

An amendment to elect the Congress Committee Members

Original Wording

Pg 9 Section 6: COMMITTEES. Committees shall be of two types, standing and special. The standing committee shall be appointed by the President with nominations from each Region provided by the Regional Representatives. Special committees shall be appointed by the President alone. A standing committee shall serve for one year, while special committees shall be appointed for one year, or until their assignment is completed, whichever is shorter. All committees shall report at the annual meeting and, upon request of the President, shall be required to report to the Executive Council. Membership of each committee shall be published in the newsletter no later than September 1st. The following committees shall be regionally balanced: Public Relations, Professional Relations, Finance, Scholarship, Emeritus Membership and Congressional Debate.

Pg10 I. Congressional Debate Committee. This committee shall select the best 30 pieces of submitted legislation through a blind review to create the calendar for all sessions. Legislation will be selected according to the following criteria: (a) grammatical structure and style, (b) legislative intent, (c) need for the plan and feasibility, and (d) formatted in the prescribed template, and (e) national in scope.

Amended wording

Pg 9 Section 6: COMMITTEES. Committees shall be of two types, standing and special. The standing committee shall be appointed by the President with nominations from each Region provided by the Regional Representatives. Special committees shall be appointed by the President alone. A standing committee shall serve for one year, while special committees shall be appointed for one year, or until their assignment is completed, whichever is shorter, ***with the exception of the Congress Committee***. All committees shall report at the annual meeting and, upon request of the President, shall be required to report to the Executive Council. Membership of each committee shall be published in the newsletter no later than September 1st. The following committees shall be regionally balanced: Public Relations, Professional Relations, Finance, Scholarship, Emeritus Membership and Congressional Debate.

Pg10 I. Congressional Debate Committee. **The Committee will have a member from each region. The region will elect their committee member every other year at the region meeting opposite when the region reps are elected. Nominations for the committee should be from the region and to the region rep. Their term will begin April 1st the following year. After the results of the election are announced, the Committee Chair will be appointed by the acting TFA President at the TFA Business Meeting. The Congress Committee will come to a consensus on the rubric that the committee will use to select legislation for the calendar for all sessions. That rubric will be sent out to the TFA membership by May 1st of the preceding year.** This committee shall select the best 30 pieces of submitted legislation through a blind review to create the calendar for all sessions. Legislation will be selected according to the following criteria: (a) grammatical structure and style, (b) legislative intent, (c) need for the plan and feasibility, and (d) formatted in the prescribed template, and (e) national in scope. **No more than two weeks after each selection process, the Congress Committee will publish each committee member's individual rankings for each piece of legislation.**

Rationale: Each year, the Congress committee has significant influence over the rules, the implementation of the rules, and the formation of multiple dockets. Democratically electing these individuals provides for the possibility that more TFA members would have the opportunity to influence the direction of this event. Additionally, it would provide the TFA body with more influence over this event, as opposed to an incoming president simply appointing members with a significant amount of tenure. Releasing the rubric and rankings will increase the level of transparency, and it will result in higher quality legislation.

Respectfully submitted by John Mast