Proposed Bylaws Amendment #3—2012
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Executive Board

COUNCIL ON RESEARCH

Amend Bylaws ARTICLE XII, Section 2. Councils. c. Council on Research

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

1. Composition. The Council on Research shall consist of ten voting members of the Association representing the following areas of veterinary medical activity:
   i. Veterinary medical research (six individuals who are predominantly engaged in active research at the time of the election);
   ii. Private clinical practice, not further specified (two individuals who are predominantly engaged in private clinical practice); and
   iii. Veterinary medical colleges (two individuals who serve as dean or associate dean/director of research at an AVMA-accredited school or college of veterinary medicine).

2. Responsibility. The Council on Research advises the AVMA Executive Board on scientific research and discovery that impacts the veterinary profession, in order to sustain and advance the scientific basis of veterinary medicine. In this role the Council shall:
   i. Recommend, coordinate, evaluate, monitor, and promote veterinary medical research;
   ii. Emphasize to the veterinary profession the importance of AVMA’s role in supporting veterinary research and the continuing need for basic and clinical research information to advance all segments of the profession;
   iii. Communicate with the veterinary profession, the biomedical research community, public agencies, and the general public to publicize and promote the role, significance, and relevance of veterinary biomedical research in improving animal and human health;
   iv. Identify and recommend strategic alliances among groups within and outside of veterinary medicine to support and encourage research that advances animal and human health;
   v. Provide recommendations on research policies and priorities;
   vi. Recommend individuals for research awards; and
   vii. Promote the communication and dissemination of research information through such vehicles as the American Journal of Veterinary Research; collaborate with the AJVR Editor-in-Chief in determining broad journal policies; and assist, along with other reviewers, the Editor-in-Chief in the evaluation of manuscripts submitted to the AJVR for publication.
   i. Promote the highest standards of research through AVMA policies, meetings, and publications;
   ii. Collaborate with AVMA entities to communicate the importance of research and to develop communication strategies that educate the public regarding the importance of animal, human, and environmental health research;
   iii. Advocate for the importance of research at veterinary teaching institutions and recommend appropriate research standards for consideration in the criteria for AVMA/Council on Education accreditation of schools/colleges of veterinary medicine;
   iv. Advance research education and training in veterinary professional and post-professional residency, graduate, fellowship, and clinician-scientist training programs;
   v. Identify and recommend strategies to advocate for public and private funding to advance research relevant to veterinary medicine;
   vi. Identify and recommend strategies, alliances, and cooperative relationships to advance research among groups within and outside of veterinary medicine, including the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF);
   vii. Raise the profile of scientists engaged in veterinary research and recommend recognition of their work through appropriate channels, including selection of individuals for research awards;
   viii. Serve as the advisor to the AVMA Executive Board on the quality, relevance, and responsiveness of the AJVR to the scientific community.
Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The description and charge of the Council on Research (COR), as written in the AVMA Bylaws, has not been revised in more than a decade. The AVMA Strategic Plan calls for the Association to advance scientific research and discovery. When considering the other AVMA entities with a focus on a specific area of research (e.g., aquatic animal health, food safety), the Executive Board believes it important that the charge to the COR continues to be broad to embrace all areas of research important to the veterinary profession. Further, the Board believes the charge needs to be updated to reflect current AVMA practices and policies (e.g., the role of AVMA entities as advisory to the Executive Board; the independence of JAVMA editorial staff; consideration of research programs during the accreditation process).

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Proposed Bylaws Amendment #4—2012
Regular Annual Session

Submitted by
Vermont Veterinary Medical Association
California Veterinary Medical Association

ELIMINATE POSITION OF AVMA VICE PRESIDENT AND ESTABLISH REGIONAL STUDENT
LIAISON REPRESENTATIVES TO FULFILL VICE PRESIDENT VETERINARY SCHOOL/COLLEGE
VISITS AND RELATED DUTIES

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

ARTICLE V
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 2. Composition. The Executive Board shall be composed of fifteen (15) members
as follows: the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, and one (1) member
elected from each of the eleven (11) Districts (as defined in Article V, Section 5; collectively, the “District
Directors”).

Section 7. Terms.
   a. District Directors shall serve a six (6) year term, or until such time as their successors are duly
      elected, qualified, and assume their position, and may not serve two (2) consecutive terms.
      Fulfilling an unexpired term of three (3) years or less shall not be considered a full term and shall
      not apply toward the term limit.
   b. The President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President, and Vice President shall remain
      on the Executive Board for the duration of their term.
   c. The term of all District Directors shall begin at the first meeting of the Executive Board following
      the close of the first annual session of the House of Delegates following their election and shall
      run for a full term until the close of the sixth annual session of the House of Delegates following
      their election.

ARTICLE VI
OFFICERS

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Vice President,
Treasurer, Secretary, Immediate Past President, Executive Board Chair, Executive Board Vice Chair,
Executive Vice President, and Assistant Executive Vice President. No two (2) offices may be held
simultaneously by the same person, with the exception of the offices of Executive Vice President and
Secretary, which shall be held by the same person, and the offices of Executive Board Chair and
Executive Board Vice Chair, which may be held by the Vice President or Immediate Past President.

Section 4. Vice President. The Vice President shall serve as the official liaison to the Student American
Veterinary Medical Association and the Student Chapters (as defined in Article IX). The Vice President
shall be a member, with the right to vote, of the Executive Board. The Vice President shall have such
additional duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

Section 5. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be the principal accounting and financial officer of the
Association and shall have charge of and be responsible for the maintenance of adequate books of
account for the Association; shall have charge and custody of all funds and securities of the Association,
and be responsible therefore, and for the receipt and disbursement thereof; shall deposit all funds and
securities of the Association in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as shall be selected in
accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws. The Treasurer shall be invited to attend and participate in
all regular and special meetings of the Executive Board. The duties of the Treasurer may be assigned by
the Executive Board in whole or in part to either the Executive Vice President or Assistant Executive Vice
President.

Section 6. Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall have such duties as may be
assigned by the President or the Executive Board. The Immediate Past President shall be a member, with
the right to vote, of the Executive Board. In the event that the President cannot take the office of Immediate
Past President, the currently serving Immediate Past President shall serve a successive term.
Section 76. Executive Board Chair. The Executive Board Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and Board of Governors, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board.

Section 87. Executive Board Vice Chair. The Executive Board Vice Chair shall substitute for the Executive Board Chair in the absence of the Executive Board Chair, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Executive Board or the Executive Board Chair. The Executive Board Vice Chair shall fill any vacancy in the office of Executive Board Chair until such time as the Executive Board has filled such vacancy.

Section 98. Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the Association and shall be elected by, and directly responsible to, the Executive Board. He or she shall have the title of Executive Vice President ("Executive Vice President") or such other title(s) as the Executive Board shall designate. Subject to the Bylaws and the policies of the Association, the Executive Vice President shall be responsible for the administration and day-to-day management of the Association; shall employ and may terminate the employment of members of the staff necessary to perform the work of the Association; shall manage and direct all functions and activities of the Association; and shall perform such other duties as may be specified by the Executive Board. Except as otherwise set forth in these Bylaws, the Executive Vice President shall be invited to attend and participate, without vote, in all regular meetings of the Association's councils and committees and all regular and special meetings of the Executive Board, Board of Governors, and House of Delegates.

Section 109. Assistant Executive Vice President. The Assistant Executive Vice President shall be an administrative staff position elected by the Executive Board and directly responsible to the Executive Vice President. The Assistant Executive Vice President shall perform all the duties of the Executive Vice President in the absence of the Executive Vice President and such other duties as may be specified by the Executive Vice President and/or the Executive Board.

Section 1110. Secretary. The Executive Vice President shall hold the office of Secretary and perform the duties normally expected of the secretary of an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, including seeing that all notices are duly given in accordance with applicable law, the Articles of Incorporation, and these Bylaws; being custodian of the corporate records; keeping minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board; keeping a record of the mailing address of each member of the Association; and performing such other duties as may be assigned by the President or the Executive Board.

Section 1211. Qualifications for Office.
   a. Only voting members who (i) have been voting members of the Association for a period of at least ten (10) continuous years immediately prior to their election and (ii) meet such additional requirements as set forth in the Manual of the House of Delegates shall be eligible to hold the office of President, or President-Elect, or Vice President.
   b. Any member of the Executive Board with the exception of the President and President-Elect shall be eligible to hold the office of Executive Board Chair or Executive Board Vice Chair.
   c. Only voting members who have been voting members of the Association for a period of at least five (5) continuous years immediately prior to their election shall be eligible to hold the office of Treasurer, Executive Vice President, or Assistant Executive Vice President.

Section 1312. Term. With the exception of the Vice President, Officers shall serve a one (1) year term in office, or until such time as their successors are duly elected, qualified, and take office. The Treasurer may serve up to six (6) consecutive terms. The Vice President shall serve a single two (2)-year term.

Section 1413. Election.
   a. The President-Elect and Vice President shall be elected by the House of Delegates at a meeting of the House of Delegates at which the election of officers is in the regular order of business.
   b. The Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and Assistant Executive Vice President shall be elected by the Executive Board.
   c. The Executive Board Chair and the Executive Board Vice Chair shall be elected by the Executive Board from among those members of the Executive Board eligible to hold such offices. Such elections shall be held annually during the first meeting of the Executive Board following the close of the annual session of the House of Delegates. The Executive Board Chair and the Executive Board Vice Chair shall take office immediately upon election.
   d. The President, and President-Elect, and Vice President shall take office on the date of the first regular meeting of the Executive Board following the close of the annual session of the House of
Delegates at which they are elected.

e. The Treasurer, Executive Vice President, and Assistant Executive Vice President shall take office at the close of the annual session of the House of Delegates immediately following the meeting of the Executive Board at which they are elected.

Section 4514. Resignation and Removal of Officers. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Secretary. In addition, any officer may be removed by a majority vote of the persons entitled to elect such officer, whenever, in their judgment, the best interests of the Association would be served by such removal. Such removal shall be without prejudice to the contract rights, if any, of the person so removed. Election of an officer or agent shall not of itself create any contract rights.

Section 4615. Officer Vacancies. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by the party responsible for electing or appointing such officer, without undue delay, at its next scheduled meeting, or at a special meeting called for that purpose. An officer elected or appointed pursuant to this Section shall hold office until the next meeting of the Executive Board or House of Delegates, as applicable, at which the election of officers is in the regular order of business, or until such other date as the Executive Board or House of Delegates, as applicable, may designate.

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;
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.; and

j. Elect six (6) Regional Veterinary Student Liaisons (RVSL) who shall serve as liaisons to those organizations represented in the SAVMA House of Delegates, in their respective regions. The RVSL representatives shall provide reports to the AVMA Executive Board and have additional duties as assigned by the President or the Executive Board. The RVSLs shall serve terms of two (2) years that begin at the close of the Regular Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates.

Section 19. House Advisory Committee. The House Advisory Committee shall consist of an aggregate of seven (7) Delegates and Alternate Delegates elected by the House of Delegates at its annual session.

a. Term. Members of the House Advisory Committee shall serve a three (3) year term on the House Advisory Committee, and may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Fulfilling an unexpired term of two (2) years or less shall not be considered a full term, and shall not apply toward the term limit. Each term shall begin at the close of the annual session of the House of Delegates at which the committee member is elected.

b. Chair. The House Advisory Committee shall elect a Chair from among its members on an annual basis. The Chair of the House Advisory Committee shall preside at all meetings of the House Advisory Committee and shall act as a liaison between the House of Delegates and the Executive Board.

c. Duties. The House Advisory Committee shall have such duties as set forth in these Bylaws, and as shall be assigned to it by the House of Delegates, which shall include, without limitation, the following:

1. Consider all developments relating to veterinary medicine from a long-range viewpoint, be alert to the changing needs for and demands on the entire profession, and make recommendations to the House of Delegates and the Executive Board as to how these changing conditions can best be met for the overall welfare of the profession;

2. Act in a leadership capacity to the House of Delegates on all matters referred to the House of Delegate’s reference committees;

3. Make a detailed study of the reports from the AVMA councils and committees in advance of the annual session and make recommendations to the House of Delegates on such reports;
4. Meet sufficiently in advance of each session so that its recommendations can be prepared for presentation to the delegates prior to or at the time the House of Delegates convenes;

5. Review and approve the credentials of candidates for President-Elect, Vice President, councils, the House Advisory Committee, and, when necessary, the President;

6. In the event that the office of President-Elect or Vice President becomes vacant, appoint a qualified voting member of the Association to assume those respective duties until the next election; and

7. Act as the Bylaws committee for the House of Delegates.

d. Meetings.

1. The House Advisory Committee may hold such number of meetings as provided for in the Association’s budget. Additional meetings may be held with the approval of the Executive Board.

2. Special meetings of the House Advisory Committee may be called by, or at the request of, the Chair of the House Advisory Committee or upon a written request to the Chair of the House Advisory Committee of three (3) members of the House Advisory Committee. Notice of any special meeting of the House Advisory Committee shall state the time, date, and place of the meeting and shall be delivered at least five (5) days prior to the date of such meeting.

Proviso
This change to take effect 1 year after passage to allow time for the elected Vice President to serve one half of his or her term and allow sufficient time for the House Advisory Committee and House of Delegates to establish in the House Manual the position and qualifications of the Regional Veterinary Student Liaisons (by January 2013) and hold elections for said representatives (applications spring 2013 and elections at annual summer meeting 2013).

Statement about the Bylaws Amendment

The current AVMA Vice President position is one that only allows for visits to veterinary schools represented in the SAVMA House of Delegates every 2 years. It is also a volunteer position that requires extensive travel (78 days per year for 2 years as accounted by the OEVP) at an expense to the AVMA. [Please see attached information on current VP position for further background.] This amount of volunteer time and travel commitment makes this position difficult for many interested veterinarian members to accommodate. We are very aware that our organization needs to better connect and engage its veterinary students, to better hear and address the concerns of younger veterinarians. We need to establish the AVMA as important and vital to their future careers. We can best accomplish this by sending active AVMA member volunteers to meet with and discuss issues on a more frequent basis. This should include newer technology such as electronic communication between students and their designated Regional Veterinary Student Liaison representative. Such communication can provide efficient and rapid feedback on issues as they arise and cost nothing in travel expenses.

The position of an AVMA liaison to our veterinary students should be someone who is able to share experiences in organized veterinary medicine at national, state, or local levels and demonstrate the value of our national professional association. Experiences such as being a former Future Leader Program participant or a member of an AVMA committee, council, or task force may also be valuable for a member to bring to the liaison position.

The AVMA should eliminate the position of Vice President. We should create Regional Veterinary Student Liaison representatives, dividing up the veterinary schools into 6 regions. Each of these 6 representatives, elected by the House of Delegates, would then only travel 10-15 days a year to accomplish what is needed. They would be able to visit the schools in their region likely once annually and potentially at a lower expense if they are geographically closer to the schools in their region. We can define the procedure for nominations, qualifications, requirement to live in the specified region they would be responsible for, etc. in the House Manual. The Regional Veterinary Student Liaison Representatives would receive guidance, support, and coordination of message from the AVMA Assistant Director in charge of Student Programs and Outreach in the Membership and Field Services Division and could provide reports directly to the EB. This would also provide a broader input mechanism for student (a.k.a. future AVMA member) concerns than is currently available with the existing Vice President position.

The Vice President position on the AVMA Executive Board is a voting position and some feel that this provides the veterinary students with a vote on the EB—a vote that would be lost if the position were to be eliminated. It is important to remember that all EB members pledge to vote in the best interest of the veterinary profession, not in the best interest of the regional or specific group they are elected to represent. Therefore, the VP cannot be viewed as the voting voice of the veterinary students. The
SAVMA president is an invited participant at the table for every EB meeting and provides very valuable input.

There will be people who feel that we should let such a change wait until the report of the AVMA Governance Review Task Force. This task force has been created just this year and has only begun to tackle their enormous charge to evaluate all aspects of the AVMA governance. Once they finalize their report it will take time for there to be action and implementation of any recommended changes. The AVMA governance, particularly the House of Delegates, should not become stagnant and ineffective waiting for potential change. We should act now to try a new way to engage our veterinary students in a more effective and connected way.

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E. Vice President

The **Vice-President** is authorized to travel at his or her discretion, within budget limits, to speak to Student AVMA organizations or scheduled classes on organized veterinary medicine or professional relations at US Colleges of Veterinary Medicine. The authorization is limited to one visit to half of the campuses per year. For colleges/schools with students enrolled in programs at another college/school/university that are directly associated with AVMA accredited colleges/schools, the Vice President is authorized to visit the students at each college/school/university.

 Depending on circumstances unique to that school visit, the Vice President is authorized to meet with the School Dean and/or members of his or her administration, encouraged to visit with faculty in addition to the Student Chapter of the AVMA faculty advisors where possible and feasible, visit classes currently in session, and meet separately with the school SCAVMA Executive Board at a light meal/or dessert function separate from the presentation meeting made to all SCAVMA members. Depending on travel time, the average visit to a veterinary school would be 2-3 days including 2 nights lodging.

The AVMA Vice President, or his/her designee, is authorized to attend the AVMA Veterinary Leadership Experience during the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009, with evaluation for continuance of AVMA financial support of the VLE to be conducted at the end of the 2009 event; and continuance of the Vice President’s attendance beyond 2009 being dependent upon any renewed financial support of the VLE by the AVMA. (EB Amended-4/09)

Other travel by the Vice-President must be approved by the EB or BOG, except when he or she is asked to substitute for the President or President-Elect. The Vice-President's spouse or a guest is authorized to travel with the Vice President to Student Chapter and Student AVMA meetings and when asked to represent the President or President-Elect.

In addition to presently-authorized visits to student chapters of the AVMA, the Vice President is authorized to visit AVMA-listed veterinary schools and colleges that meet the following requirements.

1. Students attending the school or college have representation in the Student AVMA House of delegates,
2. The student body includes at least 100 members, and
3. More than 80% of the student body are United States citizens.

The Vice President is provided blanket foreign travel authority to fulfill that obligation.

The **Newly-elected Vice-President** and his or her spouse or a guest are eligible for reimbursement of travel expenses that are incurred on the day of their election and subsequent days at the Regular Annual Session of the House of Delegates and Annual Convention, including transport home from the Convention.