

The CAML Constitution : Proposed changes May 1990

Background

The last change to the constitution took place in 1978.

Since then, CAML and our parent organization, IAML, have changed and grown.

The IAML constitution was recently amended. The Board directed me to draft changes to the CAML constitution with the following objectives in mind:

1) to bring it in line with the new IAML constitution; 2) to make it compatible with the program of aid and attendance objective of the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) to increase our eligibility for grants; 3) to increase the continuity and effectiveness of the members of the Board of Directors.

We expect to have a full discussion of the proposed changes at the 1990 Annual General Meeting and to seek your approval of the changes by ballot this fall with a special preliminary notice of the 1991 Annual General Meeting.

Proposed Changes

A summary of the proposed changes follows for your information. The most significant change--Terms of Office of the Board--comes last.

1. Objectives - The proposed new objectives are:
 - 1) To encourage and promote the activities and research of libraries, archives and documentation centres concerned with music and music materials, to strengthen co-operation among institutions and individuals working in these fields and to promote publication of their work.
 - 2) To promote a better understanding of the cultural importance of music libraries, archives and documentation centres locally, regionally and nationally.
 - 3) To act as the Canadian branch of the International Association of Music Libraries.
 - 4) To support and inculcate the realization of projects and research in music bibliography, music documentation and music library and information science at the national level.
 - 5) To promote the availability of all publication and documents relating to music and in particular to encourage national and international exchange and lending.
 - 6) To encourage and support the development of standards in all areas that concern the Association.
 - 7) To further the bibliographic control of music material of all kinds.
 - 8) To foster the protection and preservation of music documents of all periods.
 - 9) To co-operate with other organizations in the fields of music and musicology, librarianship, bibliography, archival science and documentation.
 - 10) To publish an official publication dealing with all matters of professional interest and to make annual contributions to the journal of the parent organization, IAML.
 - 11) To promote the availability of suitable professional education and training, including continuing education.
 - 12) To arrange national meetings of its members and, periodically, to host the international meeting of the parent organization, IAML.
2. Membership
 - The Sustaining membership category is to be dropped since no one has ever belonged to this category.
 - The Student membership category is to be expanded to include music and other post-secondary educational institutions.

3. Officers - Nominations and Elections
Membership on the Elections Committee is to be reduced to a Nominations Chairperson. This and the other proposed changes in procedure here reflect current practice.
4. Committees
 - The Elections Committee is to be changed in name to the Nomination Committee.
 - Committee Membership : The Standing Committees section is expanded to provide for the President in consultation with the Board to appoint the chair of each committee. It is also proposed that committee members be appointed for a term of two years and that they have the option to be appointed for up to two more consecutive terms.
5. Meetings
 - Votes In line with the proposed deletion of the Sustaining Membership category, section 4 is also changed to say "Each regular member shall be entitled to one vote..." in place of "Each personal member...".
6. Chapters
 - The proposed change to this section formalizes the process to establish regional chapters by requiring the approval of a Board resolution by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.
7. Parliamentary Authority
 - The proposed guide to procedure at meetings is now Bourinot's Rules of Order in place of Robert's Rules of Order, in compliance with current Canadian parliamentary practice.
8. Terms of Office
 - There are five basic changes to this section.
 - a) It is proposed that the term of office of elected officers be expanded to two years in place of the present one year term. The terms of office of the two appointed positions--Treasurer and Membership Secretary-- remain as two year appointments.
 - b) While the Treasurer and Membership Secretary may be reappointed for up to three terms, it is proposed that elected officers not normally succeed themselves except under exceptional circumstances.
 - c) It is proposed that the position of Vice-President/President/and Past-President be formally aligned into a three or a four year term: one year - Vice-President; one year or two years - President; one year - Past-President.
 - d) Elections of officers whose terms of office are for two years are to be held in alternating years to promote continuity on the Board.
 - e) It is proposed that no elected or appointed officers serve on the Board for more than six consecutive years, save for the Vice-President/President/Past-President, who may serve for up to eight consecutive years.

The duties of the Vice-President and the Past-President are thereafter altered in the proposed new constitution to reflect these changes in office.

Discussion

The changes to the Terms of Office section of the constitution are based in part on current MLA constitutional practice. The extension of the terms of office is intended to provide incumbents with both a learning period and a period when they are fully experienced and seasoned officials.

Except in unusual circumstances, there would always be a mixture of new and seasoned officials in office to produce an energetic, experienced team.

The proposed new term of office for the Vice-President/President/Past-President position is not yet decided. The choice is up to the membership. There are advantages and disadvantages to the 3-year term or the 4-year term of office.

Here is how each system would work. The year the Vice-President would be elected is noted on the left of each chart.

<u>3 YEAR TERM</u>				<u>4 YEAR TERM</u>			
	<u>Vice Pres.</u>	<u>Pres.</u>	<u>Past Prés.</u>		<u>Vice Pres.</u>	<u>Pres.</u>	<u>Past Pres.</u>
Elect	a	b	x	Elect	a	x	-
Elect	c	a	b		-	a	x
Elect	d	c	a	Elect	b	a	-
Elect	e	d	c		-	b	a
Elect	f	e	d	Elect	c	b	-
			e		-	c	b
				Elect	d	c	-
					-	d	d
						d	-
							a

Advantages

- have a vice-president and a past-president every year
- less chance of officials dropping out of office
- more candidates may be more willing to commit themselves to run for a shorter term of office

Disadvantages

- the incumbent has a shorter period to develop and exercise presidential skills
- if the Past-President does not complete the term of office, continuity and the ability of the only truly experienced official are lost

Conclusion

We are not a large organization, and it is not possible for all personal members to stand for office. The distances in Canada are vast, and travelling costs are not cheap. However, we do want to provide you with the most effective terms of office for elected and appointed officials so that the organization can flourish.

If you have comments or suggestions, please send them to:

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