

# Korea TESOL

## Annual Business Meeting (ABM) Minutes

15:00 - 17:00    October 17, 2021    Zoom

### Attendees List

Bryan Hale (President), Lucinda Estrada (2VP), Danielle Kinnison (Treasurer), Lisa MacIntyre-Park (Secretary), Lindsay Herron (Past Pres; ICC Chair; Membership; Gwangju Pres.), David Shaffer (Nom & Elections; Publications), Wayne Finley (Publicity), Allison Bill (Jeonju Pres.), Mikyoung Lee (Research), Danny Jones (Financial Affairs), Kimberley Roberts (Daegu Pres.), James Rush II (IOC; Yongin Pres.), Reece Randall (Gangwon Pres.), Robert Dickey (Sponsorship Committee Chair), Stafford Lumsden (International Chapter), Greg Lewis (arrives 3:36, Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter), Garth Elzerman (Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter, leaves before 3:36), Tom Wyatt (Gwangju Chapter), Ingrid Zwall (arrives 4:13, Jeonju Chapter)

1. Meeting Called to Order at 3:05.

17 PRESENT at Call to Order

President Bryan Hale welcomes all present & reads through the agenda.

Note:  $\frac{2}{3}$  votes must be in favour to pass bylaws amendments

All who are current KOTESOL members are permitted to vote.

2. Agenda Adoption

Adopted by consensus

3. Minutes of the Previous ABM:

Dave moves that we accept the minutes from the 2020 ABM

Lindsay seconds

15 in favour

2 abstain

Minutes from the 2020 ABM are adopted.

4. Reports of the Officers & Committees

A. Financial Report

Danielle gives the financial report.

A question was asked about the increasing balance and it was noted that it would have been from the spring conference and memberships.

It was suggested to compare the figures from January to see if there are similar figures suggesting a steadily increasing balance. Danielle confirms the figures seem consistent.

B. Nominations & Elections Committee (Including Election Results)

Dave reported on the election period, that we paid to use Survey Monkey, and that we received 114 ballots. He stated who was running in the election. Because Dave was running in the election, Lindsay was brought in as the Elections Officer.

Lindsay reported on who was elected and how many votes each position received.

President: Bryan Hale - 111 votes

First Vice President: Lucinda Estrada - 105 votes

Second Vice President: Kirsten Razzaq - 104 votes

Secretary: Lisa MacIntyre-Park - 107 votes

ICC co-chair: Garth Elzerman - 105 votes

Nominations and Elections chair: David Shaffer - 111 votes

Treasurer: No candidate; 8 write-ins, no more than 3 votes for any write-in

Stafford asked what our current membership numbers are to get an idea of what percentage voted. Lindsay reported 337 invitations to vote were sent out. Dave mentions that the voter turnout numbers are similar to the past, but it's actually a higher percentage of membership since there are fewer members these days.

### C. President's Report

Bryan delivers the President's Report with details about KOTESOL committees and areas where KOTESOL members have participated. He notes the membership numbers are lower than normal, but that's to be expected with the Covid situation. He outlines the events that took place this past year and those in which KOTESOL took part - mostly online, both in Korea and abroad. Bryan thanks all for their participation during these difficult times of pandemic restrictions. Time was also spent outlining the upcoming National Conference and introducing the 2022 International Conference.

Stafford asked if we were still posting out publications and Bryan confirmed that hard copies of TEC are being sent to members and that The Korea Tesol Journal and Proceedings are still available by request.

(Greg arrived.)

### 5. Unfinished Business

There is no identified unfinished business from the previous ABM.

### 6. New Business

There are 5 proposed amendments to the Bylaws:

To pass, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote of the members present at the ABM is needed.

#### Proposed Bylaws Amendment 1

Proposed Amendment to the KOTESOL Bylaws

Submitted by Lindsay Herron

Article V, Section 3, to be rephrased as follows (new phrasing in *italics*):

Section 3. There shall be a standing International Conference Committee responsible for planning and developing the International Conference. The International Conference Committee Co-chair shall be elected in the general elections each year. This person shall serve as Co-chair of the International Conference Committee ~~for the first year of the term~~

*until the end of the international conference immediately following their election. In the second year of the term At the end of that conference, the Co-chair shall become the Chair of the International Conference Committee.*

Endorsed by the following members: 1. David Shaffer 2. Bryan Hale 3. Allison Bill 4. Mike Peacock 5. Michael Free

#### Discussion/Q&A:

Lindsay introduced the proposed amendment and reasoned that we need to adjust the wording of the bylaw since the KOTESOL calendar has shifted due to Covid and the resulting fact that the International Conference is taking place in the spring while elections are in the fall.

17 vote in favour

The proposed amendment is accepted.

#### Proposed Bylaws Amendment 2

Proposed Amendment #1 Submitted by Robert J. Dickey

Bylaws Article VII. Elections. shall be amended as follows: New Section 6 shall be ADDED.

Section 6. All candidacies for election shall be endorsed by not less than three (3) current members of KOTESOL. No requirements for format or text of such endorsement shall be permitted.

Endorsed by the following members: Tory Thorkelson, Mike Peacock, Grace Wang, Greg Brooks-English, Eric Reynolds, Michael Free, John Phillips

#### Discussion/Q&A:

Rob Dickey explained the rationale for this proposal is to ensure that an accessible and easy process of making elections nominations will be continued.

Tom Wyatt asks for confirmation of the nominations process which is proposed for endorsement.

Lindsay questions whether such points are crucial enough to be added to the bylaws and suggests that this level of focus is better suited for the Policies and Procedures Manual which lays out the details of how committees should function. She backs up her reasoning with instructions from an article about Do's and Don'ts for Non-Profit By-laws by an organisation called Foundation Group that offers advice about bylaws in the US. She goes on to explain as to why keeping the endorsement letter as a requirement for nomination would be a good idea to help members make decisions at election time.

Rob Dickey defends his position stating why he feels differently about the Policies and Procedures Manual. He feels such an amendment would benefit the members whereas having the details in the PPM would be more beneficial for the council. He stands behind the proposal as submitted.

Stafford weighs in and suggests the bylaws are sufficiently vague and allow the Nominations & Elections commission to do as they see fit. He suggests voting against the amendment to the bylaws, as it's not clear exactly what is meant when it says: endorsement.

Allison states she feels Stafford's statement is in support of the amendment and explains how she sees the meaning of the amendment.

Dave comments that in the previous election cycle there were no requirements about the format of the endorsements. He points out that the amendment would be asking for 3 people to endorse a candidate, but in the past it has only been 2 for most positions.

Greg asks if a vote against this amendment would keep the endorsement requirements at 2.

Dave replies it would remain at whatever the PPM states it shall be.

6 vote in favour

6 vote against

5 abstain

This proposed amendment fails to pass.

### Proposed Amendment 3

Proposed Amendment #2 Submitted by Robert J. Dickey

Bylaws Article VII. Elections. shall be amended as follows: New Section 7 shall be ADDED.

Section 7. No candidate election materials other than those of the individual candidates shall be permitted in official KOTESOL election materials or electronic media.

Endorsed by the following members: Tory Thorkelson, Mike Peacock, Grace Wang, Greg Brooks-English, Eric Reynolds, Michael Free, John Phillips

#### Discussion/Q&A:

Rob explains that this proposal is so the candidates' own words speak for themselves and states others should not give intimations about the qualifications of the candidate. He described a scenario where if the current officers endorse a particular candidate, that it could build up a rift between seasoned members and newcomers. This proposal would help avoid that situation with such non-partisan politics. He thinks candidates should write longer letters to explain why they should be elected and not have it look like Kotesol only endorses a particular candidate.

Stafford comments that this would go against the fundamental principles of the democratic process and impinges on our members' free speech.

(Ingrid Zwaal arrived. Bryan notes that her membership has been paid for but has not yet been processed so we need to discuss her voting status.)

Rob addresses Stafford's above comments and states he agrees with some points and he clarified the proposal and the terms 'official Kotesol channels.'

Stafford describes a scenario where if the candidate would quote an officer in the election material it would be against this policy and therefore free speech is still restricted.

Dave states that the wording isn't clear - 'of' could refer to materials by the candidate or it could refer to material prepared about the candidate and that reason alone is enough to dislike the proposal.

1 vote in favour

15 against

2 abstentions

The amendment proposal does not pass.

### Proposed Amendment 4

Proposed Amendment #3 Submitted by Robert J. Dickey

Bylaws Article VII. Elections. shall be amended as follows: New Section 8 shall be ADDED.

Section 8. No individual member of the National Council, nor any group within KOTESOL, shall use a current official title in KOTESOL to endorse, recommend, or approve any candidate for election by the membership.

Endorsed by the following members: Tory Thorkelson, Mike Peacock, Grace Wang, Greg Brooks-English, Eric Reynolds, Michael Free, John Phillips

#### Discussion/Q&A:

Rob states he doesn't feel it's appropriate for officers to use their official KOTESOL titles when they are endorsing candidates.

(Bryan returns to the issue of Ingrid's membership and whether her vote should be counted.)

Dave clarifies that she has paid for the membership and Bryan explains that we didn't get the application form for the membership renewal. Dave says since she has paid her dues, that we should allow her to vote as the processing difficulty could be on our end.)

Stafford speaks to the amendment regarding the use of titles and how it again comes down to a free speech issue. He notes that members look to those with experience to help build their opinion during elections and states that this is what happens in the real world and it works; therefore, he suggests voting against this motion as it restricts speech.

1 vote in favour

15 against

2 abstentions

The proposed amendment does not pass.

### Proposed Amendment 5

Proposed Amendment #4 Submitted by Robert J. Dickey

Bylaws Article VII. Parliamentary Authority. shall be amended as follows:

(a) The typographical error for enumeration of this article shall be corrected to Article VIII.

(b) The existing text shall be enumerated as "Section 1." This section shall include all of the existing text, and the following ADDED:

"Any established Policies of KOTESOL or the National Council shall be reviewed annually at the first regularly-scheduled meeting of the National Council, and re-adopted or revised by a three-fifths (3/5) majority vote of the council members present."

(c) A new section shall be ADDED:

"Section 2. The Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies of Korea TESOL shall be made available to the public through convenient access, which may include a public website or other media."

Endorsed by the following members: Tory Thorkelson, Mike Peacock, Grace Wang, Greg Brooks-English, Eric Reynolds, Michael Free, John Phillips

### Discussion/Q&A:

Rob explains the beginning of this proposal calls for a typographical correction at the start and that fixing it may not be affected by the upcoming vote. The proposed Section 2 is what would be voted on. He would like members to have easier access to information on the website.

Lindsay explains why the current proposed phrasing would be a problem. She explains that stating this business must take place at the first meeting would force each new council to take on such revisions during the meeting and that in this age of technology council members could work on documents asynchronously. She also notes that these documents are on the website and already available to members.

Rob explains how that interpretation is somewhat lacking and that the revisions could take place ahead of time, not in person. Also that the term 'regularly scheduled meeting' vs 'special meeting' is defined separately in Robert's Rules of Order.

Stafford notes that the council is not fully constituted at the first meeting as committee members haven't been appointed by then and that their vote also should be taken into consideration. The policies for an entire year could potentially be controlled by a very small group if this passes.

Dave makes another point that if the meeting to revise the Procedures Manual is the same one as the Budget Meeting, which is already long, that this proposal is asking too much of officers by requiring it to happen at the first meeting.

2 vote in favour

10 against

6 abstain

The amendment does not pass.

A discussion ensued about membership desires and involvement.

Rob states that he put forth these proposed amendments to give a voice to members who don't come to council meetings. He's concerned if we're addressing the desires of the members in this time of online meetings. He notes that more members have come to meetings in the past that had taken place in person.

Lindsay addresses these comments by saying that we are in tune with KOTESOL members and that we are dealing with these issues in more accessible ways. Any member is welcome to attend this meeting even with it online.

Stafford responds with his thanks to Rob for putting together those amendments so that could discuss them for consideration.

Greg expresses his appreciation for Rob meeting with members to learn their desires. He comments about how much he enjoys being a part of KOTESOL and how our heartfelt responses to these proposals show our commitment to the organisation. He urges us to build the KOTESOL ranks by inspiring new members.

## 7. Awards

### **Recognitions for Service:**

Suzanne Bardasz, Terri Beadle, Lisa Bellamy, Allison Bill, Greg Brooks-English, Anika Casem, Tyler Clark, Robert Dickey, Lucinda Estrada, Wayne Finley, Michael Free, Stewart Gray, Virginia Hanslien, Lindsay Herron, Danny Jones, Minji Kim, James Kimball, Danielle Kinnison, Mikyoung Lee, Maria Lisak, Kara MacDonald, Lisa MacIntyre-Park, Rhea Metituk, Heidi Nam, Mike Peacock, John Phillips, Bilal Qureshi, Brian Raisbeck, Reece Randall, Victor Reeser, Kimberly Roberts, James Rush II, Phillip Schrank, David Shaffer, Tory Thorkelson, Kara Waggoner, Julian Warmington, Andrew White, Jocelyn Wright

### **“Stepping Up” Award:**

Kirsten Razzaq

### **Meritorious Service Award**

Robert J. Dickey

Lucinda Estrada

James 'Jake' Kimball

Heidi Nam

James Rush II

### **Outstanding Service Award**

Wayne Finley

Michael Free

Dr. Kara MacDonald

Phillip Schrank  
Dr. Andrew White

**President's Award**

Lindsay Herron  
Rhea Metituk  
Dr. David E. Shaffer

Bryan thanks all of us for making KOTESOL what it is today.

8. Announcements & Adjournment

Without any objections, the meeting is adjourned at 5:05 by consensus.