Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2—2013
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
AVMA Executive Board


Present and Proposed Wording
(deletions are struckthrough; additions are underlined)

ARTICLE VII
HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Section 1. Authority and Responsibility. The House of Delegates shall be the principal body within the Association responsible for establishing policy and providing direction for matters relating to veterinary medicine and shall be the representative body of the Principal and Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations of the Association. In addition to such other duties set forth in these Bylaws, the House of Delegates shall:
  a. Approve all changes to the Association’s Articles of Incorporation;
  b. Amend, alter, or repeal the Bylaws in accordance with Article XV of these Bylaws;
  c. Approve all changes to the Veterinarian’s Oath;
  d. Vote on all matters properly brought before the House of Delegates;
  e. Solicit, process, and communicate membership needs to the Executive Board;
  f. Participate in the Association's strategic planning;
  g. Elect members to serve on the Association’s councils, with the exception of the Council on Education;
  h. Elect the President-Elect and Vice President, and, when necessary, President; and
  i. Elect members to the committees established by the House of Delegates.

ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES/COUNCILS/TASK FORCES

Section 2. Councils.
  b. Council on Education
  1. Composition. The Council on Education shall consist of fifteen eight voting members of the Association, and twelve members who are not required to be voting members of the Association, and a liaison member who is a voting member of the Council on Education.
  i. The fifteen eight members of the Council on Education who are voting members of the Association shall represent the following areas of veterinary medical activity:
    a) Basic science (two individuals active in this field who are members of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or a department of veterinary science);
    b) Large animal clinical science (one individual in this field who is a member of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine);
    c) Small animal clinical science (one individual in this field who is a member of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine);
    d) Postgraduate education (one individual who is actively directing post-professional students in an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or in a university department of veterinary science);
    e) Veterinary medical research (one individual who is actively engaged in veterinary research for the majority of the time or who is the close director of others who are);
fa) Private food animal clinical practice (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is exclusively food animal practice);

gb) Private mixed clinical practice (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is clinical practice with several species of animals including both food or equine and small companion animals);

hc) Private small animal clinical practice (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is exclusively small animal practice);  

id) Private equine practice (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is exclusively equine practice);  

ej) Private clinical practice, not further specified (two individuals whose veterinary endeavor is exclusively private clinical practice);  

k) Veterinary preventive medicine (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is in the field of epidemiology, public health, regulatory, or military veterinary medicine);  

lf) Non-private practice, non-academic veterinary medicine (one individual); and  

mg) At-large (one individual)

ii. Seven members of the Council on Education who are not required to be voting members of the Association shall be veterinarians appointed and funded by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges and shall represent the following areas of veterinary medical activity:

a) Basic science (two individuals active in this field who are members of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or a department of veterinary science);

b) Large animal clinical science (one individual in this field who is a member of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine);

c) Small animal clinical science (one individual in this field who is a member of the faculty of a university having an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine);

d) Postgraduate education (one individual who is actively directing post-professional students in an accredited school or college of veterinary medicine or in a university department of veterinary science);

e) Veterinary medical research (one individual who is actively engaged in veterinary research for the majority of the time or who is the close director of others who are);  

f) Veterinary preventive medicine (one individual whose veterinary endeavor is in the field of epidemiology, public health, regulatory, or military veterinary medicine;  

iii. The four five additional members of the Council on Education who are not required to be voting members of the Association shall be as follows:

a) Representatives of the public (three individuals who are not veterinarians appointed by the Council for terms of six years); and  

b) A Canadian veterinarian appointed and funded by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association for a term of three years; and  

iii. c) The liaison member of the Council on Education shall be a veterinarian appointed and funded by the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges for a term of three years.

ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES/COUNCILS/TASK FORCES

j. Elections.

1. The House of Delegates shall elect members to fill vacancies on the various councils, with the exception of the Council on Education, at its regular sessions from amongst the slate of candidates presented by the Executive Board and any nominations made from the floor. Additional council members may be appointed pursuant to the Manual of the House of Delegates.

2. Council members shall take their position immediately following the session of the House of Delegates at which they are elected.
Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

Thirteen public comments were received requesting denial of Council on Education (COE) recognition as the accrediting body for veterinary medical education during the recent US Department of Education (USDE) re-recognition process. Two of the major issues raised by commenters were the organizational status of the COE as an entity of the AVMA alone, and the method of appointment of COE members. Commenters believe these aspects of the current system create the opportunity for, or at least the appearance of, undue political influence on the accreditation process. As an alternative, they recommend a shared responsibility model for the COE similar to the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME) for medical school accreditation. The LCME model includes an equal number of members appointed by the American Medical Association (AMA) and the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), as well as cost sharing between these two entities. Although the USDE did not require the AVMA COE to follow the LCME model, USDE staff encouraged the Council to engage stakeholders to ensure broad acceptance of the accreditation system.

Based on the public comments, the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) invited LCME staff from the AMA and AAMC to give a presentation and participate in a discussion about the LCME process at the annual dean’s meeting in Naples, Florida in January 2013. The presentation was well received and the pros and cons of the LCME model were openly discussed. A new model of shared responsibility for the COE was then presented by the COE Chair and endorsed by the deans for subsequent consideration by the COE and the AVMA. The COE discussed the LCME model at its March 3-6, 2013 meeting. In addition to the LCME model, the COE also considered the model employed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation after hearing a presentation by a senior staff member of the American Dental Association. The shared responsibility model approved by the deans was then reviewed and approved by the COE for further consideration by the AVMA Executive Board and House of Delegates (Attachment). The Executive Board recommends that the model be approved.

The proposed model does not recommend changes to the disciplines or practice categories represented on the COE. Briefly, the Council and AAVMC are proposing that the AVMA and AAVMC create separate selection committees that would select eight and seven COE members, respectively, according to the AVMA workforce category for the current COE positions. The three public members would continue to be elected by the COE, the Canadian representative would continue to be appointed by the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, and the veterinarian (formerly “liaison”) will continue to be appointed by the AAVMC. As part of the shared responsibility model, the AAVMC would cover the cost of participation for each of the eight members it selects and assign an AAVMC staff member to help support Council operations. The shared responsibility model also is expected to result in significant cost savings to the AVMA through direct participation of the AAVMC in further development and implementation of the online e-Accreditation software system. The development of a shared, highly integrated data platform would have a profound effect on the efficiency of data collection and analysis for both organizations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RECOMMEND APPROVAL</th>
<th>RECOMMEND DISAPPROVAL</th>
<th>RECOMMEND REFERRAL TO...</th>
<th>NO RECOMMENDATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Board</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>House Advisory Committee</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reference Committee #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(*Use this space for additional narrative, if needed.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>APPROVED</th>
<th>DISAPPROVED</th>
<th>REFERRED TO...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HOD ACTION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>