year to learn the ropes of the Presidency. Having more time for preparation will save money (we can ask for multiple bids from conference venues and compare) and will make it easier to find the optimal venue.

To move to this new form of Presidency, we will have to have a special election this fall for President-Elect for the 2019-2020 cycle. That President-Elect would take over from Nitsan Chorev in 2020 in Amsterdam, and the President we elect in April 2020, will become President-Elect.

After the 2019-2020 cycle, we will have only one election each year.

4. Election nomination rules

There are two annual elections in SASE. One is for President and the other is for the Executive Council.² The proposed bylaw changes will eliminate inconsistencies in our current bylaws and accommodate the new leadership structure.

Nomination for the Presidential Election

Summary: The nomination would be entrusted to the President Search Group composed of the Past President, who chairs the Search Group, the President-Elect and one delegate from the Executive Council Selected by the President.

The Problem

Finding the right person for President must negotiate several criteria. The President must be a senior person with visibility and standing in the profession, must be committed to SASE, able to carry out the considerable service the position requires, has to be able to set an attractive theme for the Annual Meeting and must be selected to in a way that reflects our diversity. Currently, we have two different and contradictory methods written in our bylaws

² Every two years, there is a third election for Treasurer.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

of electing the President, one through the Nominations Committee and one through solicitation by the Past President (which is our current practice).

Proposed Changes

The revision would revamp the election process. The President Search would be conducted by a three-person group: the President Elect, the Past President, who chairs the Search, and one person from the Executive Council selected by the President. The Search Group after consulting the Executive Committee shall nominate as many as two candidates annually for the position of President-Elect.

Consequences

The new process of selecting the presidential nominees, while essentially following the current practice, will be more transparent.

Nomination for the Executive Council Election

Summary: The proposed changes clarify the role of the Nominations Committee.

The Problem

The Nominations (Elections) Committee's report called our attention to the problem of outside nomination to the Executive Council. According to our bylaws, it is the Nominations Committee that has to prepare the ballot, while anyone with 10 supporters can get on the ballot bypassing the Nominations Committee. Given that SASE members know only a fraction of the membership and people float in and out of the organization from year to year, aggressive outside nomination with such a low requirement for support can lead to a small, self-appointed group assuming most Executive Council positions. Our current rules also allow for write-in candidates.

If the Nominations Committee is to be responsible for a balanced, diverse and inclusive ballot, then outside nomination with the current rules may prevent the Committee from fulfilling its responsibilities.

Proposed Changes

Nominations committee announces an open call for nominations whereby members can nominate other members or themselves. The Nominations committee will use these names as well as other names generated by the Nominations committee to compose the final ballot, therefore, retaining control over the final composition of the ballot. The Committee will strive to maximize the diversity of the ballot (and subsequently, of the Executive Council) by considering various factors (such as, but not limited to gender, academic discipline, geographic area of the candidates' affiliation, or national/ethnic background).

Consequences

The Nominations Committee will have a mandate to make the slate for the Executive Council diverse. The process still allows for write-in candidates.

5. Miscellaneous editing

Four minor editorial changes are also proposed. In the new text, "annual meeting" and "Annual Meeting" are now used interchangeably. In the new version "Annual Meeting" refers to the annual conference, and use "annual meeting" (all lower case) when we talk of the annual meeting of the Executive Council.

By releasing Past Presidents from their leadership roles after one year, the distinction between Past President and Immediate Past President became unnecessary, so we deleted references to "Immediate" Past President.

We eliminated gendered language.

PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES

Bylaws are spelled with and without the hyphen in the text. Recently, the word is used more commonly in the form of “bylaws,” and we will use that spelling.