

Notice to the EAI Membership of Proposed EAI Bylaw Change
3/12/20 draft edited in line with legal consultant's suggestions

Summary:

In order to broaden both the service and participation area of EAI beyond the Boston area, the EAI wishes to offer the opportunity for full participation in all EAI activities including voting on motions and in elections to all FA members who are committed to a meeting affiliated with FA-EAI or its chapters and who have ninety (90) days of continuous abstinence and an FA sponsor.

The EAI Board proposes a bylaw change that sets forth an additional means to conduct the business of EAI, and for members to participate in all activities and vote on EAI matters. Throughout our current version of the bylaws, we use the term *present* to denote those eligible to vote. This change will open the possibility of participating and voting electronically. We are also adding a provision that allows the EAI Executive Board to designate the method of electronic participation.

With full participation accessible to all, the Board believes motivation for those interested in one election/motion to physically attend an EAI meeting solely to vote on one issue ("swelling" the vote) will be reduced. Attached is a Traditions Review Committee opinion on that issue. Also attached is a sheet of FAQs to address other concerns.

Rationale:

The EAI fellowship is open to all FA fellows who are committed to meetings affiliated with EAI. Most members are unable to be present for EAI meetings because of distance and in some circumstances, disability. In order to make full participation available to all members, EAI proposes to make participation possible through electronic means, making physical presence unnecessary.

Motion

The EAI Board moves for the following changes in the wording of the specified bylaws. You will vote YES if you approve.

Article V of EAI Bylaws is about Nominations and Elections. At Section 2 (c) now reads "The election is determined by the greatest number of votes cast by FA members who are present at the election and eligible to vote according to these Bylaws."

The proposed language would add:

A member may participate in a regular or special meeting by, or EAI may conduct the meeting through the use of, any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, make motions, participate in debate, and vote. A member participating in a meeting by this means is considered to be present at the meeting.

The motion adds a completely new section to Article III of our bylaws. The new provision to be added is:

"Section 1 (e.) "The Board is empowered to designate any means of electronic or telephonic participation in meetings."

A YES vote will change our bylaws as specified to the bolded language.