PROPOSED 4S CHARTER CHANGES

Endorsed by 4S Council September 2021

For consideration by 4S Business Meeting October 2021

Explanation: The first three of these changes were proposed by Steve Zehr (former Secretary) in June 2021 to reflect changes in 4S Committee practice over recent years. They also reflect changes in election practice since 4S has moved from ‘snail mail’ voting to online voting. In the age of mail, timelines for nominations and voting were specified in the Charter to allow for delays in international postal services. The final change was proposed by Ana Viseu in the September meeting.

A reminder of the procedure for Charter changes outlined in the 4S Charter:

“Proposed amendments to this Charter may be submitted at any time by any member to the Council of the Society for consideration at its next meeting. Recommendations of the Council shall be reported at the annual business meeting of the Society and such recommendations shall be approved, revised or rejected by majority vote at that meeting. Recommendations, if approved, shall be put to a mail ballot of the Society for ratification by a majority of those voting.”

**Note that online voting (rather than mail) will be used to ratify any Charter amendments recommended by the Business Meeting.

PROPOSED CHANGE 1: ADD A CLAUSE TO MAKE THE FINANCE COMMITTEE A STANDING COMMITTEE

Explanation: In recent years, 4S Council has had an ad hoc Finance Committee to provide advice to Council and the President regarding 4S finances, budgets and fundraising. The proposed clause makes this a Standing Committee.

NEW PROPOSED CLAUSE TO BE ADDED

B. 10. There shall be a standing committee on finance responsible for seeking financing options for the Society and reporting to Council and the President on financial matters facing the Society. The Treasurer will be a member.

RESULT FROM BUSINESS MEETING: TBC

PROPOSED CHANGE 2: CHANGE WORDING OF CLAUSE RELATING TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Explanation: Over recent years, the nominating committee has been known as the Elections Committee and the President has not been the Chair. The current clause does not specify any relationship between
the Nominating/Elections Committee and the Council, and states that the Nominating/Elections Committee will present an election slate directly to the Society.

CURRENT WORDING

B. 10. A nominating committee consisting of the President as chair and four other members of the Society designated by the President, no more than two of whom are officers, shall present to the Society at least six months before the annual meeting at least one nominee for each office to be filled.

NEW WORDING APPROVED BY COUNCIL

B. 11. An elections committee consisting of Council members and other 4S members appointed by the President shall seek nominations from the membership for open elected positions and work with Council and the President to finalize and present to the membership a slate of candidates.

RESULT FROM BUSINESS MEETING: TBC

CHANGE 3: REMOVE CLAUSES RELATING TO OUTDATED ELECTION PRACTICES

Explanation: These clauses relate to when nominations and elections were conducted by mail. Now, nominations and elections are conducted online. An online portal is opened a few months prior to the election whereby any 4S member can submit self-nominations or nominate others for any council position. These two clauses are therefore obsolete.

Eliminate:

Current B. 11. Further nominations by petition signed by five members shall be presented to the President at least four months before the annual meeting.

Current B. 12. Election shall be by mail ballot, the results to be announced at the annual meeting.

RESULT FROM BUSINESS MEETING: TBC

CHANGE 4: CHANGE THE QUORUM OF COUNCIL FROM 7 TO 9

Explanation: This change to increase the quorum for council from 7 to 9 was proposed by Ana Viseu in the September meeting. The number of Council members is 16 when there is a President-Elect (the 2nd year of a Presidency) and 15 when there is no President-Elect (the 1st year of a Presidency).
CURRENT WORDING

B. 4. Seven voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. Voting members of the Council consist of the elected officers, including the President and President-elect, and the second and third year elected 6S representatives. Ex-Officio members of the Council, as specified below, are non-voting members.

NEW WORDING APPROVED BY COUNCIL

B. 4. Nine voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. Voting members of the Council consist of the elected officers, including the President and President-elect, and the second and third year elected 6S representatives. Ex-Officio members of the Council, as specified below, are non-voting members.

RESULT FROM BUSINESS MEETING: TBC