

A C&B Committee Update on Strategic Governance Implementation (SGI)

July 17, 2009

Dear Executive Council:

As the members of the Constitution & Bylaws (C&B) Committee, we are pleased to signal the completion of our tasks on schedule to (1) provide input on the development of the proposed bylaws, (2) guide the migration of those provisions from the existing C&B that needed to find a new home in the Policy Manual (PM), and (3) align both existing and new PM provisions to the new governance structure proposed as part of SGI.

The enormity of these tasks, collectively, defied comprehension at first blush; we struggled initially to put together a manageable work plan with some of us openly expressing skepticism that it could all get done. Every committee member performed valiantly and we received strong staff support from Governance Coordinator Chandra Champion and Deputy Executive Director Mark Cannon who helped us map out our tasks, organized the review, and kept us on track every step of the way.

We met 16 times between September and July and logged at least 40 hours on conference calls alone. Our work touched drafts 5 through 11 of the SGI Bylaws; involved the careful examination of a 63-page side-by-side comparative matrix of the current C&B to the proposed Bylaws; and resulted in significant editing of all sections of the PM, which now number 79, including the development of 14 new sections. Many of the PM drafts in front of you are labeled draft B, C, D or even E (in the case of Sections 4.12 and 4.13), which is an indication that many went through our review loop multiple times.

We feel very confident that we have left no stone unturned in the process and that our efforts have been thorough and consensus-based with all policies in their proper place, and not by accident, but with a lot of forethought and careful planning. We also sought to improve the overall consistency of phrasing within the PM, and only in this sense may we encounter some minor hiccups. We beg your indulgence if you discover small typographical, punctuation or spacing errors. We did our best in the time allotted; so flag any such issues, and we'll address these in a subsequent "mop up" phase.

We also grew in our respect for what the SGI framers are seeking to accomplish with these reforms. While our charge was more to ensure that all proposals were in their proper form and format and there wasn't always unanimity of opinion about the underlying policy changes, the differences have been minor. The total package is something we can each embrace and believe merits your support and that of the Membership Quorum. Thanks for your consideration.

Constitution & Bylaws Committee

Robin Tieman, Chair

Jack Keating, Vice Chair

Ralph Blount

Matthew Gruenwald

David Clemons

Carolyn Hunter

Nancy Dzoba

James Kelsey

Gary Gray

David Swan