



February 3, 2020 marked 60 calendar days to the next NRHC Regional Business Meeting. This meeting will take place on Friday, April 3 at 4 p.m. at the Hilton Albany. Therefore, the NRHC Executive Board is circulating existing and revised proposals to the membership for its consideration.

The first three proposals have been approved by the membership and will be voted on via electronic ballot after the 2020 Albany Conference. The fourth proposal is a revision following the 2019 regional business meeting in New Orleans; this proposal will be further discussed in Albany. The earliest point at which the fourth proposal can be voted upon is after the 2020 NCHC conference in Houston.

Proposal #1: Dues Increase

The NRHC Constitution charges the NRHC Executive Board with formulating policies and taking actions that fulfill the obligations, purposes, and goals of the Region. After careful consideration and extensive review of NRHC's current finances and future goals, the Board is recommending a change in dues. The Board seeks to ensure that NRHC has a sound financial foundation and can provide additional services and resources to members in the future. The NRHC Executive Board proposes that the NRHC institutional dues be \$200 per year effective July 1, 2020. Dues for affiliated individuals, unaffiliated individuals, and students shall be adjusted according to the guidelines in the NRHC Constitution. Discussion of the proposed dues change will be on the agenda of the NRHC Business meeting to be held on November 8, 2019 at the NCHC conference. Of course, all members are welcome to send comments to the Board prior to the meeting. The entire membership will have the opportunity to vote on the proposed dues change electronically.

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Albany Conference. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Proposal #2: Constitutional Amendment to WebMaster Executive Board Position

The membership will vote on several changes to the position of “WebMaster.” The position of WebMaster would be renamed “Web Coordinator,” and the tenure of the position would be extended from two years to three years. This name change would be made in all official documents where the position is mentioned, including the Constitution and By-laws. Should this change be put into effect, the current Web Coordinator’s term will be extended from two years to three. This term would equal that of the Executive Secretary and Executive Treasurer and would ensure continuity within the position. The newsletter duties would be removed from the position, as the council has opted for an ongoing news and events section of the website. They will be replaced with the Call for Proposals and Conference Registration processes.

Current Wording in the Constitution:

ARTICLE V. Newsletter Editor/Webmaster - The Editor of the Northeast Regional Newsletter/Webmaster shall be elected to a two-year term by a vote of the membership of the Region. In the event of a resignation during the term of office the Executive Board is empowered to appoint someone until the next annual election. The Editor/Webmaster is expected to have a working knowledge of web design/publishing and social media. The Editor/Webmaster is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Council's website and web-based newsletter. Constitution Required Revisions 04/04/2011

Proposed Amended Wording to the Constitution:

ARTICLE V. Web Coordinator - **The Web Coordinator shall be elected to a three-year term** by a vote of the membership of the Region. In the event of a resignation during the term of office, the Executive Board is empowered to appoint someone until the next annual election. **The Web Coordinator is expected to have a facility learning new technologies and a working knowledge of web design and logistics. The Web Coordinator is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the Council's website, the Call for Proposals, and the Conference Registration process.**

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Albany Conference. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Proposal #3: Constitutional Amendment – Addition of Office of Immediate Past President to the NRHC Executive Board

Although the NRHC Executive Board has traditionally included the office of Immediate Past President, that is not specifically stated in the Constitution. This proposed amendment seeks to officially add the position to the Board. Discussion of the proposed change will be on the agenda of the NRHC Business meeting to be held on November 8, 2019 at the NCHC conference. Members are welcome to send comments to the Board prior to the meeting. The entire membership will have the opportunity to vote electronically on the proposed amendment.

Current Wording in the Constitution:

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Their Duties

The officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, an Executive Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary. The President, the President-Elect, and the Vice-President, may not be elected to a second consecutive term of office.

Constitution Required Revisions 04/11/2015

Section 1. The President shall be the immediate past President-Elect and shall hold office for one year until a successor is installed. The President shall preside at meetings of the Region, appoint committees, propose policies and projects which fulfill the obligations and purposes of the Region, and preside over the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Vice President shall be elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant.

Constitution Required Revisions 10/20/2000

Constitution Required Revisions 10/28/2005

Section 3. The Executive Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Treasurer may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Secretary, the Executive Treasurer shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Executive Treasurer shall collect and manage all Regional funds, and may sign contractual obligations on behalf of the Region or may designate another officer or standing committee chair to do so. The Executive Treasurer may approve fiscal and contractual obligations of less than \$501. Fiscal and contractual obligations greater than \$500 but less than \$1001 require approval of the Executive Treasurer and the President or the President's designee. Fiscal and contractual obligations of over \$1000 require the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Secretary may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Treasurer, the Executive Secretary shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Proposed Amended Wording to the Constitution:

ARTICLE IV. Officers and Their Duties

The officers shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Vice President, **an Immediate Past President**, an Executive Treasurer, and an Executive Secretary. The President, the President-Elect, and the Vice-President, may not be elected to a second consecutive term of office.

Constitution Required Revisions 04/11/2015

Section 1. The President shall be the immediate past President-Elect and shall hold office for one year until a successor is installed. The President shall preside at meetings of the Region, appoint committees, propose policies and projects which fulfill the obligations and purposes of the Region, and preside over the Executive Board.

Section 2. The Vice President shall be elected for a one-year term and shall be a member of the faculty or administration of any member institution in the Region. The Vice President shall succeed automatically to the office of President-Elect upon the election and installation of the new Vice President. The Vice President shall succeed to the office of President-Elect should that office become vacant.

Constitution Required Revisions 10/20/2000

Constitution Required Revisions 10/28/2005

Section 3. The Executive Treasurer shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Treasurer may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Secretary, the Executive Treasurer shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council. The Executive Treasurer shall collect and manage all Regional funds, and may sign contractual obligations on behalf of the Region or may designate another officer or standing committee chair to do so. The Executive Treasurer may approve fiscal and contractual obligations of less than \$501. Fiscal and contractual obligations greater than \$500 but less than \$1001 require approval of the Executive Treasurer and the President or the President's designee. Fiscal and contractual obligations of over \$1000 require the approval of the Executive Board.

Section 4. The Executive Secretary shall be elected for a term of three years and shall be a member of the Region. The Executive Secretary may be re-elected to a second three-year term. Together with the Executive Treasurer, the Executive Secretary shall maintain and publish a current membership list including names and addresses of institutional representatives, and shall serve as liaison with the National Collegiate Honors Council.

Section 5. The Immediate Past President shall be the past President and shall hold office for one year or until a successor is installed. The Immediate Past President shall serve on committees, assist with the planning of the annual NRHC conference, and oversee special projects as determined by the Board.

Please note: Discussion on this proposal has concluded. The proposal in its current form is now eligible for voting. This vote will take place via electronic ballot after the 2020 Albany Conference. This will allow as many members as possible to vote because most institutions pay their dues with conference registration.

Proposal #4: Constitutional Amendment – Governance Procedures

The following proposal is submitted by Dr. Ross Wheeler of Queens College. **The text in red highlights the revised language.**

Dear NRHC Members,

The constitution of the NRHC does a good job of establishing the duties of the officers, but has very little in it about codifying operating practices.

The issue of practices of the NRHC executive committee was raised when the board determined to provide stipends to officers for their participation on the board without introducing the issue of stipends for discussion with the members.

As I mentioned at the New Orleans business meeting, this practice seems to go against the basic idea of shared governance of the region – the partnership of the executive committee and the membership.

Therefore, because there is an absence of articles about organizational practice in the current NRHC constitution, I am proposing the following amendment to help codify NRHC practices.

The language of the amendment is intended to ensure that the idea of shared governance of the region by the membership is the practice.

Proposed language for the constitutional amendment:

No changes in operating procedures or practices, especially those that entail funding from the treasury, shall be made without consultation with the region's membership. The following rules shall be followed when proposing changes:

- a) Changes in expenditures that entail amounts totaling less than \$500 can be introduced as New Business in one business meeting and voted on by the attending members in the following business meeting.**
- b) Changes in expenditures that entail amounts totaling more than \$500 shall be introduced in two consecutive business meetings and voted on, by ballot, by the membership.**

I am including here also the language that was introduced in New Orleans. The discussion at the New Orleans business meeting, made clear to me that this language was too restrictive. I have thus revised the proposal to that presented above.

Ross Wheeler
Director of Macaulay Honors College at Queens

Dear Executive Committee of the NRHC,

I am writing with a proposed amendment to the NRHC Constitution. The amendment is proposed in part to address concerns raised in the NRHC business meeting in Baltimore.

The concern, specifically, is the board's change in the practice of bringing changes to the NRHC fiscal policy to the membership for discussion and vote prior to enactment.

The amendment attempts to codify the importance of the shared governance that has existed between the NRHC executive board and the region's membership.

The constitution of the NRHC stipulates that: "Any member of the Region may propose amendments to this Constitution. All amendments must be proposed in writing and submitted to the Executive Secretary for consideration by the Executive Board at its next ordinary or extraordinary meeting. Prior to a vote the Executive Board shall apprise the membership of its evaluation of any proposed amendments. Proposed amendments do not require approval by the Executive Board in order to come before the membership.

"Proposed amendments may be distributed in writing at the business meeting prior to the business meeting during which a vote is taken. Whether shared at such a business meeting or not, proposed amendments must be distributed via regular mail or e-mail, the means to be determined by the Executive Board, at least 60 days in advance of a scheduled business meeting. Along with the results of the vote, discussion of the proposed amendment prior to the vote, including the Executive Board's evaluation, will be recorded in the minutes."

I am thus exercising my ability as a member to propose the following amendment: "All NRHC financial policies involving expenses from the treasury that provide remuneration in the form of payments or reimbursements to the executive board, must be discussed in two consecutive business meetings, and approved through direct ballot by the NRHC membership, prior to the policy's enactment."

As noted above, the constitution stipulates that this amendment be distributed to the region for discussion at the next business meeting. This should be the meeting at New Orleans.

The amendment would then be distributed to the region sixty days in advance of the spring meeting; it should thus be voted on during the spring meeting at Albany.

Thank you,

Ross Wheeler

Please note: Discussion on this proposal will continue at the business meeting in Albany. If the current proposed language is accepted, this proposal would be eligible to be voted upon after the 2020 NCHC Conference in Houston, Texas.