

Proposed resolutions for the 2019 Annual General Meeting

This year Council are implementing a number of measures to improve communication relating to the AGM and particularly wish to provide as much transparency and clarity as possible regarding any resolutions to change the bylaws and rules of the RPS.

Final resolutions will be published on 29th of July when online voting opens, and Members will be able to vote online until 23rd September and at the AGM.

With just under 2 months to go until resolutions are published, we are writing with an overview of the changes to the bylaws and rules we are working on, and which we anticipate bringing as resolutions to the AGM. As best practice would dictate, we have sought extensive legal advice in respect of these changes and will continue to do so.

The notes below are an overview only and not precise wording of resolutions. We hope that in providing this overview, Members will have an opportunity to respond with feedback which will help us refine our thinking and provide further explanation if needed.

1. Add a provision for Members to bring resolutions to the AGM

Many organisations have provisions in their constitutions for “Members’ resolutions”. This means that a group of Members can bring forward their own resolutions for changes to the constitution or for other matters. We do not currently have this provision but we are looking at best practice, which will include consideration of the number of supporters a resolution will need in order to bring it forward and any constraints that are typically and reasonably put in place. Since there is currently no formal provision for this, Council has committed to facilitate “Members resolutions” this year if brought by 30 Members or more. Further information for this year’s process is available at www.rps.org/agm.

2. Removal of the provision for Council to award Honorary Licentiatehips and Honorary Associateships

These designations first appeared in the bylaw changes of 2017 and Council made attempts to clarify the meaning of these in bylaw changes of 2018. We are proposing to completely remove these from the bylaws. Neither of these distinctions have been awarded thus far.

3. Clarify how Honorary Membership is denoted

There has been a long-standing provision for Council to award Life Membership (Honorary Membership) to selected individuals. It is not clear how this should be denoted in post nominals, particularly in the case of Licentiates, Associates, and Fellows. We are considering clarifying this in the bylaws such that “Hon Member” would appear after any designation eg, “*Jane Smith (Hon Member) ARPS*”.

4. Place a limit on the number of Honorary Fellowships that may be awarded in a single year

Following the 2018 AGM the bylaws were changed such that there is currently no limit on the number of Honorary Fellowships that may be awarded in a given year. As a result of the

discussions following the 2018 AGM the Trustees committed in the January 2019 Journal not to award more than thirty Honorary Fellowships this year.

Following a recommendation from the Awards Committee, Council have agreed to award up to twenty Honorary Fellowships this year and to change the By-Laws to incorporate that annual limit for the future.

The Awards Committee recommendation is based on their desire to award an Honorary Fellowship to each of the twelve major external awards not given an Honorary Fellowship in the past. This twelve plus the original power of the Trustees to award up to eight per year gives the total of twenty.

On a very few occasions an external award is made to a team. For example, the Scientific Imaging Award last year was awarded to a team of three Nobel prize winners who work closely together. In future each Member of such teams will have a right to the post nominal Hon FRPS, which would not be included in the limit of 20.

5. Clarification of the sections relating to Honorary Fellowships and Honorary Members.

Some of the sections relating to Hon Fellowship and Hon Membership are poorly laid out and confusing. In addition to making changes as per items 3 and 4 above, we will review these paragraphs to make them as clear as possible.

6. Introducing more flexibility and clarity regarding membership of the Representatives Committee

The current bylaws require that membership of Representatives Committee (ex-officio for Standing Committee Chairs) should align perfectly with election years. This is very impractical as Standing Committee Chairs change at irregular intervals for practical reasons. This change would create less conflict between the bylaws and what necessarily happens in reality.

7. Clarification of wording regarding the tenure of co-opted Council Members

The wording of when a period of co-option ends is ambiguous (“after an election year”) so we intend to change this to “at the end of the AGM in an election year”.

8. Typographical changes

We have detected a number of typographical and formatting errors. We intend to address these with corrections and renumbering. All of these changes are not material to the substance of the constitution and we plan to capture these in one resolution with supporting documentation.

Final words

We hope by providing this information well in advance of the AGM and voting dates this will be helpful to Members and provide an opportunity for consideration.

We are conscious that proper consideration needs to be given to how we group or separate resolutions in the AGM papers to provide clarity and allow Members to exercise their votes meaningfully.