

ICANN Transcription
Standing Committee on Improvements Implementation Subteam B
Wednesday, 20 January 2016 at 1700 UTC

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The audio is also available at:

<http://audio.icann.org/gns0/gns0-sci-20jan16-en.mp3>

Attendees:

Angie Graves – BC - Primary
Anne Aikman-Scalese – IPC – Primary – Chair
Sara Bockey – RrSG - Primary
Wolf-Ulrich Knoben – ISPCP – Primary

No Apologies

ICANN Staff:

Julie Hedlund
Mary Wong
Nathalie Peregrine

Coordinator: The recordings are started.

Nathalie Peregrine: Thank you very much, (Ian). Good morning, good afternoon, good evening everybody and welcome to the SCI Subteam B call on 20 January, 2016. On the call today we have Anne Aikman-Scalese, Sara Bockey and Wolf-Ulrich Knoben. From staff we have Mary Wong, Julie Hedlund and myself, Nathalie Peregrine. I'd like to remind you all too please remember to

state your names before speaking for transcription purposes. Thank you ever so much and over to you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thank you. This is Anne Aikman-Scalese. And I'm Vice Chair of the SCI. This is a subteam meeting for an assignment from GNSO Council to the SCI to work on operating procedures for the election of Council chair and vice chairs.

The request was from Amr Elsadr. I'm not sure that's pronounced correctly but from Amr. And there were in fact for specific issues identified. And they think it's helpful for us to focus on what those four issues are as we talk about how to address the request. And hopefully staff can capture these in the notes. And certainly for those on the call, please do correct me if you think I've got this wrong.

But we are discussing Section 2.2 of the GNSO Operating Procedures. And the first issue that was identified is that it appears that the GNSO chair who was elected must be a current member of the GNSO Council. And the question arose as to whether candidates for chair should be limited to those who are incumbent and continuing Council members. Is there somebody who can capture that in the notes?

Julie Hedlund: Hi, Anne. This is Julie Hedlund for the transcript. Actually what I have in the, you know, I was just going to type this in the chat room. But the review request is in a chat room. And Number 5 of the review request actually delineates the various issues that were raised. So...

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Yeah, exactly. I am speaking from Number 5, that is correct. And what I've done yesterday is I went through Number 5 and identified four issues because they start with sentences like the first issue, and then it says the second issue and then it says the third issue and then it says fourthly. So it's Number 5 that I'm speaking from.

Julie Hedlund: Great and I have backup. And the document is unsynced so people can actually go to that section, you know, in the document.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay. Does anybody need more time to read Section 5? Not seen any hands. So Julie, are we able to -- what I'm trying to do is simplify the description of the task and that's why I'm requesting the notes.

Julie Hedlund: Anne, this is Julie Hedlund. Could we ask if anybody is not clear on what is in the description in the request? Otherwise it would seem that I would probably just copy what's in the request and copy it under notes actions. I could put a break between each of those but...

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Yeah, I'm just trying to find a shorter simple way to identify that tasks but I see that Wolf-Ulrich has his hand up so I'll call on Wolf. Go ahead Wolf-Ulrich.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Yes, thank you. Thank you, Anne, and thank you altogether. Wolf-Ulrich speaking. I think it is okay with me also for, maybe for Sara especially. I don't know where you come from, and Sara, I'm sorry, I don't know you personally. So to repeat, let me say, what is on that Number 5, so these four issues, well, to make it clear between us, you know, that the understanding -- that we have a common understanding of those issues. So in this regard I would support what Anne is going to do with what she just started to do.

And so we can talk about where we have the same understanding of the issues herein. So that's how I see how we do that. Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay thanks, Wolf-Ulrich. And for Julie I was going to just simply give you a short phrase that could be put in the notes for each issue and then we can agree on whether it's properly described are not. So really what I would say, Julie, is coming from Paragraph 5, first issue is does Council chair need to be an incumbent continuing Council member? And then see Section 2.2b.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Anne?

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay. And then the second issue that I believe was identified is what should be done is no chair is conclusively elected and the vice chairs are also leaving the Council?

((Crosstalk))

Angie Graves: Angie Graves is here. Apologies.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Hey, Angie. Welcome. We're just kind of outlining the basic four issues in Paragraph 5 of the request from GNSO Council and the first issue had to do with whether or not the chair of the GNSO Council must be an incumbent continuing Council member. And that relates to Section 2.2b of the Operating Procedures. The second question being what happens when both - - when there is no conclusive results from the chair election and both vice chairs are going off Council at that particular annual meeting.

The issue here is based on Section 2.2f and the problem is if there's no conclusive chair election and both vice chairs go off Council what happens under the Operating Procedures because the vice chairs are supposed to step in if there is no conclusive chair election.

Then the third issue is in relation to a much more I think procedural matter which is that the GNSO Council is supposed to post-election results within two business days following each election and runoff ballot. And the mechanism for doing so is not specified in the operating procedures so the suggestion is that might be helpful to specify that mechanism to inform the board and community within two business days after each election of runoff ballot.

And then the fourth issue is again much more procedural. Oh let me do say this that the third issue involves section 2.2g of the Operating Procedures. And the fourth issue is also procedural in that Section 2.2 doesn't set out a timetable for GNSO chair election. And the Operating Procedures should potentially describe a timetable or what called a modality for setting a timetable for nominations and elections in each of the cycles. So those are the four issues. And Wolf-Ulrich, I'll go ahead and recognize you; I see your hand is up or is that an old hand?

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: No, thank you Anne. It's a new hand. I was just wondering whether we start issue by issue and discuss the understanding of that. So I would say what I can see from the notes Julie was doing here that I understood the Number 1 of the question in this way but in addition, you know, it seems to imply that we could question whether the Council chair must be a member at all. I think that is not...

((Crosstalk))

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: ...that a Council member at all. Or could it come from - could it be an external person also. I think that is not the question. I think it is in the rules it is fixed that the Council chair should be a person, a Council member. It's just a question, is it one, and incumbent or is it a new one well, so this is my understanding of that so far. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thank you, Wolf-Ulrich. If I could summarize what you just said, I think you believe that the way this is stated should probably be modified to should candidates or should incoming Council members be eligible is been a better -- is that a better way to phrase the question that we're going to address from your standpoint?

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Anne, its Wolf-Ulrich. No it shouldn't be rephrased. I was just explaining my opinion we could add that, you know, understand it in this way to be discussed. So we could fix it, let me say, so from my point of view to say as

the rules are saying that they Council chair should come from the Council, should be a Council member, full stop, that is one - it's not a question, it is just an answer which I would give. And then the other question is should it be than a member so a new one or could it be incumbent one or whatever. So it shouldn't be rephrased.

Anne Aikman-Scalse: Okay I think it's actually a bit clearer the way that we have it now but I do want to make sure -- this is Anne again - that I've captured what you're talking about clearly. Wolf-Ulrich do you think it's within scope for us to be looking at whether a chair maybe someone who is not a Council member? I would have thought that that would not be in scope of the request that the only question posed is in relation to whether it's a continuing Council member or a new Council member standing for chair.

Wolf-Ulrich Knob: Yes, I agree. So Wolf-Ulrich speaking. So I'm also of the opinion it's not in scope, well, to...

((Crosstalk))

Anne Aikman-Scalse: Okay. Okay. So really we are only talking about Council members whether they are continuing or new, is the chair limited to those who are continuing or could new Council members be eligible. Now it might make sense to have a bit of substantive discussion on that first question just to kind of see where we all are on it.

Now I've never served on Council. I know Wolf-Ulrich has. I'm looking for opinions from the participants whether or not -- excuse me -- you served on Council, what are your thoughts with your knowledge of GNSO Council as to whether the chair position should be limited to continuing Council members. Sara. I'll call on Sara Bockey. Let us know your thoughts.

Sara Bockey: This is Sara Bockey for the transcript. So I'm new to this so forgive me if I misspeak. But my thought would be that it is possible to have new incoming

councilors who have possibly served before or who have a vast amount of knowledge so that the fact that they are newly seated would not necessarily be an issue.

And in that case, I mean, we would might need to, you know, specify some parameters but I would think it's pretty clear if someone had served before on Council and went away for a few years and then came back that they would most definitely be qualified just as someone who had been on the Council the previous year. So sort of I think to me crosses over into the incumbent area even though their new. That's just my thought.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay thank you, Sara. Wolf-Ulrich, what are your thoughts?

Wolf-Ulrich Knoblen: Yes, thank you. Wolf-Ulrich speaking. I fully agree to what Angie was saying. So I'm fully convinced that each Council member per se is well potentially -- could be a potential Council chair, is a member. So and the Council is going to elect from its member one person who should chair the Council so everybody is eligible. So we were discussing that in the beginning of the -- when the new GNSO was built up several years ago, the new Council was built up that time and the GNSO structure as well which Council is the one who is going to elect the chair.

And it's clear. And therefore we have at the annual meeting these separated sessions, the old Council and the new - the newly seated Council consists of the new members and is going, well, to elect one person from its members. So it's very clear that the new as well as the incumbent, the continuing Council members are members of this council where somebody should be elected. And that's clear for me that all new Council members are also eligible. That's my opinion. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thank you, Wolf-Ulrich. I know that in the request there is a summary of 2.2b that suggests that as phrased the Operating Procedures limit candidates for chair to only the incumbent and continuing Council

members. So if we as a group develop a consensus that the incoming members should also be eligible we would need to recommend a change to clarify that in the operating procedures.

Angie, may I poll you on your thoughts with respect to eligibility of new incoming Council members?

Angie Graves: I don't see that there should be a distinction myself. Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay. I would say then at the very least among before on this call, that we all seem to believe that incoming Council members should be eligible to stand for chair. And then when I wasn't clear on -- I just want to make sure in talking with Sara - Sara, when you were speaking of, you know, it being quite possible that an incoming Council member has a good deal of experience, I believe that you are limiting your comments to incoming Council members.

But are you saying that there should be a set of parameters or qualifications for an incoming Council member that that person would not qualify to serve as chair then without having had prior Council experience?

Sara Bockey: Yes, this is Sara Bockey for the record. Not necessarily. You know, I don't know if someone who is fresh out and squeaky behind the ears would necessarily want to be chair without having at least some prior experience with Council. But I'm open to others' opinions because you have more experience than me. I was just throwing it out there as a thought.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: No, it makes sense to discuss for sure. This is Anne again. So the question whether any prior Council experience would be required in order for an incoming Council member to stand for chair. Could we look at that a little bit more closely? Should it be any incoming Council member eligible to stand for chair or should that person have had prior experience on Council? Angie, may I get your thoughts on that please?

Angie Graves: Sure, thanks. This is Angie Graves. I think they're going to self-select themselves out of a roll that is too much for them. In other words, if they're a new Council member I just cannot - I don't see there being danger or a requirement for us to police their candidacy for chair especially because there are interesting circumstances that we may not even be considering right now. For example, a prior member who is newly elected after four years for some period of time of inactivity and non-participation rejoins.

And I wouldn't want to necessarily stop that person from standing for election especially if there is some circumstance that makes it urgent that that person should. And I further think that if we are going to restrict that that we need to be very circumscribed in our language as to how that came about and why. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: I'm sorry, Angie, could you repeat the last sentence about the circumstances? I'm not sure I follow that. This is Anne.

Angie Graves: Sure, I'm just envisioning - I'm envisioning a community need for perhaps someone who's been in active for some period of time. I'm sorry, what you didn't hear was after that which means that we should be very deliberate and well defined with our language if we are going to restrict them from standing, a new member, then I think we need to be very specific in our language as to why that is in the event that it needs to be reconsidered or appealed in the future. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay. Thank you, Angie. And I see Wolf-Ulrich's hand is up so I recognize Wolf-Ulrich.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Yeah, thank you. I would like to join what Angie was saying. So for example okay well in my case for example, I rejoined the Council right now this year and I used to be vice chair for some years, some years ago. So I wouldn't say -- I would very much be surprised so if I could not understand

asking for standing for chair in this case. Also there are other cases where I would say from the beginning there are people insiders in the business like for example Keith Drazek, so he just joined the Council this year as well. I would say personally so he is immediately capable to lead the Council as well.

So there are several examples, well, where this could arise. So I wonder therefore, but Mary was writing in the chat at the existing procedures seem to not support that or seem to not permit that. So it would be very -- it would be good, well, to see that exactly and how it is formulated. So then we should really think about, well, to modify that. Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay great. Thanks, Wolf-Ulrich. I kind of hear everyone saying that we would be comfortable with what Sara has referred to as basically a self-selection process, that for incoming Council members if they are not really known and not supported for whatever reason that, you know, it's not going to work for them to get elected anyway and that if they are of the type of experience that Wolf-Ulrich was describing then they certainly should be readily eligible to stand for chair.

So what I'm hearing is that among this small group in the subteam that we don't see any reason to apply any conditions to the eligibility of incoming Council members for chair. If you agree with that and you please check Agree, if you are in Adobe Connect.

Angie Graves: I'm sorry, ask again. Sorry. This is Angie. Sorry.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: If you agree that there should be no conditions on the eligibility of incoming Council members because it's not a risk and they will self-select anyway. In other words if you agree SCI does not need to set out conditions for eligibility of incoming Council members but rather, you know, just to clarify the operating procedures so that it's clear that they are eligible. Wolf-Ulrich.

Eligibility criteria to be set may be up to the houses within their own procedures.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: What I would like to say, if I may, Anne, Wolf-Ulrich speaking. I think, you know, the process is, you know, the houses are going to nominate somebody who should stand for the Council -- for the chair election. So the houses are thinking internally, you know, about, you know, which person should that be. So they're thinking about the criteria and thinking about whether that will fulfill.

There may not be procedures available at the time being but my question is here really should the Council itself or the general rules prescribe the houses, the kind of the -- and the categories and criteria they take in order to nominate somebody as a Council chair nominee. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thank you, Wolf-Ulrich. Now that raises a question for me because I'm not familiar enough with the procedure. I'm not aware of the formal procedure in connection with the selections of nominees by the houses. Maybe staff can assist me. Is there a formal procedure for nomination?

Mary Wong: Anne, this is Mary.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Hi, Mary. Go ahead.

Mary Wong: Hi, Anne. Hi, everyone. So it's not so much a formal procedure. I think typically this has been left to each house whether it's for the chair or vice chair as Wolf-Ulrich's just stated. But if you look at the GNSO Operating Procedures they currently actually are very explicit that each house nominates its candidate and each house is responsible for nominating its candidate.

So first means that there's no specific eligibility criteria and therefore it's up to each house. And secondly, it would follow that procedurally each house would follow its own process whether that be formal or informal documented or not documented. Hopefully that helps.

And I had another comment but I can hold that if you want to finish this point.

Anne Aikman-Scalèse: I'll come back to you in just a minute, Mary. I wanted to check with Wolf-Ulrich whether he believes that that nomination procedure should be modified to specify some criteria that should be documented within each house. That again may be - I don't know if that's within scope or not in terms of, you know, nominating candidates for chair. But it sounded as though Wolf-Ulrich was suggesting that procedures be adopted for that purpose in each house. Wolf-Ulrich, can you help me with that?

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Yes. Wolf-Ulrich speaking. So as Mary said, you know, there is no formal procedure at least in our house, you know, in the Non-Contracted Parties' House, this is so we have still - we are struggling in other - on other levels, you know, with regards to that. So the procedure is not the issue really. The criteria about that.

So I wouldn't - I wouldn't personally - I'm not a fan, well, that the Council is setting criteria. There are some criteria with regards to the composition of the Council leadership at all means, for example, for the vice chairs, is that that the vice chairs should not be from the same house. And this kind of limitations are given there.

But there shouldn't be some things like, you know, what could it be. It could - should be experienced leadership people or what kind of criteria we should set. I would like to avoid that. Really leave it as it is; leave it to the houses, well, to nominate. They are struggling in each house about that, you know, and they are taking into consideration their criteria with regards to the overall

scenario who could be a person to lead that Council. And that's it, I wouldn't go to that that we are going to prescribe some criteria. Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Great. Thanks, Wolf-Ulrich. I personally certainly agree with that. I'm seeing no objection from anyone else. And I'm seeing in chat that Julie recalls procedures were drafted to not include details as to how each house conducts its selections.

So let's come back to Mary who had a second comment, and I don't know if was on this specific topic but go ahead, Mary.

Mary Wong: Thanks, Anne. It's not on this last point that was just discussed but on the general topic of the eligibility for chair as to whether it could be a new or incoming councilor versus an incumbent or continuing councilor. I just wanted to clarify especially for folks who are not familiar with the Operating Procedures, and most people probably aren't and should not be because that's not necessarily something that governs folks' lives as much as it does some of ours.

But that the Operating Procedures don't specify either way, you know, that the Council chair must be a continuing or incumbent councilor or that the Council chair can be a new or incoming councilor. The problem is more of a practical one. For what it's worth I think I can say that from the staff perspective the views that Wolf-Ulrich, Angie and Sara have expressed about, you know, broadening the field and having eligible candidates with the right experience and credentials stand, regardless of when they come on the Council, seems right to us as well.

But like I said, the problem seems to be more a practical one because of two things. One is the timetable for elections. And by that I meant, you know, the election of each stakeholder group or constituency's Council members. And then the election of the chair. So there's that timetable that's more, I guess, group specific.

And secondly, something that's slightly more overarching, is the fact that the GNSO Council chair is elected to serve for a maximum of one year. So typically that's been from AGM to AGM. So if you work backwards from that we've got the individual councilor elections and then you know who your Council members or representative next year and then you can figure out whether and who you want to nominate for chair.

So in the sense that in principle, and it seems like this is what this subgroup will recommend to the full SCI, in principle the procedure should be clarified to allow and include new as well as incoming councilors. Then I think one of the things that this group might want to work through on a future call, not today, is how that might affect the timetables.

And while those would not necessarily go into the new draft of the Operating Procedures, it may be helpful for the SCI to make notes on any potential changes to the ways stakeholder groups and constituencies might elect to their Council representatives. Not so much the way I mean, I suppose that the timing. So that could be helpful in explaining your final recommendation. Sorry for going on so long that I hope that set some context for everyone.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: No, thank you, Mary. I think that's a very important point. And if I could boil it down I would probably say should we make sure that the incoming members are known before Council chair and elections are held. And I don't currently, I mean, is it currently the case that you know who is incoming at the member before elections -- nominations for election begin?
Wolf-Ulrich.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoblen: Well, this question is -- touches as well to other issues which should be (unintelligible) here in that context. You know, this is the timing as well. When the new members are going to be selected. So and when it's clear, when it's published or they are selected. And then after that, after the election and the publication of that is also the question how to get them known. Because there

is no chance before the AGM to meet them personally there may be a chance, well, to meet them by phone because they would have the right, well, to participate in the phone calls of the old Council from the time they are -- they have been selected.

They do not have a vote on that and normally if they - then they participate just in a listening mode. So there is little chance, well, to get to know them. The only real chance will be at the AGM itself so before the Council is going to meet, the new Council. So that is, well, it's easier because we will have the Saturday night dinner and that's a good chance, well, to get to know them (unintelligible) so that's what I did this time. So - and so this is to be discussed in the context of the timing.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: So that's it.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: I think we should, as has been suggested -- and this is Anne again - discuss the timing of election of chair in our next meeting perhaps. So we will definitely put that on the agenda for the next call. There is one thing I would like to note based on the notes that we have from staff. If we could focus for a moment on possible change, over in the notes on the right-hand side of the Adobe Connect.

And it says "possible change, a candidate for GNSO Council chair does not need to be a member of a house that must be a current or incoming member of the GNSO Council." I think that the only language change there is the insertion of "current or incoming" in front of "member" and that the rest of the language comes out of the Operating Procedure.

But what I want to raise is I'm not sure that "current" would be the correct word. I think we might want to say a "continuing or incoming member." I'm a little bit concerned that the use of the word "current" could mean that a

Council member who was going off Council could be elected as chair. So I think that it's a good suggestion as to the change because it only requires three words but I think those words should be "continuing or incoming" just as they've been changed now in the chat. Does anyone have any - does anyone disagree with that?

Okay, and what is our feeling about that proposed change keeping aside the question of timetable and understanding that we have not resolved the timetable at all and that that does need to be a subject of discussion. Do those on the call bill comes trouble with the staff proposed change as amended? If you agree please give me an Agree sign. All right, there's Wolf-Ulrich.

Hey, Sara, are you there?

Sara Bockey: Yes, I am. I was wondering if you could just restate that again for me one more time?

Anne Aikman-Scalese: That proposed change would reflect our consensus in this subteam that a Council chair may come either from those who are continuing on the Council or a new incoming member of the Council.

Sara Bockey: Great, thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay, thank you very much. So we do have a consensus on that and it is noted that we have -- that there's an interrelationship here between these eligibility criteria and the timetable for the election process, the nomination and election process that would allow an incoming member to be known and be interviewed by Council members prior to the Council election and that we will be discussing that in our next call. So, having said that just to have a brief survey in our few minutes remaining.

I'd like to move on to Item 2 and that deals with that gap that can be created, and I believe that was created this year in connection with elections where there was no conclusive election for chair and yet the terms of both vice chairs were up. And so there was a bit of a difficult situation as to who would step into the role as chair in the interim while the - or acting while the process went on to actually elect a chair.

And one thing, on other boards that I've served on, to address this type of problem has always been the staggering of terms of people who are in a position to act for the chair. And I wonder if it's been ever considered in the GNSO Operating Procedures to have the terms of the vice chairs staggered so that one is never in the situation of not having an individual be able to chair. Maybe Mary or Julie could comment on whether the council has ever looked at staggering terms of vice chairs. Mary, go ahead.

Mary Wong: Hi, Anne and everyone. This is Mary from staff. The short answer to your question is no. And I suspect the reason lies not in the Operating Procedures by the bylaws, I guess is the sort of overarching framework and boundary for this whole issue. The bylaws say that for both the chair and vice chairs their term is to be specified by the Council but set the maximum limit of one year.

So this would probably still permit some kind of overlapping. So you could say, you know, something like the vice chairs should not be elected or serve at exactly the same time and for the same term. But like I said, I suspect that because the bylaws say one year and the practice has been to have that one year begin at the AGM and end at the next AGM that's just kind of how it's been done. Like I said, we could as a subgroup, investigate possibly the consequences of doing it or recommending something slightly different.

The other thing that I wanted to say is that for the -- while this is not specified in the bylaws for either the chair or the vice chair position, the bylaws do specify some kind of staggering of sorts for the Council members in that certain numbers of councilors from each group would start in odd number

years and others would start in even numbered years. So insofar as the Council is concerned that is dealt with in the bylaws but there is no specificity of either the chair or the vice chair in that respect. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thanks, Mary. And is that because Council members serve for two years?

Mary Wong: This is Mary again. I believe so. So I think, you know, in essence what the bylaws say about that Council members generally it really is to address the problem we are discussing. It's just that they don't actually say that for the chair and the vice chairs since it's just a maximum (unintelligible).

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Right. Okay, Wolf-Ulrich, your comments please.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Yes thank you, Anne. Wolf-Ulrich speaking. I think it seems to be we are a little bit captured by the existing rules and the existing timing which are set in the bylaws and the rules of procedures here. And we should think about first what is the reason for what we are talking about there. So what would we like to achieve? If we would like to achieve that we have a continuation in the leadership for in case the chair is not going to be elected at the time he or she should be.

And this - it's a fundamental basis and I think we all agree and that should be fixed as well that we agree here that this is - the goal continuation in all of this. So then the question is how we can achieve that. And then we are faced with these issues which are raised here that there may be a break in that sense we would like to have that continuation done by the vice chairs whoever they are, by elected vice chairs. They could be newly elected, they could be incumbent ones who are continuing, you know, their part.

So these things should be discussed from my point of view and then we should see what are the real issues in that. I think the timing may be then it is an obstacle. It is something which is fixed at the time being but it is not

something I would say which is a big problem to modify if that is needed to modify.

Well, it takes a more effort, well, to take, well, if you would like to go to modify the bylaws and that respect. But we should at first think what is necessary and how we see to continue it rather than to meander, you know, around these obstacles and find something which may be a compromise not be the best one. Well, I'm just starting to discuss it but I think that is what we should take into consideration as well. Thanks.

Anne Aikman-Scalèse: Thanks, Wolf-Ulrich. I'm noting that Julie has stated in that chat that the timetable issue is -- the issue we are discussing right now is part of the timetable issue. And also, you know, I note that sometimes when we are trying to solve a problem we don't want to over solve it or make it too complicated.

What I'm wondering about is whether we could attribute this problem to the fact that the chair of election takes place at the same time as the vice chair election. For example, if you left the terms as they are in the bylaws, one year terms, but you specified that the vice chair election did not occur until one month or two months after the election of the chair would you have solved the problem because you know that within that period of time if there is an issue electing the chair that it's going to be resolved by one month later or two months later. Is that a possible solution?

Mary. Go ahead Mary.

Mary Wong: Thanks, Anne. And it's interesting you bring this up because this was actually something that a few folks have kind of talked about and around particularly in the context of what happened in the last election around. And I would say that the answer at least initially to your question is yes and no but possibly more and no. And the reason is that again going back to the bylaws, well two things, let me take a step back.

The first thing is that actually as it already stands while it's not stated anywhere that practice is that the vice chairs are never elected, appointed or selected until after the chair is confirmed for a variety of reasons, one of which is of course that, you know, the chair cannot be a member of the stakeholder group of either of the vice chairs. So unless - until you know who the chair is it's kind of hard to get a vice chair.

Another reason, I think as some of you know, it's just getting the practical timetable and getting people in different constituencies, for example, to agree on a candidate and so forth. So that's already the practice. But then what we went up against is that Council members' terms start and end at an AGM. So - and that's kind of the genesis, I guess or partial genesis for this problem coming to the SCI.

So even if one were to say that, for example, if the SCI were to say the vice chair shall not be elected until after the chair is confirmed or, you know, the vice chair shall not be elected until a month after the chair is confirmed and they shall serve for a year after that, we would still run into the problem is you know, their term ends the following AGM and they haven't served their full year.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Oh okay great. Thanks, Mary. I see that that is a very practical problem. We are coming to the end of our time together today. I would suggest that this particular topic of election of vice chairs, that we all think about it, perhaps discuss on the list and that we take this up as the first item at the beginning of our next call. Is there anyone who has any final comments with respect to that?

It may be helpful for staff to provide us with a specific language in that Operating Procedures pertaining to election of vice chairs in order for us to consider this more closely. Is that okay with everyone? Does anyone disagree with that approach?

Okay so I will ask staff to put out on the list the election of vice chair procedures and vice chair eligibility for consideration of how we might solve this problem for Council. And we will take that up as our first agenda item in the next call. And we will also, after that discussion, talk much more about timetable and how timetable affects these elections.

And I thank you, everyone, for your participation. Look forward to our next discussion. I just want to keep this to one hour because I know everyone is busy. Thank you all.

((Crosstalk))

Julie Hedlund: And as noted, Wolf-Ulrich has requested a Doodle for the next call when he is clear on his schedule. So staff will handle that.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay, very good. I think it would be a good idea to try to do our calls every two weeks or so if this - I hope there's no disagreement on that.

Wolf-Ulrich Knoben: Thank you.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Okay.

Julie Hedlund: Thanks, everyone.

Anne Aikman-Scalese: Thanks everyone.

Julie Hedlund: Have a great day. Bye-bye.

((Crosstalk))

Anne Aikman-Scalese: You too, Julie.

Nathalie Peregrine: Thank you very much, (Ian). You may now stop the recordings. This
 closes today's call.

END