

Proposal #: FY24-01

Article/Section: Article V - Committees

Proposed By: Board of Directors

Current Language:

Section 2: Executive Committee. The five officers serve as the members of the Executive Committee. Except for the power to amend the Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, and selection of the association's fiscal agent, the Executive Committee shall have the authority to transact the regular business of the association between meetings of the Board, subject to the direction and control of the Board.

Proposed Change:

Add: "The Executive Committee shall also respond to complaints relating to MiALA's Code of Conduct." to the end of Section 2.

Comments and Recommendations:

MiALA's current Code of Conduct refers complaints to the MiALA Administrator. This action would place the responsibility on the Executive Committee, which includes the Board liaisons to the Membership and IDEA Committees.

Other areas of impact in MiALA (if known/applicable):

This would also be reflected in MiALA's Code of Conduct.

Board of Directors Recommendation:

The Board of Directors recommends an approval of this Bylaws Amendment (April, 2023).

Proposal #:FY25-02

Article/Section: ARTICLE VI – INTEREST GROUPS; SECTION 1

Proposed By: Interest Group Coordination Council

Current Language:

Interest Groups [IG] will be the heart of the Association. They will be created by association members and can only come about when a group of members shows enough interest and enthusiasm to form an IG. These could be short-term or long-term groups. They could form to address an issue or hot-topic that is of interest for a specified amount of time. An IG could also be long-term and exist for several years, kept lively and vital by continued interest on the part of association members. An IG may also dissolve if activity ceases.

Interest Groups must have a chair, and may have other positions. Any such chairs or other positions serve at the pleasure of the Interest Group membership and may be removed at any time as deemed necessary, with or without cause, upon a vote of two-thirds members of the Interest Group.

Interest Groups will form by submitting an application to the Interest Group Coordination Council [IGCC]. The application will certify that at least five association members are interested in the topic. It will have a contact person, a statement of purpose, an annual plan (if the IG is going to exist for more than a year), and list of initial membership. Upon receipt of the application, the IGCC will review the application for these elements and if present, the IG will be established. It will be listed among active IGs on the association's web site, along with contact information for those who wish to become part of it.

Upon establishment, the Interest Group's initial point of contact will become the interim chair of the IG, until elections are held. Elections for the IG's elected positions will occur each spring, and will be recruited through a call for nominations from the IG membership.

The IG chair will be responsible for submitting minutes or reports of meetings to the IGCC within fifteen working days of meetings; the IGCC will forward minutes for publication on the web site.

It is suggested that each Interest Group submit a report to the IGCC at least three times per academic year. Reports should be submitted by email or mail to the IGCC secretary, as well as being posted on the IGs page on the association website.

Although there is no expectation that an IG will create a proposal for the annual conference or sponsor a workshop, members are encouraged to consider those possible activities as effective vehicles for sharing expertise and providing leadership opportunities. An IG could form simply as a way for association members to converse with each other about their specialties.

If an IG does not meet or submit a report of its meetings for two consecutive years, it will automatically cease to exist and be removed from the list of active IGs.

Proposed Change:

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Elections for the IG's elected positions will occur each May, and will be recruited through a call for nominations from the IG membership. The IG chair, vice chair, or secretary will be responsible for submitting minutes or reports of meetings to the Documents section of their IG area on the website. IG leaders are encouraged to submit these documents shortly after meeting. It is suggested that each Interest Group communicate regularly with their IGCC liaison or with the IGCC directly. Each IG is required to complete an End of Year Report that summarizes the IG's activities and membership during the past fiscal year. This report will be submitted by the end of June. The IGCC liaisons will send out a standard report template and the completed reports will be submitted by email to the IGCC liaison, as well as being posted on the IGs Documents on the association website.

As stated in the MiALA Procedures Manual (under "Dissolution Process for Inactive Interest Groups"), if an IG does not meet or submit a report of its meetings for one fiscal year, it will automatically cease to exist and be removed from the list of active IGs. The IGCC will notify MiALA membership at the end of the fiscal year of any IG status changes. However, IGs can be reinstated at any time if there is interest among the membership.

Other areas of impact in MiALA (if known/applicable):

If approved this would necessitate an addition and update to the Policy and Procedures Manual, under "Dissolution Process for Inactive Interest Groups" (currently pp. 21-22) .

Board of Directors Recommendation:

The Board of Directors recommends an approval of this bylaw amendment.