

The Future Membership and Governance of IFCC Full Member Consultation: Feedback and Proposed Actions

Introduction:

On 15 July 2010 all 84 Full Member national societies of IFCC were invited to submit views on the future membership and governance of IFCC by responding to a consultation document. In August a reminder was sent indicating that responses should be submitted by 17 September. By 30 September a total of 31 Full Members had responded. These 31 responses were considered in depth by the IFCC Executive Board at its meeting in Seoul on 2/3 October. This paper summarises those responses and indicates how IFCC intends to proceed in the light of those responses.

Issue 1: Membership of IFCC

Response:

- A) 8 Full Members favoured opening full membership of IFCC to any national society that meets the membership criteria
- B) 12 Full Members favoured maintaining the one Full Member per country role whilst encouraging more Affiliate Members of IFCC
- C) 9 Full Members favoured no change to the current membership position
- D) 2 Full Members did not express a preference

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

The Executive Board accepts that there is a clear majority against opening up Full Membership of IFCC. Therefore, the Board will work with existing Full Members to try to recruit more Affiliate Members. No formal proposal is required to implement this action.

The Executive Board decided against removing the phrase 'and Laboratory Medicine' from the official name of IFCC.

Issue 2: Composition of and Elections to the IFCC Executive Board

A) Term of Office of President

Response:

15 Full Members favoured restriction of the President to one three year term of office; 14 Full Members opposed this change and 2 did not express a preference

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

In the absence of a clear mandate the Executive Board felt that it would not be appropriate to propose restriction of the President to one term of office at this point in time. However, the Executive Board believes that this issue may be revisited at a later date once other changes to the composition of the Executive Board have taken effect.

B) President Elect

Response:

21 Full Members favoured replacing the Vice President with a President Elect; 8 Full Members voted against this proposal and 2 did not express a preference. Several comments were submitted about the suggested term of office for a President elect.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

The Executive Board noted the clear preference for a President Elect. Two proposals will be submitted to the IFCC Council in Berlin. The first of these proposals will be for the introduction of a President Elect to replace the Vice President. The second proposal, which will only apply if the first is approved, will present two different options for the term of office of the President Elect.

C) Regional Representatives rather than Members

Response:

16 Full Members favoured the introduction of Regional Representatives on the Executive Board whilst 15 Full Members opposed this suggestion.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

In the absence of a clear mandate the Executive Board felt that it would not be appropriate to propose Regional Representatives at this point in time. However, the Executive Board believes that this issue may be revisited at a later date once other changes to the composition of the Executive Board have taken effect.

However, the Executive Board recognised that the views of the Regional Federations are increasingly important. Therefore, it agreed that, in the absence of appropriate representation on the Executive Board from a Regional Federation, its President would be invited to attend one Board meeting each year.

D) Postal Ballot for Election of the Executive Board

Response:

23 Full Members favour a postal ballot for voting for all elections to the Executive Board, 7 Full Members opposed this suggestion and 1 did not express a preference. Several commented that electronic voting would be preferable to a postal ballot.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

The Executive Board agreed to make a formal proposal to the IFCC Council in Berlin that electronic voting for all elections to the Executive Board will be introduced for the election of the 2014 Executive Board. If approved this proposal will necessitate changes to the Rules of IFCC and these will be the subject of a second proposal.

E) Regional Representatives to be elected only by Full Members in the IFCC Regional Organisation

Response:

16 Full Members favoured Regional Representatives being elected only by Full Members in the IFCC Regional Organisation, whilst 11 Full Members opposed this suggestion and 4 did not express a preference.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

Since the Executive Board decided against submitting a proposal for Regional Representatives rather than Members (see C above) no further action is required.

Issue 3: IFCC Membership Subscription

Response:

27 Full Members favoured the principle of a differential membership subscription linked to the national wealth in each country, whilst 4 favoured the current arrangement. Several Full Members who voted in favour of a differential subscription indicated that their vote was conditional upon greater transparency in the declaration of membership numbers and fees collected.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

The Executive Board accepted the clear view of Full Members and will formulate a proposal on a differential membership subscription for formal consideration by the IFCC Council meeting in Berlin 2011. That proposal will include suggestions for introducing greater transparency in declared membership numbers and fees collected.

Other Issues:

Consultation Process:

Response:

Several Full Members were pleased to have been asked to comment on these issues of importance to IFCC but felt that a two month period over the holiday period (in Northern countries) was inadequate time for the consultation.

Executive Board Evaluation and Proposed Action:

The Executive Board will continue to consult with Full Members in the future on issues of major importance to IFCC. However, a minimum period of three months will be allowed for responses.

Graham Beastall
(For IFCC Executive Board)

18 October 2010