

Subject: Presidential Queue – Proposal Overview - Draft 11-17

Presented by: Ad-hoc Committee on Governance

Chair: Alison Head

On November 18, during an Executive Board conference call, the following proposal for a presidential queue was tabled, at this time.

The Ad-hoc Committee on Governance (CoG) is putting forth a proposal which, if adopted, would change the terms by which the Vice President and President are replaced on the Executive Board. A Bylaws draft reflecting the proposed new queue is submitted under separate cover.

Under the new system, the Vice President position is replaced by a President Elect who is also elected by the Board of Governors (BOG). The President Elect serves two years, and automatically becomes President at the end of the President Elect term. He/she serves as President for a three year term, at the end of which, the President becomes the Past President and serves for an additional one year term. This establishes a six year succession queue.

The President cannot serve two consecutive terms and if running for another term, must again rotate through the queue. There are no term limits on the President. The President Elect and Past President have staggered terms such that one or the other is in office at any time and available to step in on behalf of the President. Therefore, at any one time, either a President and President Elect, or a President and Past President, would be in office. The President Elect, President and Past President are in the automatic line of succession (queue), and each three years the election is for the President Elect.

The purpose of a President Elect is to prepare to be President. This change would help to locate serious candidates and ensure that they would have the much-needed experience by the time they began their term as President. The role of the Past President is to ensure continuity in governance. The purpose of a queue where the President can serve only one, three year term in succession, is to ensure that the power balance is not skewed to a particular President over an extended period of time. The President's term should not be less than three years, in order to provide the President a reasonable amount of time to achieve his/her agenda.

The proposed presidential queue requires a candidate to make a six year commitment. The terms as President Elect and Past President would be much less demanding than the three year term as President. Historically, the usual length a USDF President has served has tended to be for two terms or longer, showing that the organization itself values consistency at its helm. From a staff perspective, this system would ensure a level of operational consistency, since a President Elect would have an opportunity to become familiar with operational policies and protocols prior to taking office as President. As compared to our current Bylaws, the queue system actually reduces the President's potential time in the presidential role from six years to three.

It is recommended that a President Elect candidate have prior experience as an Executive Board member. Experience could be current or in the past. However, it is not a requirement, and the priority for the Nominating Council would be to locate and recruit the best qualified candidates. Implementation policies should reflect process flexibility.

The Nominating Council will develop the slate of candidates for the President-Elect position every three years. As currently required by USDF's Policies and Procedures, nominations for all officer positions must be received by the Nominating Council by June 1. As promptly thereafter as is possible, but in no event more than 30 days following June 1, the Nominating Council shall release to

the membership its slate of candidates. Thereafter, a new open nomination period will be established, which will end 60 days prior to the first day of the Annual Convention. During this open nomination period, nominations not included on the Nominating Council's original slate of candidates may be submitted to the Nominating Council. The Nominating Council shall have 30 days after the end of the open nomination period for a discovery process during which each nominee's commitment and qualifications to serve in the capacity of President-Elect shall be determined. The final slate of candidates, including those nominated during the open nomination period, that are both willing and qualified to serve, shall be made public 30 days prior to the first day of the Annual Convention. No nominations from the floor of the Convention shall be accepted.

The purpose of this process is to ensure that delegates to the Convention, and other USDF members, have a reasonable time to learn about each of the candidates, and that the final slate of candidates put forward by the Nominating Council shall contain sufficient information on each candidate for the delegates to make a reasoned decision. In the event emergency circumstances prevent one of the Nominating Council's candidates on the slate from running for office, the Nominating Council may, if necessary or appropriate, make a substitution prior to the Convention. In the event of such a substitution, the Nominating Council shall make reasonable efforts to ensure that information on the substitute candidate is provided to the delegates prior to the vote.

The Ad-hoc Committee on Governance requests that the proposed presidential queue be approved by the BOG, and supporting Bylaws be adopted.

Presidential Queue Time Line Chart

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
President	Presidential election held	President serves year 1	President serves year 2	President serves year 3	New President serves year 1. <i>(Former President Elect)</i>	President serves year 2
President Elect	Interim V.P. appointed. <i>(If George Williams is elected as President)</i>	Interim V.P serves 1 year only. President Elect election held	President Elect serves year 1	President Elect serves year 2	President Elect election held	President Elect serves year 1
Past President					Past President serves 1 year	And So On

