

2009 CNSC Report to the Council

In 2009, as in 2008, the Credentials, Nominations and Statutes Committee (CNSC) devoted substantial effort to assisting the Bylaws Working Group. It met either in its own role or in conjunction with the Bylaws Working Group in January, March, June, and September.

Appointment of CNSC

- Last year, the Council approved the CNSC Chair's recommended committee membership. Members include Francisco Plancarte, Kjartan Almanning, Bente Nielsen, Vijayam Raghunathan.
- At the time of the appointment, Vijayam expressed some concern about her ability to participate fully in the work of the committee. That concern has proved reasonable, as she has not been able to participate in any of the CNSC discussions and has only been accessible by email on two occasions. The Chair has conveyed his great thanks to her for her volunteer service to the Credential Committee during the 2007 Congress and respectfully noted his need to substitute another Councilor, subject to the Council's approval. To that end, the Chair has spoken with other members of the CNSC and, with their consent, has approached Mahmoud Sharei to lend his background and judgment to the CNSC. He has agreed to this, again, pending the Council's approval.
- **MOTION:** The Chair of the CNSC moves that the Council appoint Mahmoud Sharei to replace Vijayam Raghunathan to the committee for the remainder of the CNSC term (until the next Congress).

State of the Membership

- The Movement remains in a perilous situation as a membership organization, with 13 Member Organizations and 14 Associated Organizations. The CNSC sees an urgent need to engage closely with the IS and member organizations over the next year to improve membership outreach, recruitment and support. The Chair continues to urge Councilors to forward the names and contacts within organizations with whom they partner in the own countries and which they would recommend as potential members of the Movement as either Associated or Member Organizations.
- Complicating further the member organization basis of the Movement, the global economic crisis has affected the financial well-being of many of our member and associated organizations, as it has a number of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations. It is thus not surprising that a number of our member organizations have been unable to meet their financial obligations to the Movement in the past year. To the greatest extent reasonable, the CNSC is working with members to avoid any loss of participation rights in the governance of the Movement, but urges members to be in touch with the Treasurer to identify a reasonable arrangement for meeting their obligations or negotiating reduced rates during this global economic downturn. Current arrears to the Movement total over \$42,000. All but 3-4 member and associated organizations are in arrears to WFM as of the last quarter prior to this Council meeting (Bylaws 1.c).
- **NOTE:** All Member and Associated organizations are urged to provide up-to-date contact information to the Secretariat for use by the CNSC to dialogue with members.

MO/AOs Applicant Organizations

- The CNSC received an application for Associated Membership from the Center for Global Community & World Law from the United States. The application materials and notes on the organization were shared with Councilors early last week for their review.
- The CNSC anticipates receiving AO applications from WATUN and an MO application from current AO member AYC early next year.
- **MOTION:** The CNSC moves that the Council recognize the Center for Global Community & World Law as an Associated Member.

Member Reports

- This year, the International Secretariat continued the use of an online quantitative survey format for gathering reports on MO's continued progress and immediate needs. Elisabeth Garrett, WFM's Membership and Communications Officer will comment further on those reports we have received.

- **NOTE:** Member and Associated Organizations are urged to complete their annual reports as required per the Statutes in a timely manner so as to provide the Secretariat useful information on the efforts of organizations on the Movement's priority issues.

Dormant Organizations

- In early 2009, the CNSC received confirmation that the Swedish MO, Sveriges Varldsfederalister, has officially ceased operations. Leadership of Sveriges Varldsfederalister reached out to and is working with En Verden to support their remaining members in trust until the day when a new Swedish organization can be established.
- In 2008, the CNSC Chair received an email that suggested that the New Zealand AO, Sapiens Movement, was considering ceasing operations. Attempted to follow-up and confirm the status of the organization has resulted in different responses from the organization's presiding officer as to the health and continued operations of the organization. The CNSC will continue to attempt to confirm whether Sapiens Movement is a functioning organization, but may be required to bring to the Executive Committee next year a recommendation that Sapiens Movement be dropped from our list of Associated Organizations.

Progressive Structural Development

- Payment of dues has been an ongoing problem within the Movement. Member dues currently account for a very small percentage of the Movement's budget, but do provide a primary source of core and administrative funding. Aside from the recognized financial constraints on most of the Movement's members, an important concern, the dues payment process currently in place does not support the timely payment of dues to the Movement. It is possible, to note for example, for an individual WFM member's dues to be received by the Movement over 24 months after their joining their national member organization.
- **NOTE:** The CNSC urges Councilors to share for any and all suggestions and ideas for updating the dues policies and structures of the Movement, including fundamental overhaul if necessary.

Oversight of Leadership Selection

- *WFM Presidents* – Last year, the Congress delegated responsibility for selecting the WFM President to the Council, which is expecting to elect one or two Presidents at this meeting. Further details on this process will be shared by the Chair of the Executive Committee.
- *Skills Inventory* – The CNSC urges all Councilors who have not yet done so to complete the skills inventory to better inform future co-option recommendations.
- *Co-options* – The CNSC recommends the co-option to the Council of Eliana Capretti, a member of the editorial Board of the Federalist Debate and active member of the Union of European Federalists.
- *Councilor Responsibilities* - In October 2008, the Movement's elected Officers developed and circulated an Understanding of the Responsibilities of Councilors for their signature. The CNSC supports having such an understanding and its use by the Movement's leadership and Member Organizations in identifying and cultivating future leaders of the Movement, in encouraging active leadership of Councilors away from Council meetings, and in empowering the IS to work more closely with Councilors on promoting the health and vitality of the Movement continuously. As of the April 2008 EC meeting, 22 Councilors had signed and returned their copies. A number of Councilors have expressed interest in discussing the suggested responsibilities before signing. The CNSC welcomes such discusses and, at the same time, encourages Councilors to review and sign the agreement to better contribute to the governance of the Movement.