

Proposed model for ALIA elections

ALIA's Board of Directors is proposing to present a special resolution to a general meeting to be held in November 2005 in conjunction with the National Policy Congress (NPC) to amend the Constitution to allow for the election of all directors by the general membership. This is consistent with the requirement in the Constitution that directors represent the interests of the Association as a whole rather than those of a particular constituency (13.3 Directors, paragraph b), and would allow for a simplified and more equitable election process. The general membership comprises all financial personal and institutional members.

Under the structure proposed by the Board, all candidates will be elected through preferential voting by the general membership. Each year there will be one ballot paper for candidates for vice-president (president-elect) and one for candidates for director. To retain the current rotation of directors, two and three candidates will be elected in alternate years. In practice this means that in 2006 the candidates with the first-, second- and third-highest number of preferential votes would be elected, and in 2007 it would be those candidates with the first- and second-highest number of preferential votes. A member who is both a personal member and institutional representative will have one vote in each capacity.

The current structure for the election of directors was implemented in 2000 with the change to incorporation under Corporations Law and after wide consultation with the membership. At that time there was some support for different constituencies within the membership having specific voting rights with a separate ballot, even though directors would not represent those constituencies, and so an additional ballot for institutional members only and another for NPC representatives were incorporated. However, in the voting patterns it is not unusual for the one candidate to receive the highest number

of votes in each constituency ballot, though of course they would be declared in the ballot by the general membership and their votes distributed in the other ballots.

The election structure currently comprises: a vice-president (president-elect) elected by the general membership; two directors elected by the general membership; one director elected by institutional members; and two directors elected by the National Policy Congress representatives.

The rotation for election each year is: a vice-president (president-elect) elected by the general membership; one of the two directors elected by the general membership; and one of the two directors elected by the National Policy Congress representatives. Plus the director to be elected by institutional members is elected in alternate years.

While this provides for direct election of some directors by institutional members and NPC representatives, it has proven to be overly complicated to administer and especially for some members with multiple voting rights. It has resulted in an inequality in the number of votes for a director being elected with the average total votes received from the general membership being 900, institutional representatives 585, and NPC representatives 33. There have been instances where a candidate receiving the second- or third-highest number of votes by the general membership has not been elected and a candidate with a lower number of votes by the general membership has been elected by the NPC with fewer than 33 votes.

Have your say?

If you would like to comment on the Board's proposed model, or on retaining the status quo, please forward your thoughts by e-mail to the executive director jennifer.nicholson@alia.org.au or by post or fax to the ALIA National Office. Notice of the general meeting will be given in *inCite* and through *aliaNEWS*. ■



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CHANGE OF DATES

Owing to circumstances beyond our control at the venue, the dates for VALA2006 have been changed by one day. VALA2006 will now take place at Crown Towers, Melbourne from Wednesday 8 February to Friday 10 February 2006. This will leave Monday and Tuesday for associated events, meetings or workshops. For further information please go to: <http://www.vala.org.au/conf2006.htm>

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