

Meeting summary for Q&A for Proposed Bylaws Changes (10/05/2024)

Quick recap

The meeting discussed proposed changes to the organization's bylaws, including the creation of new roles and recognition of affinity groups, as well as the importance of consistent involvement in the organization. AALU explored the concept of affinity groups and their potential role in qualifying for national office or alumni trustee positions. Various administrative matters were addressed, including challenges faced by the Delaware alumni chapter and the need for stronger Memorandums of Understanding between the association and Lincoln University.

Next steps

- AALU President to work with Audrey Fields to update the draft bylaws based on feedback received
- AALU to develop an MOU with chapters to establish clearer authority and expectations

Summary

Discussing AI Summary Feedback and Bylaw Changes

AALU and Nandi discussed the benefits of using AI summary feedback, with AALU expressing interest in trying it out. Camille joined the meeting late and had difficulty finding the mute button. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposed changes to the bylaws and constitution, with AALU offering impromptu QA opportunities for members to understand and suggest changes. AALU also addressed a question about affinity groups, promising to provide more information after summarizing the proposed changes.

Proposed Bylaw Changes and Affinity Groups

The meeting discussed proposed changes to the organization's bylaws. The first change was to make the Financial Secretary an elected officer, with Tawana Frank being the current holder of the position. The second change was to create an Assistant Treasurer role, which would be appointed by the President. The third change was to recognize affinity groups and chapters, with the Financial Secretary being a bonded officer. The fourth change was to update the policy for countersigning checks to reflect electronic transactions. The fifth change was to clarify the role of regional directors in supporting affinity groups. The sixth change was to add a non-voting chapter representative to the Executive Committee. The seventh change was to update the Auditing Committee's role. The eighth change was to establish a process for recognizing affinity groups and to include dissolution language in the bylaws. The conversation ended with a discussion on the concept of an affinity group.

Affinity Groups and Alumni Association Challenges

AALU discussed the concept of affinity groups, which are groups of alumni with common interests who want to interact and network after leaving the university. They expressed a desire to leverage and capture all alumni interest in Lincoln, highlighting the positive contributions of alumni groups such as the laser alumni and the cheerleading alumni. AALU considered the idea of using these groups as a qualification for running for national office or alumni trustee positions. They also discussed the challenges faced due to a lack of applications for officer positions and the issue of a two-tier system for membership. The discussion concluded with the idea of introducing 'affinity groups' to allow people to continue their current activities while offering them the opportunity to become associated with the Alumni Association.

Affinity Groups, MOUs, and Membership Categories

AALU discussed the formation and activities of affinity groups, emphasizing the need for some form of contribution or benefit to the university. AALU also highlighted the need for stronger Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) between the association and Lincoln, as well as between chapters and the national organization. Theresa raised a question about the change from "shall" to "should" in the membership categories, which AALU confirmed was due to the addition of affinity groups. AALU agreed to make edits to the document, including changing 'shall be' to 'should be' and considering the removal of the 'member at large' option. Ben suggested the need for consistency in the document, specifically in the hyphenation of 'member at large'.

Assistant Treasurer Appointment and Training Discussion

The meeting revolved around the appointment of an assistant treasurer and the potential absence of the treasurer. AALU proposed appointing the chair of the Finance Committee as an acting treasurer, but Carleton suggested having someone in training to step in if the treasurer becomes incapacitated. AALU agreed to this recommendation and planned to discuss it with Audrey Fields, the chair of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. Ben raised a question about the use of "comprise" versus "compose" in the document, which AALU noted as a proposed change. Elizabeth sought clarification on Dwayne Holloman's suggestion, which AALU interpreted as a response to her verbal statement about not filling the position.

Consistent Presence and Inclusive Volunteerism Discussion

The meeting focused on the importance of consistent presence in the organization to avoid difficulties when stepping into a position. AALU expressed their preference for long-term involvement to ensure smooth transitions. Carleton shared his experience of being excluded from running for office due to a technicality, suggesting a more inclusive approach to volunteerism. The discussion also covered the rules and requirements for running for national office, with AALU explaining the initial rule was to ensure a connection with the alumni group. Carleton expressed interest in helping rectify issues with the national chapter and offered his services. Theresa clarified the meaning of "comprise" and "compose" in the context of the bylaws, while AALU emphasized the need for a larger pool of candidates for national office and alumni trustee positions.

Minor Change to Chapter 6 Guidelines and Event Discussion

Ben suggested a minor change to Chapter 6 of the Council's guidelines, proposing the addition of the word 'any' before 'new' or 'revitalize' to include any new or revitalized chapters. The Council agreed to consider this change. Later, Lisa and AALU discussed the event to honor Tick and Cyrus D, which was sponsored by the Alumni Association. Lisa expressed difficulty in obtaining tickets and asked AALU to request two tickets for her and her friend from the trustee office. AALU agreed to make this request.

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