



Amendment to the ALSA Constitution

Proposed

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Seconded

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Change of officers to be appointed rather than elected

Currently during the annual ALSA July Conference there is little interest in the officer positions available on the ALSA Committee. It is rare that students not in attendance run for these positions. It is proposed that the committee officer positions be changed from elected positions to appointed positions. Officers would be appointed by the executive in order to increase interest in these positions and ensure that the most talented applicants are encouraged to apply and be selected.

Technical Description

Clause 91

Removed in its entirety and replaced as follows;

91. The Committee consists of the Executive officers and other officers as determined by Council.

Clause 94

Removed in its entirety.

Clause 95

Removed in its entirety.

Clause 97.3

Removal of the word "Committee"

Clause 104

Removal of the words "**and Committee**"

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Clause 104.1

Removal of the words “**and Committee**”

Explanatory Note / Further information

In 2015/16 only one committee position was contested. When officer positions are appointed and advertised there are many applicants. Recently the Policy officer position attracted four applicants, the risk officer attracted two applicants and in 2014/15 the Careers officer attracted five applicants.

The increasing proportion of law students undertaking short degrees (for instance, a Juris Doctor degree undertaken full time only take three years to complete) has meant that there is a limited pool of candidates for the officer positions in attendance at ALSA July Conference. Further the term of office for the ALSA committee, being October to September, which is necessary for the purpose of holding elections, causes issues. It means that at July Conference only those who have 18 months remaining in their degree can reasonably run for office. There are exceptions to this, which were officer / executive positions which have been and are currently held by students who have completed their degrees before the end of their terms, however this is not a widely known opportunity.

By changing from election to appointment we would be able to reach out to far more students and create a more diverse and representative committee.