

Democrats Abroad Sweden 2019 Bylaws Amendment: Cover Sheet

This year, the Executive Committee appointed a bylaws committee to conduct a thorough review of the bylaws to identify possible changes needed. The bylaws committee consisted of the following persons:

- Alex Lange (Committee Chair)
- Kimball MacKay
- Kimberly Kane
- Ben Gordon

The bylaws committee recommended a number of substantive changes to the bylaws, which the Executive Committee approved on March 25 and is now submitting to the general membership for a vote at the 2019 Annual General Meeting on May 4.

The following are summaries of all the substantive changes proposed, including the motivation for each:

Section 1 - 1.5 Bank Account Authority

Change proposed: Insert new section 1.5 detailing which DAS officers have bank account signature authority.

Motivation: This change makes clear whose signatures can be used to make changes to DAS bank account(s), as required by our bank.

Section 3 - 3.1 Officers

Change proposed: Insert Members-At-Large, a new type of Executive Committee officers. Also insert clear language on gender balance.

Motivation: In order to meet the new DPCA one-person-one vote requirement for DPCA voting members, the new Member-At-Large office creates additional officers who will be DPCA voting members and assist with various tasks. Another DPCA requirement is to have gender balance among DPCA voting members.

Section 3 - 3.5 Treasurer

Change proposed: Remove excessive restrictions that limit the Treasurer's ability to set policy on how funds are raised, earmarked, and expended. These are replaced with clear assignment of responsibility.

Motivation: Rather than spell out exact details that may have to change over time, it is better to clearly assign responsibility to the Treasurer for setting such policies and procedures.

Section 3 - 3.7 Members-At-Large

Change proposed: Insert new section describing the newly created officer role of Members-At-Large.

Motivation: This new section is needed in order to determine how many Members-At-Large are needed and what their role will be.

Section 4 - 4.1 Executive Committee

Change proposed: Insert Members-At-Large as members of the Executive Committee and remove voting rights of other officers and committee chairs, except Chapter Chairs. Also remove Executive Committee meetings description, which is moved to section 9. Meetings.

Motivation: This change makes sure that the Executive Committee does not grow to an unmanageable size requiring higher quorum, and that all voting members of the Executive Committee are elected by the members.

Section 4 - 4.2 Other committees

Change proposed: Assign responsibility for committee creation to the Chair, subject to Executive Committee approval. Remove overly detailed description of how committee membership should be handled.

Motivation: This makes the creation of committees simpler and ensures a more flexible process.

Section 4 - 4.3 Chapters

Change proposed: Require that chapter officers be elected by the members at a general meeting, but retain the Chair's ability to appoint chapter officers in the absence of an election. Remove otherwise excessive

description of chapters.

Motivation: This ensures that chapters are led by democratically elected officers when at all possible, while still keeping the ability of the Chair to step in when an election can't be held for some reason.

Section 6 - 6.1 Nominations committee

Change proposed: Change 60 day requirement for announcing the nominations committee to 45.

Motivation: This change brings the announcement requirement in line with DPCA guidelines.

Section 7 - 7.3 Vacancies

Change proposed: Insert possibility of holding special meetings to fill vacancies and require Executive Committee approval for temporary appointments to fill a vacancy by the Chair.

Motivation: This change makes special meetings possible for filling vacancies in case there is a significant amount of time until the next annual general meeting. It is also good practice to require the Executive Committee to approve of temporary appointments to fill a vacancy, so the Chair doesn't have unchecked discretion.

Section 9 - 9.2 Executive Committee meetings

Change proposed: Insert description of Executive Committee meetings that was removed from section 4.

Motivation: The description of how Executive Committee meetings are convened and held is more appropriately placed in section 9.

Section 9 - 9.3 Other meetings

Change proposed: Insert possibility of holding special meetings.

Motivation: This change is needed in order to specify how to call special meetings at which Executive Committee vacancies can be filled.

Other Changes

The bylaws committee also decided to thoroughly review the remainder of the document and to recommend a significant number of edits. These edits ensure completeness, clarity, as well as consistency of language and format. They do not make any substantive changes.