Reject Bylaws Amendment Groups 1 & 2

FAQ Fact Sheet

What do these Bylaws Amendments actually do?

These Amendments remove the sections from the AAOS Bylaws that codify the purpose, duties, geographic distribution, composition and organization of the Board of Councilors (BOC) (sections that detail the fundamental essence of the BOC) and place them in a Policy and Procedures Manual (P&P Manual).

If all the deleted Bylaws sections are placed verbatim into the P&P Manual, what is the harm?

The harm is that these changes would strip the BOC of the protections afforded by the Bylaws. Any change to the Bylaws requires a process which permits the Fellowship an opportunity to review the proposed amendments and make recommendations prior to effecting that change.

*Proponents of these Amendments claim that **streamlining** the Bylaws is necessary however it is our position that their adoption **will put the BOC at risk** since a P&P Manual can be permanently changed out of the sight of the Fellowship. The BOC is the deliberative body of the AAOS that most directly represents the fellowship and as such any changes to its purpose, duties, geographic distribution, composition and organization should be widely known and deliberated by the fellowship.*

But haven't these Amendments been reviewed and recommended for adoption by the AAOS Board of Directors (BOD), the BOC, the Board of Specialty Societies (BOS) and the Bylaws Committee?

Yes, however the BOD was bitterly divided on this issue. The motion to recommend adoption narrowly passed with 9-7 vote, not unanimous, not even a consensus and contrary to a long standing AAOS BOD tradition of tabling any contentious motion until consensus can be reached among Board members.

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What about the Bylaws Committee recommendation to adopt these Amendments?

A Virtual Bylaws Committee Hearing was held on March 25th at which time Fellows were required to submit written comments to the AAOS at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. A request to delay the Hearing because of the extraordinary conditions was denied.

Nevertheless, despite the obstacles presented, many Fellows testified at a Hearing that normally attracts sparse attendance. ***More than 80 comments were received in opposition to the Amendments and only 5 comments supported their adoption*** *and yet, despite making note of the large numbers of comments, the Bylaws Committee inexplicably voted to preliminarily support adoption of the Bylaws*

Remarkably however, at a subsequent meeting of the Bylaws Committee, in deference to the controversial nature of these proposed Bylaws Amendments, the Bylaws Committee reconsidered its initial decision and made the unprecedented decision to ***rescind*** *its preliminary recommendation to adopt Bylaws Amendment Groups 1 & 2.*

Is there broad support for rejecting these Amendments?

Over 60 former AAOS Presidents, past BOC Officers and members, as well as many State Orthopaedic Societies including Texas, Ohio, New York, Florida and California recommend that you ***vote to reject these Amendments****.*

When will the AAOS Fellowship get an opportunity to vote?

If you have not yet received the electronic ballot, you will receive the ballot shortly. Please ***examine it carefully****. Do not vote immediately and in a hurried manner. We respectfully request that you take time to think about the issues. Feel free to contact us with questions.* ***Scrutinize the resolution before you vote****. Sometimes these issues can be characterized in a confusing manner.*

Thank you.