

Council Restructuring

In an effort to improve service for ISPRS, and taking into account the various scientific, technical and organisational changes in our field, Council has recently examined the Council structure, as well as the main tasks of its members, and primary skills necessary to fulfil these tasks. This review has resulted in a suggestion for a new structure.

The new structure

Position	Main tasks	Necessary skill set
President	Lead, representation of society Strategic society development IPAC contact	Scientific reputation and leadership Communication skills
President Elect	Scientific / technical programme of congress and GSW, together with CD, GSW Director, ISAC Chair and Technical Commission Presidents Scientific and Education & Outreach Initiative ISAC contact	Scientific reputation and leadership Communication skills
Vice President	Statutes and bylaws Awards Publication policy Student Consortium contact	Scientific reputation and leadership Communication skills
Secretary General	Day-to-day business, communication, ... Membership development eBulletin, web site, social media	Management and communication
Vice President Finance	Management of finances, Tax report Contracts (incl. those with journal publishers) Contact to Financial Commission	Financial expertise Legal expertise
Congress Director	Congress organisation IIAC contact	Management and communication Industry expertise

The following rules should govern the selection of Council members (details for Statutes & Bylaws to be formulated in due time):

- An individual can be President of the Society for one term only.
- An individual can serve a maximum of three consecutive terms on Council.
- The Director of the Congress shall be proposed by the Ordinary Member organizing the Congress and shall be confirmed by the General Assembly.
- Of the other members of the Council, i.e. The President Elect, the Vice President, the Vice President Finance and the Secretary General, no two shall be of the same nationality. In this context, nationality shall be that of the Ordinary Member which nominates the candidate.
- In order to assist continuity, the outgoing President Elect shall be appointed the incoming President as of right, without election. Should he/she decline the office, it shall be filled by election by the General Assembly. Note that in this case, applicants should have prior Council

experience, in other words, have had served on the Council for one or more terms. The other Council positions are filled by election by the General Assembly.

Rationale for change

The following reasoning has led to this new structure:

- As witnessed by various letters of interest, the organisation of the ISPRS Congress and the Geospatial Week is becoming increasingly attractive to Ordinary Members, among which some have excellent local capabilities and facilities, but lack a large structured ISPRS community at the time of the application to host the meeting. The new *President Elect* would be the point of contact within Council to ensure a successful scientific and technical programme. As a consequence, it becomes feasible to organise large ISPRS meetings in areas where the society is currently less present. This will result in the growth of ISPRS and the local community, and their activities in these areas, which will serve both, the local organisers and ISPRS.
- The introduction of a *President Elect* also ensures that the future *President* has sufficient time to become familiar with leading the society before assuming office. At the same time, the current practice of serving on Council for up to 4 terms, i.e. 16 years, can be reduced by half. This shorter cycle will result in more individuals being interested in serving on Council. At the same time, more fresh ideas will lead to faster adaptation of the society to new developments in the quickly changing environment of today.
- The limitation for an individual to serve on Council for a maximum of three consecutive terms leads to similar consequences for faster change and adaptation to new developments.
- The separation of the positions of *Secretary General*, with the need for more administrative and communication skills, and that of *President*, who primarily requires scientific reputation and leadership skills, facilitates efficient cooperation in Council, since responsibilities are more clearly defined. In addition, individuals do not necessarily need to have both skill sets to serve the society well which will enlarge the number of interested candidates.
- Renaming the position of Treasurer to *Vice President Finance* is in line with modern terminology for positions of executive boards.
- Offering the possibility for individuals to serve on Council for more than one term in the positions of *Secretary General* and *Vice President Finance* will lead to a better continuity in those areas, which is vital to efficiently run the society's affairs. With these measures, it is felt that enough continuity will exist in Council, therefore the appointment of the outgoing President to Council is not necessary. It is still possible, of course, that the outgoing President can serve as *Vice President* in the following term.

Implementation schedule

The current Council suggests putting the described changes to vote at the first meeting of the General Assembly during the next ISPRS Congress in Nice in summer 2020. If accepted, the Council 2020 – 2024 should be elected in the new structure by the General Assembly in one its further meetings in Nice. If the change is not approved, the Council 2020 – 2024 will have the same structure as the current one. As a consequence, Council nominations for 2020 – 2024 would be required to be made by the Ordinary Members following both the old and the new structure.

In order to facilitate the process and to create as much transparency as possible, ample time for discussion will be provided prior to the Nice Congress. This letter is part of the information strategy of

Council regarding the changes, and serves the purpose of informing our Ordinary Members about the intension of Council to accommodate that discussion. We will of course prepare the necessary changes in the statutes & bylaws and will send them to you in good time before the Nice Congress.

In parallel, we will inform the ISPRS community as a whole about the suggested changes by way of a discussion forum (blog) on the ISPRS web site, and by personal communication over the coming months.

We are very interested in your thoughts about the suggested new Council structure and ask you to please give us your feedback, whatever your opinion may be.

October 11, 2018

Christian Heipke for Council

ISPRS President 2016 – 2020