

BOD-BOG Task Force: Preliminary Senate Action Plan (Stu Goodgold, Barbara Heller, Kevin Wilson)

For the Governance Committee:

- *The BOD-BOG Task Force has developed a “best consensus” (as of 03/10/2019) proposal for the composition of a new governing body—a Senate—to replace the existing BOG. Not everyone on the TF is in agreement with everything listed below. Red italicized phrases in the sections indicate some of the areas where your opinion is especially sought. There is also a section entitled Issues to be Resolved at the end where items that don’t fit neatly elsewhere are included.*
- *Review the proposal for a Senate*
 - *Is it a good idea?*
 - *How can it be better? Constructive criticism welcome!*
 - *Are there any inconsistencies across the four key proposed areas—Nominating Committee, Transition, Senate, Committees?*
 - *If you suggest an alternative, outline details of implementing that alternative and how it would fit into a complete governance structure*
 - *How to move forward? (Is the transition to a Senate-like body doable?)*

Assumptions:

1. The consensus of the TF is that no successful, long-term change to address the challenges ACBL faces can be made to the BOD without considering the role that the current BOG plays, and making that organization better able to support these challenges as well.
2. The ACBL Senate will be created as a new body and the BoG will be dissolved.
3. The Senate initially will consist of **50** base members, **two** from each of the existing 25 districts. *After the transition to the new Executive Board and the Senate is complete, the composition of the Senate may be reconsidered to allow for more proportional representation based on population.*
4. The authority of the Senate, meeting as a whole body, is rather limited. They will make some of the honorific decisions currently made by the BOD, like choosing the “-of-the-Year” award winners. The Senate, meeting as a whole, would continue to play a role in the Bylaw amendment process and presumably elect new members of the Executive Board. The Senate will also act as a sounding board for new strategic management initiatives.
5. Most of the real decision-making affecting bridge policy will be made by the Senate Bridge Committees (outlined in a separate document). These Bridge

Committees will have significant autonomy to conclusively resolve questions involving masterpoints, conditions of contest, tournaments, and almost all of the issues that we currently think of as "bridge decisions." Critically, the composition of these Committees will be largely at the discretion of the Senate, with appointments made in a manner chosen by that body. So, Senators will have very significant authority under this new governance structure (perhaps even more than members of the Executive Board) though it will be expressed individually as members of Bridge Committees rather than as members of the Senate as a whole.

6. The Senate will elect a Chair, who will preside for a two-year term. (*Election procedures to be defined*)
7. If a member of the current Board of Directors wishes to serve out the remainder of her three-year term on the Senate instead of on the transitional Executive Board, she may do so as an additional Senator from her District. (*This assumption is predicated on the possibility that someone in YR2 or YR3 of the transition—described in another document—may wish to participate in ACBL governance in a role that has become the jurisdiction of the Senate rather than the emerging Executive Board. If this happens, the Nominating Committee will recommend a replacement Executive Board member to serve out the departing BOD member's term, or may choose not to replace the departing member, thereby reducing the size of the Executive Board more quickly.*)
8. The Senate will determine its own rules and procedures within the bounds of the Bylaws.
9. Election to the Senate will be by Unit vote within each District in the same manner that BOG members are currently elected. The terms of office shall be 3 years and in case of a vacancy, an Alternate (see below) will become the member of the Senate and the District will be asked to appoint a new Alternate to serve out **the** unexpired term. *Need to define how Alternates are elected or chosen.*
10. Alternates will be elected from each district in the same manner that the First Alternate to the District Director is currently elected. Alternates may attend a meeting but will have voting privileges only if the voting member is absent. Alternates fulfill the role that BOG proxies currently play.
11. Past Presidents of the ACBL and Past Presidents of the BOG can serve on the Senate if elected by the voting structure set up in No. 5. *Consider automatic membership of ACBL Past Presidents and BOG Chairs in a non-voting capacity—could be useful from an historical perspective.*
12. The authority of the Senate needs to be spelled out in the Bylaws and be distinct from the new Executive Board. The Senate establishes and appoints its own members to its own committees. The Executive Board establishes and appoints its own members to its own committees.

13. Face-to-face meetings of the Senate will be held at the Summer NABC.

Issues to be Resolved:

1. Use of web-based forum and videoconferencing can be the solution to communication issues.
2. Should there be any compensation for the Senate for attending any meeting that is as a Senate group? Or should there be an annual stipend to travel to the Summer NABC meeting? Committee work and travel to be considered separately.
3. Will the Chair of the Senate also be a non-voting member of the Executive Board, and attend Executive Board meetings, as the BOG chair does now?
4. If the President of the Senate is to have term limits, should terms as Chair of the BOG count against the term limits. What if it is 1.5 terms, which would be the case if the Senate actually begins operation sometime in 2020?