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Approval of changes to the WDA Constitution to allow substitution of Council members at meetings

1. Background

WDA Council has approved asking the membership to vote on changing the WDA Constitution in order to allow the Chair of a section to be substituted in Council by other elected officers from that same Section, when that becomes necessary. This is done to avoid a lack of quorum hindering the business of the Association, as very often due to calendar and time zone differences it may be difficult for all members to attend.


Following in **Track Changes** is the proposed new wording of the WDA Constitution, Article III:

Below is the current text, with additions/changes highlighted and explained as footnotes:

Section 3: The Council shall consist of the President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, seven Members-at-Large (i.e. six regular members and one student member), the Editor^(s) of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, ~~WDA Newsletter Editor and the WDA Website~~¹ and the Chair of each Section according to the rules governing Sections. Two regular Members-at-Large shall be elected annually. The Student Member-at-Large will be elected biennially. Should any member of Council, for any reason, be unable to fulfill Council membership obligations, the remaining period of his/her term shall be served by an elected substitute. In case of Section Chairs, the substitute will be elected by the respective Section members. In case of all other Council members, replacement will be elected by existing members of Council and Officers. **If a Section Chair cannot attend a meeting of Council, the Chair can be temporarily replaced by another elected officer of that Section, who enjoys the same rights and obligations in Council as the Chair. While the temporary Chair/Council replacement does not require pre-approval from Council, the Chair shall inform the WDA President in advance should this replacement be needed**². All members of Council shall be members of the Association.

¹ Note: this change was made last year but the wording of the Constitution was not changed accordingly.

² Note: suggested addition to the text.

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2. Motion

WDA approves changes in the wording of the WDA Constitution’s Article III, which shall from now forth read as follows:

Section 3: The Council shall consist of the President, Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, seven Members-at-Large (i.e. six regular members and one student member), the Editor of the Journal of Wildlife Diseases, and the Chair of each Section according to the rules governing Sections. Two regular Members-at-Large shall be elected annually. The Student Member-at-Large will be elected biennially. Should any member of Council, for any reason, be unable to fulfill Council membership obligations, the remaining period of his/her term shall be served by an elected substitute. In case of Section Chairs, the substitute will be elected by the respective Section members. In case of all other Council members, replacement will be elected by existing members of Council and Officers. If a Section Chair cannot attend a meeting of Council, the Chair can be temporarily replaced by another elected officer of that Section, who enjoys the same rights and obligations in Council as the Chair. While the temporary Chair/Council replacement does not require pre-approval from Council, the Chair shall inform the WDA President in advance should this replacement be needed. All members of Council shall be members of the Association.