

**INTERNAL ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**  
**JANUARY 16, 2007**

I've had a number of conversations today which convince me that there's a lot of confusion about how our election process works. According to our Bylaws, new candidates are vetted by the national Alumni Office, looked over by the NDSA Executive Committee, and are given to the NDSA Internal Activities Committee which assembles the material and presents it to the full Board for election at the April meeting.

What actually has happened is that nominations have been submitted to the national Alumni Office which approves them and passes them along to the NDSA Executive Committee as a fait accompli. The NDSA Internal Affairs Committee then notifies the selected candidates and invites them to the April meeting.

This year we have several candidates for elections in three, and possibly five regions. I believe that an election of Directors should be held, after an open discussion of the candidates, at the April Board Meeting. However the Board has adopted the practice of inviting new Directors to the April Board Meeting to help them prepare for their terms which begin in July. My question is: how can we have an election in April and invite the new Directors to the same meeting?

I suggest short term and long term solutions to this quandary:

**Short Term:** for 2007, have the new Directors selected jointly by the Alumni Office and the NDSA Executive Committee. This should be done by March 15 with the results given to the Internal Affairs Committee for notification of the candidates and invitation of the new Directors to the April Meeting.

**Long Term:**

- Cancel our Winter Meeting and replace it with a June/July Meeting on Campus. This would allow new Directors to be elected at our April Meeting and then invited to a Summer Meeting for Orientation just as their terms are beginning.
- Relocate the Winter Meeting to Campus where it would have a more work-Oriented agenda, including the distribution, discussion, and voting upon of Nominations for new Directors.

**Long Term Rationale:**

- The Winter Meeting is now perceived as something of a vacation/social gathering. This is nice but it is hard to justify as an added expense (of time and money) by Directors who expect the NDSA Board to be more of an action-oriented body. I can guess that the NDAA Office has trouble justifying the expense of sending a representative to a mid-Winter social gathering.

Another possibility is to relocate the Winter Meeting to Campus where it would be a working meeting without the vacation aspect. Board Nominations could be distributed discussed and voted upon at this meeting so that new Directors could be invited to the April Meeting.

- Having a central location and the use of campus facilities would reduce meeting expenses for both Directors and Alumni Office attendees. It would also enable attendance by "experts" on campus who could speak to the Board on Agenda and workshop topics.

Your thoughts will guide me as I create the process for this year's election of four new NDSA Directors.

Mile Squyres  
Chairman, Internal Activities Committee