

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws (November 1, 2026)

Amendment 1. *Changing Articles III & V so the IC co-chair is appointed by the National Council instead of elected.*

Currently reads:

Article III. Duties of Elected Officers.

Section 7. The International Conference Chair shall organize all aspects of the International Conference and report to Council about the same, including the appointment of a conference committee, recommending a venue for approval by Council, creating an event budget for approval by Council, making regular reports to Council, and providing a final report within thirty (30) days of the completion of the International Conference briefing Council on the success of the event, advising of any problems encountered, and making recommendations for the following year.

Section 8. The International Conference Co-chair shall assist the International Conference Chair in all of his or her duties in order to gain insight and experience to successfully organize the following International Conference.

Article V. Committees of the Council

Section 3. There shall be a standing International Conference Committee responsible for planning and developing the International Conference. The International Conference Committee Co- chair shall be elected in the general elections each year. This person shall serve as Co-chair of the International Conference Committee until the end of the international conference immediately following their election. At the end of that conference, the Co-chair shall become the Chair of the International Conference Committee.

Change to:

Article III → Remove Sections 7 & 8 and merge them into Article V, Section 3 (see below); re-number Section 9.

Article V → Add description of the chair's and co-chair's roles from Article III AND change co-chair to an appointed (not elected) position.

Section 3. There shall be a standing International Conference Committee responsible for planning and developing the International Conference. The International Conference Chair shall organize all aspects of the International Conference and report to Council about the same, including the appointment of a

conference committee, recommending a venue for approval by Council, creating an event budget for approval by Council, making regular reports to Council, and providing a final report within thirty (30) days of the completion of the International Conference briefing Council on the success of the event, advising of any problems encountered, and making recommendations for the following year. **A Co-chair shall be appointed by the Council at least eight (8) months prior to the conference.** The International Conference Co-chair shall assist the International Conference Chair in all of his or her duties in order to gain insight and experience to successfully organize the following International Conference. At the end of that conference, the Co-chair shall become the Chair of the International Conference Committee for the following year's international conference.

Rationale

Before 2021, our international conference was held in the fall, and in-person elections were conducted at the same time, with the results announced at the ABM held at the end of the conference. The incoming chair and newly elected co-chair could thus begin their work immediately, with the co-chair able to experience a full year of mentorship before taking over as the chair at the end of the following year's conference.

With the move of the international conference to spring and elections remaining in the fall, however, the new co-chair is now essentially deprived of 5-6 months of onboarding/training (and even more if no one runs for the position, as the National Council might take another 4-6 weeks to find and appoint someone to the vacant position). As conference experience is not a requirement for the position, many of our elected co-chairs in the past have had little or no behind-the-scenes knowledge of the conference, but they were able to be cultivated into the role over the course of twelve months. This amendment helps to ensure the incoming co-chair has a maximum amount of time for training; it moves up the current timeline so the co-chair can be appointed with sufficient time to experience the procedures and decision-making processes that underlie conference planning.

Endorsed by the following members:

1. Lindsay Herron
2. David Shaffer
3. Heidi Nam
4. Phillip G Schrank
5. Gabriela Villafradez

Amendment 2. *Change Article III, Section 9, to limit the past president's term to just one year.*

Currently reads:

Article III. Duties of Elected Officers.

Section 9. The Past President shall cooperate with the incoming President to facilitate a smooth leadership transition, and provide advice and continuity to the organization on Council and Committee affairs.

Change to:

Article III. Duties of Elected Officers.

Section 9. The Past President shall cooperate with the incoming President to facilitate a smooth leadership transition, and provide advice and continuity to the organization on Council and Committee affairs **for a term of one year, starting immediately upon the conclusion of their service as President.**

Rationale

The purpose of this provision in the Bylaws is to ensure a smooth transition as a newly elected president takes over the position. Presidents are aware of this continuing advisory role before they even decide to run for president; however, they certainly should not be required to serve in this capacity after a year, should the (now more experienced) president decide to run for multiple terms of office. Furthermore, this role is no longer necessary when a serving president is re-elected, as no transitional guidance is needed.

Endorsed by the following members:

1. Lindsay Herron
2. David Shaffer
3. Bryan Hale
4. Heidi Nam
5. Phillip G Schrank

Amendment 3. *Change Article VI, Section 4, to reduce the number of members required for active chapters.*

Currently reads:

Section 4. Any Chapter that fails to retain **18 members** for 24 consecutive months may be dissolved by majority vote of both (a) nationally elected officers; and (b) all Chapter representatives in attendance at a duly called and noticed National Council meeting.

Change to:

Section 4. Any Chapter that fails to retain **8 members** in good standing for 24 consecutive months...

Rationale

In response to shifting demographics in Korea and in KOTESOL, it seems advisable to reduce the number of members required for a chapter to be safe from possible dissolution by the National Council. The stated requirement of 18 members is sadly out of date and out of step with current trends.

Endorsed by the following members:

1. Lindsay Herron
2. David Shaffer
3. Bryan Hale
4. Maria Lisak
5. Heidi Nam