



Minutes

A MEETING of the CENTRAL ELECTIONS AND SEARCH COMMITTEE was held on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.

Present: T. Chong, P.Eng., Chair
B. Dony, P.Eng., President
G. Comrie, P.Eng. Past President
N. Fung, P.Eng.
J. Obaid, P.Eng.
H. Wojcinski, P.Eng. [via teleconference]

Staff: G. McDonald, P.Eng., Registrar
S.W. Clark, LL.B. Chief Administrative Officer
and General Secretary
D. Smith, Director, Communications
R. Martin, Manager, Secretariat

Guests: I. Bhatia, P.Eng., Chair, Regional Search and Election Committee (Eastern Region)
L. Hidalgo, P.Eng., Chair, Regional Search and Election Committee (Western Region)
D. Preley, P.Eng., Chair, Regional Search and Election Committee (Northern Region)
W. Turnbull, P.Eng., Chair, Regional Search and Election Committee (West Central Region)

CALL TO ORDER Notice having been given and a quorum being present, the Chair called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA Moved by President Dony, seconded by Past President Comrie:

That the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM JULY 27, 2017 MEETING Moved by N. Fung, seconded by President Dony:

To approve the July 27, 2017 minutes as presented.

CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES S. Clark reviewed the action items from the July 27, 2017 CESC meeting confirming that all action items were completed.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE 2018 ELECTION PUBLICITY PROCEDURES REGARDING TEMPLATE FOR CANDIDATE'S ELECTION MATERIAL S. Clark advised that the proposed profile template that all candidates are required to complete for publication in Engineering Dimensions and on the PEO website was revised based on feedback from the committee and included in the September 12, 2017 meeting package.

H. Wojcinski referred to item 17 in the 2018 Election Publicity Procedures noting that since it may be difficult for some candidates to attend a

regional All Candidate meeting, the option to communicate electronically via SKYPE, teleconference, etc. should be included in the Election Publicity Procedures. S. Clark advised that this was included in the Issues Report approved by Council at its June 23, 2017 meeting and that the Regional Councillors Committee (RCC) and Chapter office are working together on the structure for providing a remote capability for these meetings.

Moved by President Dony, seconded by H. Wojcinski:

To approve the proposed changes to the 2018 Election Publicity Procedures regarding the template for candidate's election material.

CARRIED

REINSTATE COUNCIL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT-ELECT

Past President Comrie reviewed his proposed Council Experience Requirements for Elected PEO officer positions.

Prior to the 2008 Council elections, PEO's election regulations (formerly in Section 7 of O. Reg. 941) prescribed that:

- candidates for election to the office of President-Elect must have already served for at least two (2) years on the Council before assuming the office of President-elect; and
- candidates for election or appointment as Vice President must have served at least one (1) year on Council before assuming the office of Vice President.

Council's decision in March of 2007 to remove these "Council experience" requirements was taken on the spur of the moment during debate. It was not recommended by any committee or task force, and had not been peer reviewed. The motivation of its proponents was and is unclear, but presumably they felt that candidacy in democratic elections should not be so constrained.

The duties and responsibilities of the PEO President are not well understood, nor are the attributes necessary for success in that position. PEO is a complex organization. It takes time to learn the basics of its mandate and governance, its ethos, and the rhythms of Council's agenda, in order to be able to provide effective leadership to Council. It also takes time to build effective working relationships of trust with one's Council colleagues.

The duties and responsibilities of PEO's Vice Presidents are even less clear. This could be an artifact from the pre-1984 version of the Act when there was no President-elect and one of the Vice Presidents would normally be elected to assume the presidency in the following year. Several of PEO's sister associations in Canada still follow this practice. In the haste of making the major 1984 Act revisions, these offices were retained without adequate thought to what their role(s) would be. The Vice-Presidents do, however, figure in the hierarchy of officers to replace a President who

becomes indisposed while in office (after the President-elect; reference Section 3.(2) of O. Reg. 941).

Historically (with very few exceptions), candidates for election as President-elect or Vice-President have come from the ranks of current regional Councillors or Councillors-at-Large. This may be viewed as a logical succession, with the entry point to Council service being typically the role of a regional councillor.

Moved by Past President Comrie, seconded by President Dony:

That the Central Elections and Search Committee (CESC) agrees in principle to reinstating the Council Experience Requirements for Elected PEO Officer Positions.

CARRIED

It was noted that this matter would first go to the Legislation Committee for a preliminary assessment. If the Legislation Committee feels that the proposal is a viable one it will be brought before Council for consideration and, if approved, this matter would go back to the Legislation Committee for appropriate wording and submission as a Regulation change. It was further noted that if approved, the process would take at least two years before the Regulation change is enacted.

CESC WORK PLAN

The committee reviewed the revised CESC work plan.

H. Wojcinski asked about the broader election communications plan to reach out to organizations such as Consulting Engineers Ontario (CEO), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and other large employers of engineers. S. Clark replied that this was included in the approved Issues Report. He advised, however, that the work plan could be revised to reflect this.

D. Smith encouraged members to submit to him any specific initiatives or targets that they would like to see in the broader communications plan. H. Wojcinski noted that one source for modelling the plan would be the Awards Committee.

T. Chong asked about a post election survey. S. Clark advised that an Ipsos Reid survey was conducted in the past and that while the focus of the survey was to obtain information as to why members do not vote, a review will be done to determine if there is any information as to why members chose not to run for election.

J. Obaid referred to the Outcomes Success Measures for at-large positions and suggested that "At least one or two candidates" be revised to read "More than two". There was consensus for this change.

Action: Staff will revise the CESC Work Plan to include the development

of a broader election communications plan and will review the Ipsos Reid survey to determine if it contains any information why members do not put their names forward for election.

Action: Staff will revise the work plan to state that “More than two candidates....” For each of the at-large positions.

CANDIDATE SEARCH

i. CESC Reports

T. Chong advised that he is aware of at least two members who plan to run for the President-elect position. He has also spoken to someone about the Councillor at Large position.

H. Wojcinski advised that she has a list of potential candidates that she will follow up with.

J. Obaid advised that she will be following up with several candidates who did not run last year but had expressed interest in the 2018 Council election.

There was some discussion regarding the 15-signature requirement.

Action: Staff will clarify the decision made at a previous CESC meeting regarding the 15-signature requirement.

ii. RESC Chair Reports

L. Hidalgo advised that at the Western Region Congresses Chapter leaders are encouraged to run. In discussions with potential candidates she shares her positive experiences as a member of Council.

D. Preley advised that he has started the process but that there has been no interest to date. President Dony indicated that he is aware of someone from the Northern region who may be interested.

I. Bhatia advised that he will be speaking to potential candidates at the September 22nd congress and other meetings.

H. Wojcinski encouraged members to keep equity and diversity in mind.

Moved by President Dony, seconded by President Comrie

That the CESC move in-camera.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business brought forward for discussion.

NEXT MEETING

Action: Staff will work with the Chair to identify some dates for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded.

These minutes consist of five pages.

T. Chong, P.Eng., Chair

S.W. Clark, LL.B., Chief Administrative Officer and
General Secretary