SASWR review of Constitution: discussion document.

This document has been prepared by the SASWR Committee for discussion at the SASWR Annual General Meeting, 21st November 2019.

The SASWR Constitution was last reviewed in 2004 and does not reflect current custom and practice. We propose amendments in four areas:

1. Membership categories (page 2)
2. Committee membership (page 3)
3. Terms of office (page 4)
4. Miscellaneous (pages 5-6)

(The article numbering below is based on the current Constitution)

**1. Membership categories**

Current

*4.a) Ordinary Members*

*b) Honorary Members*

*c) Senior Members*

*d) Retired Members*

*e) Overseas Members*

Proposed

*a) Ordinary Members*

*b) Retired Members*

*c) Honorary Members*

* **The application process for Ordinary Members has been rewritten to reflect the current on-line joining system**
* **Retired members now pay a reduced fee for home meetings, in order to ensure financial stability of the Society – this change reflects the current arrangement.**
* **Election to Senior Member category has been closed for 45 years, and can be abolished.**
* **The Overseas category can be subsumed into the Honorary Member category.**

**10. Anaesthetists in Training**

* **It is proposed that this section is abolished. All meeting attendees are required to join the Society, at rates determined for each meeting; currently this is at reduced rates for trainees, and is likely to be so in the future.**

**2. Committee membership**

Current

The committee consists of

*i) The (five) Officers of the Society (President / Vice President (immediate Past-President) / President Elect / Honorary Secretary / Honorary Treasurer)*

*ii) Four Ordinary Members*

*iii) The Honorary Secretary-Elect or immediate Past Honorary Secretary*

*iv) Editor of the Society’s Journal*

Proposed

*i) The (five) Officers of the Society (President / Vice President (immediate Past-President) / President Elect / Honorary Secretary / Honorary Treasurer)*

*ii) The Honorary Secretary-Elect or immediate Past Honorary Secretary*

*iii) The Honorary Treasurer or immediate Past Treasurer*

*iv) Membership and Communications Director*

*v) Editor of the Society’s Journal*

*vi) One Trainee representative each for the Northern area and the Southern area*

* **The Honorary Treasurer or immediate Past Treasurer should be included, in order to ensure continuity in financial management.**
* **A new committee post of ‘Membership and Communications Director’; acknowledging the crucial role of electronic communications, both in existing and developing formats, for maintaining liaison with current society members and attracting new membership.**
* **The two Trainee representatives (Northern area and Southern area) should be included, to improve engagement of trainees with the Society.**
* **Ordinary Members are not included, to allow the Committee to remain at the same size.**
* **Co-opted members may include: immediate past & future bi-annual meeting organiser(s); Assistant Editor of the Society’s Journal; Ordinary Members.**

**3. Terms of office**

Current

*14.a The President shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting one year before taking office and shall not hold office for two consecutive years.*

*14.c The Honorary Secretary and Honorary Treasurer shall be elected at the appropriate Annual General Meeting and may hold office for not more than three consecutive years.*

*14.d Others members of the Committee shall be elected at the appropriate Annual General Meeting and may hold the appointment for not more than three consecutive years.*

*14.e The election of officers and Committee shall be by ballot at the Annual General Meeting. Nominations for election must be submitted to the Honorary Secretary at least one month before the Annual General Meeting.*

*AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION (Annual General Meeting held on 10th November 1995)*

*95.11 The President outlined the Committee’s reasoning for wishing to amend the Constitution of the Society in order to make the necessary arrangements with the President-Elect for the Autumn 1997 meeting. The President proposed the following amendment: “The President who will be in office at the time of a Special Anniversary of the Society may be elected at the Annual General Meeting two years prior to taking up office to allow the appropriate involvement with preparation”. The proposal was seconded by the Honorary Treasurer and passed with acclamation.*

* **The 95.11 amendment is abolished as it is obsolete and unnecessary.**
* **The Honorary Treasurer may serve for up to six years, to ensure financial continuity.**
* **Committee members (other than the Officers) have a ‘portfolio’, and therefore do not require election or a fixed term of office.**

**4. Miscellaneous**

**4 A) Article 12**

Current

*12.c Where a member of the Committee fails to attend two consecutive meetings to which he/she has been summoned, the Honorary Secretary shall so inform the Committee who will consider the cause of the person’s absence and may declare that his/her seat on the Committee has been vacated.*

*12.e Five members shall form a quorum.*

*12.f The Honorary Secretary-Elect shall attend the Committee Meeting once a year before assuming office and shall be entitled to vote. The immediate past Honorary Secretary shall attend the Committee for one year after relinquishing office and be entitled to vote.*

*12. g The Honorary Treasurer-Elect shall attend the Committee Meetings one year before assuming office and be entitled to vote in this period. The immediate Past Honorary Treasurer shall attend the Committee for one year after completion of his tenure of office and shall retain his vote.*

* **12.c is not necessary.**
* **Teleconference access to Committee meetings shall be considered as attendance for the purpose of this article.**
* **Wording of 12f and g is clarified**

**4 B) Article 16**

Current

*16. Annual Subscription*

*a) Annual Subscriptions shall be payable on election and each succeeding October 1st. The amount of the subscription may be reviewed at the discretion of the Committee and be confirmed at an Annual General Meeting.*

*b) In the event of election to membership during the eight months preceding October 1st the Committee may reduce the first annual subscription pro rata.*

*c) Should any member’s subscription be in arrears for two years a final notice shall be sent by the Honorary Treasurer calling for full payment. Failing to pay within 28 days from the date of dispatch of the notice shall automatically cancel membership.*

* **The payments system will be based on annual renewal one year after joining, not on a fixed date for all members.**

**4 C) Article 19**

Current

***19. Society’s Journal***

*b) The Journal, at present called “ Anaesthesia Points West” and established in 1968, shall be administered by an Editor, Assistant Editor and Editorial Board. The Editor shall be appointed by the Committee of the Society for a term of the office normally of three years. The Editor-Elect (or Assistant Editor) shall likewise be elected by the Committee at least two years before being confirmed in office as Editor. The Editorial Board shall be appointed by the Editor. The immediate past Editor shall continue as Assistant Editor in the year following the termination of office until the editor-Elect has been elected.*

* **Amend wording of 19.b as the journal does not have an editorial board.**

**4 D) Article 20**

Current

*20. Prizes awarded by the society*

*a) Society’s Prize*

*i) Entries may be submitted by an member of the junior staff in the South Western region. These shall consist of papers they have prepared whilst employed in the region or within one year of leaving the Region.*

*ii) the award shall be made at the discretion of an examining panel under rules to be determined by the Committee.*

**4 E) Article 21**

*Academic foundation*

* **Amend wording of 20.a to reflect current practice.**
* **A new article, to acknowledge the current status quo of the Society’s bursaries**
* **Remove Article 21, as the foundation was never established.**