



Southern Arkansas University

Magnolia Campus

August 22, 1978

Mr. Walter Nunn
301 Louisiana Street
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Walter:

Enclosed is a tentative draft of the Committee's proposals for revising the Association's constitution. I attempted to record what I thought we developed; however, experience has taught me that there is many a slip between my ear and pencil. We also may have reservations about some of our proposals. Consequently, I would appreciate your reviewing the draft and revising and correcting as necessary.

I intend to inform Bob Savage of our progress, but will not send him a copy of our report until you and Bob McChesney have had an opportunity to review and revise our proposals.

It should be unnecessary to confess that I am doing my own typing.

Sincerely,

William C. Nolan

A. Amendment to Article VI, Section 1

1. Proposal

a. Strike out the word "President" from Section 1 so that the Section reads, "The Vice President (President-Elect), Secretary-Treasurer, and the Board members shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee from among the regular members, and additional nominations may be made from the floor."

b. Add to Section 1, "The Nominating Committee shall nominate for the office of President the current Vice President (President-Elect). If the office of Vice President (President-Elect) is vacant, the Nominating Committee shall nominate the President from among the regular members."

2. Justification

a. One objective of the Constitution is to provide, under normal conditions, through the presidential succession system a means to further continuity and stability in the Association's leadership. This objective is strengthened by labeling the Vice President as President-elect. Because questions have been raised whether or not the Nominating Committee must nominate as President, the current Vice President (President-elect), the intent of this proposed amendment is to require the Nominating Committee to nominate as President the current Vice President (President-elect), if the office of Vice President is filled. If there is no incumbent Vice President, the Nominating Committee then would nominate the President from among the regular members.

b. Article VI, Section 1, if amended as recommended, would still provide an opportunity for other candidates for President to be nominated from the floor.

c. If during the year the office of President becomes vacant, Article V, Section 6, provides that the Vice President (President-elect) shall perform the duties of President. Under Article VI, Section 5, which authorizes the President to fill vacancies on the Executive Board, of which the Vice President is a member (See Article V, Section 1), the new President could fill the vacant Vice President position with the approval of the Executive Board. The Vice President (President-elect) so appointed would be nominated by the Nominating Committee for the office of the President.

B. Add as a By-law to implement Article VI, Section 4

1. Proposal

a. "The Regular members shall be notified of the list nominated by the Nominating Committee at least 15 days prior to the annual meeting."

2. Justification

a. Members of the Association have objected to not being informed about the list nominated by the Nominating Committee until the Committee presented its report to the Association during the annual business meeting. This Committee feels that members are entitled to appropriate prior notification so that members could prepare to make nominations from the floor if they are dissatisfied with the list presented by the Nominating Committee.

b. The committee proposes that this requirement of 15 days prior notice be placed in the By-laws instead of the Constitution. A specific time proposal in the Constitution becomes rather inflexible because amendments to the Constitution require for proposal a 15-day prior notice to the membership and thus can not be changed at a single annual meeting, unless proposed before the meeting. The amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds vote. By-laws may be proposed and voted on at a single meeting, and only a majority vote is required

for passage.

C. Amendment to Article IV. Dues

1. Proposal

Substitute the sentence in Article IV which reads, "Annual dues shall be assessed by majority of those present at the annual meeting of the Association," with the following sentence, "Annual dues shall remain in the amount specified in the By-laws until changed by a majority of the regular members present and voting at an annual or special meeting of the Association."

2. Justification

a. Some question has been raised on the meaning of Article IV. Does it require each annual meeting to approve the annual dues rate? If the Annual Association fails to act, does this mean no dues can be assessed during the year? Part of the confusion arises from the changes made to Article IV when the Constitution was originally adopted on February 22, 1975. The original proposal was, "Annual dues shall be assessed at the following rate unless changed by the annual meeting of the Association: Regular membership, \$5.00 and Student Membership, \$1.00." At the time of the adoption of the Constitution the charter members concluded that setting the annual dues rate in the Constitution would be too inflexible so the original proposal was revised to what the Constitution now reads, and the annual dues would be set under the constitutional provision for a By-law. The Association failed to provide for continuing the dues assessment at the old rate in the event the Association did not act.

b. The intent of the proposed amendment is to provide that the amount of the annual dues will continue in case the Association fails to reassess the dues at an annual Meeting. The change in the dues structure would be proposed and ratified as provided in the Article covering By-laws. Because dues change would be an amendment to an existing By-law, no petition signed by ten percent of the membership would be required, as would be the case for an original By-law; or by a majority of the Executive Board. Instead, the change in dues could be proposed and adopted from the floor.

D. Annual Dues Date to be Set by a By-law

1. Proposal

a. It is proposed that a By-law be recommended as follows, "Annual dues will cover the period from March 1 of the ~~present~~ year through the last day of February of the following year." CURRENT

2. Justification

a. The Secretary-Treasurer reports that members are uncertain as to the specific dates covered by the annual dues.

b. The intent of the proposed By-law is to provide specific dates, and to set the beginning date early enough so that members who are departing from the state may discontinue their membership for the next year but still participate in the current year's annual Meeting.

E. Amend Article VII, Section 6

1. Proposal

Revise that sentence of Article VII, Section 6, which reads, "At each annual meeting, the Executive Board shall recommend to the membership those committees which it deems advisable to function during the coming year. Upon approval of the committees by the membership, the President shall name the

members of the committees and designate their chairmen, subject to the approval of the membership," to read as follows: "The President shall recommend to the Executive Board those committees which he deems advisable to function during the coming year. The President shall name the members of the committees and designate their chairmen, subject to the approval of the Executive Board."

2. Justification

a. Section 6 has not been workable because the President, after his election, has had insufficient time to prepare Committee recommendations before the Association adjourned its annual Meeting. Thus all committees have been temporary committees.

b. The intent of the proposal is to authorize a workable system of designating committees. If the membership desires to specify committees, the membership may do so under the provisions for By-laws (Article VII).