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## Report on the Bylaws Revision

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## **REPORT ON THE BYLAWS REVISION**

During the CEAL meetings in 2010, the Executive Board (EB) recognized that the recent evolution of some EB positions made it necessary to reevaluate the adequacy of the Bylaws in terms of accommodating necessary changes. In June 2010, the Board appointed a Special Committee to Revise CEAL Bylaws, with the following members: Vickie Doll (Chair), Gail King, Philip Melzer, Hikaru Nakano, and Joy Kim (Ex-Officio). After working hard for several months, the Special Committee submitted its proposed revisions to the Executive Board, which recommended approval in November 2010. In the general vote that followed in December 2010, the CEAL membership overwhelmingly approved the changes, and the new Bylaws became effective as of January 1, 2011. This report was put together with input from various EB Members for archival purposes.

### **1. Summary of the Revisions**

#### **Substantive Changes**

- **Created a CEAL Publication Committee** composed of Members-at-Large, with the JEAL Editor as Chair. The Publication Committee also forms the Editorial Board of JEAL and helps with peer review of JEAL which became a peer-reviewed journal in 2011.
- **Changed from Elected to Appointed Positions:** Chair of the Committee on Library Technology; and Chair of the Membership Committee.
- **Clarifications and Added items:** Definitions and responsibilities of Executive Board positions.
- **Name change:** From "Nomination Committee" to "Election Committee".
- **Correction of Error:** Newly elected Board members begin their terms at the second EB meeting.

#### **Changes in Style and Organization**

- Reordered the document, using a more logical sequence and eliminating redundancies
- Applied stylistic changes throughout the document to make the document more readable, easier to navigate and cite
- To improve flexibility, more general, adaptable language has been used where appropriate, so as to address the evolving needs of the organization without the need for frequent revisions and amendments of the Bylaws.

### **2. Rationale for the Substantive Changes**

- **Create a Publication Committee with JEAL Editor as the Chair**

The intent behind this provision was to put in place a committee with Members-at-Large as its members to help with peer review of JEAL when it becomes a peer reviewed journal in 2011. Chaired by the JEAL Editor, the Publication Committee will also serve as the Editorial Board of JEAL.

- **Make the Chairs of the Library Technology Committee and the Membership Committee appointed positions**

The responsibilities of these two Chair positions require technical, procedural and logistical knowledge that is often enhanced by extended service, but the current Bylaws do not allow elected chairs to serve consecutive terms. The proposed changes would 1) Make these appointed rather than elected positions and 2) Allow re-appointments to multiple consecutive terms, subject to the Executive Board's approval. This would give the Executive Board the option of reappointing individuals with proven qualities and performance records, following the current models of the CEAL Statistics Chair and the Editor of JEAL.

### **3. Rationale for the Stylistic Changes**

The current Bylaws have gone through several amendments and revisions. Each change has introduced new language to the document without taking into account its impact on the document as a whole. This has affected the consistency of the document, and made the Bylaws difficult to read and interpret. For example, in the previous Bylaws, a few Executive Board positions had extensive descriptions, but most had no description at all. Differences in terminology, style, and treatment have worked their way into the document over the years. The revision addresses these issues in various ways, as described in the summary.

### **4. Results of the General Votes**

The online ballot was designed in such a way that the voters could choose to vote either on the draft Bylaws as a whole (Option A), or voice their opinions on the major changes to the three committees individually (Option B, 1-3). The combination of both options constituted the total votes.

Total votes cast: 115 of 173 eligible voting members (response rate: 66%)

**Option A: I support the EB's recommendation to accept the Bylaws as revised:** 73 yes, 0 no (63% of votes cast)

**Option B: I support the EB's recommendation to accept the Bylaws as revised EXCEPT one or more of the following three major points. I will vote separately on those points below.**

1. Creation of the Publication Committee: 41 yes, 1 no (Total yes: 114, 99 % of votes cast)
2. Change in the Technology Committee: 35 yes, 7 no (Total yes: 108, 94% of votes cast)
3. Change in the Membership Committee: 31 yes, 11 no (Total yes: 104, 90% of votes cast).

The Executive Board appreciates members' support of this important endeavor. It is hoped that the flexibility inherent in the new Bylaws will serve the evolving needs of our organization for many years without frequent amendments. The new Bylaws have been published on CEAL's website <http://www.eastasianlib.org/CEAL/Bylaws/CEALbylaws.pdf>, and are also printed in this issue of JEAL.