



the british
psychological society
promoting excellence in psychology

Rationale for the proposed Governance Changes for the British Psychological Society

The aim of the table overleaf is to explain the proposed changes to the Charter, Statutes and society rules which are subject to a vote by members. These changes have already been approved by the Charity Commission and other advisors to Her Majesty's Privy Council. Subject to passing of the member votes, Her Majesty's Privy Council will be asked to approve the changes.

The first column seeks to explain the changes and the second column provides the rationale for those changes.

These changes have been reflected in the [Charter](#), [Statutes](#) and the society [Rules](#).

GOVERNANCE CHANGES

PROPOSED CHANGES	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGES
<p>An Appointed Chair: To be appointed from within membership with a right reserved to recruit externally where it is not possible to appoint a member with the requisite skills and experience.</p>	<p>An appointed chair: The recruitment for this is preferred to be from within the society membership providing the requisite skills and experience can be evidenced. Where this is not possible, the power is reserved to consider external applicants. This proposal will enable the President, who customarily chairs the meetings, to focus entirely on the business of the meeting without being distracted by carrying out the role of chair.</p>
<p>President Elect or Vice President? The position of President Elect should be preserved with the role of Vice President being abolished. The role of President Elect is proposed to be for two years and it was felt that in the circumstances it was not necessary to have the role of Vice President.</p>	<p>President Elect or Vice president? The original governance proposals recommended a President Elect or Vice President. The role of President Elect is considered to be the more beneficial as it enables the holder to receive an induction into the role of the President and the role of the President Elect, as with the President, is now extended to two years. It is therefore proposed that this role should remain. It is proposed that the position of Vice President and the notion of a 'Presidential Team' should be abolished.</p>
<p>Term of Office: We are proposing to put a limit on the term of office of Trustees. This will allow fresh faces on the Board and increase inclusivity. Subject to the exception below, a Trustee may serve a maximum term of six years allowing for two successive terms of three years and will thereafter be ineligible to reapply to be a Trustee within three years of the end of a second continuous term of office. There are some exceptions – in the case of President Elect and President, and the Chair of the Board, holders of these positions can serve the respective terms associated with these positions in addition to the maximum term.</p>	<p>Term of Office: Currently there is no fixed term for trusteeship within our governing documents. The Charity Commission states that setting a fixed term for trusteeship is good practice.</p> <p>It is important that the Society maximises the opportunities for new Trustees who may bring a different perspective thereby enriching the diversity on the Board.</p>
<p>Strategy Boards: There shall be a minimum of four strategy boards and a maximum of six strategy boards to allow greater flexibility for the creation of further Boards without the need to formally change the governing documents. The Board of Trustees have already approved the creation of an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Board in addition to the current four boards, making the total number currently five strategy boards. These reflect areas of concentration in the society's strategy and Boards may from time to time be changed or stood down.</p>	<p>Strategy Boards: To provide flexibility, the number of Strategy Boards is to be stated as a maximum of six and a minimum of four. This will enable the Board to create further boards (e.g. the Board recently created an Equality Diversity and Inclusion Board) to meet identified societal needs relating to its strategy without necessitating a formal change of our governing documents.</p>

PROPOSED CHANGES	RATIONALE FOR PROPOSED CHANGES
<p>The Composition of the Senate (formerly referred to as The Representative Council)</p> <p>A number of changes are proposed to ensure that communication channels between the Board, membership and the Senate are strengthened as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Chair of the Senate to serve a term of three years and become a Trustee of BPS during their term of office. • Members of the Board of Trustees should not be members of the Senate (other than the Chair of Senate). There is an expectation that Trustees will attend on invitation but they will not be voting members of the Senate. • The role of Vice Chair of the Senate to be abolished (this role has been unfilled for a number of years and it was felt to be unnecessary in the light of the term of increased term of office of the Chair). 	<p>The Senate (formerly The Representative Council) rationale outlined below</p> <p>The Chair</p> <p>The proposal is for the Chair of the Senate to serve a three-year term which will provide continuity. During their tenure, they will be a Trustee of BPS. This proposal is supported by the Senate and is seen as strengthening the communication channels between the Senate, as the advisory body and the Board of Trustees and bringing the two bodies closer together for the benefit of member representation and transparency in decision-making.</p> <p>The position of Vice Chair of the Senate</p> <p>In the light of the extended term of the Chair, it is felt that this role should be removed.</p> <p>The composition of the Senate</p> <p>In 2019 the Trustees approved the proposal that the majority of Senate members should be the Chairs of the formal member networks of the society. The formal networks are those recognised in the Statutes of the Society. Under our current statutes this means the Divisions, Special Groups, Sections and Branches but at the time of the proposals it was anticipated that a review of the member networks would be taking place and the recognised networks would be likely to change.</p> <p>The review of the networks is currently ongoing and the anticipated changes to the network structure are not in place. Following a review of the proposals put forward in 2019 it was felt that membership of the Senate should expressly include the Chair of the Postgraduate Committee and the Student Committee to reflect current practice. In addition, it was felt that the number of co-opted members should be increased from six to eight. The increase in co-opted members will allow the Senate to co-opt members with specialist skills and knowledge as appropriate and thereby provide greater flexibility.</p> <p>Whilst the benefit of Trustees attending the Senate is acknowledged it was felt that Trustees should be invited to attend the Senate but not be members of it (except for the Chair of the Senate). This would ensure that balance of power and the separation of the two important governance bodies is preserved.</p>



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