

Notes on the new constitution:

The constitution has been revised to comply with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act. This act requires many things that were not in the previous constitution, and requires more detail on some items. Below I have tried to point some important instances where we are actually *changing* a current practice, or *elevating* a 'typical' practice by making it part of our constitution. Of course, I can't promise that my idea of 'important instances' will exactly coincide with yours, and the whole document is available for you to read.

1. As required by the act, we will retain some minimal information about our members (Section 7), and obtain their consent (Section 2.3, 2.4) to become a member. Along with this is a right for members to request information (Section 7.2). There is a default information-request process in the act, but we can modify this in our bylaws (what are called 'policies' in the previous constitution). The process is required to be in accord with the privacy act. We have not fully spelled it out all the details here because changing the constitution is harder than changing the bylaws—procedures like who will handle information requests (secretary vs membership secretary vs president) should be easy to change so we can adapt to different situations.
2. Note that in section 3.1.6 we have the right to have written resolutions in lieu of a general meeting. However, this would require 75% of members to approve the resolution—this percentage is specified in the Act. This level of participation seems tough to achieve, so actual meetings (whether online or in person) will continue to be the norm.
3. Section 3.3 The act requires the AGM to be within 6 months of the balance date. If we would like to continue to have the AMG at a conference in Nov/Dec, we will need to change the balance date.
4. Section 4.1 The large number of officers allowed (20) is because our subcommittee convenors (Awards, Education, etc) have full voting rights on the exec committee and are therefore considered officers of the society. These are the officers appointed under clause 6.2.6. We currently have 9 (some of whom overlap with elected officers)—I don't think we want this to increase too much, but as 'new initiatives' are generally led by a subcommittee I wanted to leave some room, thus the maximum of 12 appointed officers.
5. Section 6.3, Officer terms (I repeat here what is in the president's report—no need to read again if you have read that—but note the committee has the flexibility to change this, in case suitable officers are not available):

We have previously elected officers for a term of one year, with unlimited re-election. This has led to many officers serving for very long periods. The concern is not that officers are overstaying their welcome, but that prospective officers have been (rightly) trepidatious about what exactly they are committing to. The

new constitution has longer terms (for instance, 4 years for treasurer) but while some roles permit consecutive terms, our intention is that there is always a genuine opportunity to hand off the role after one term. There is also a new role: "Past president." Typically, previous presidents have very kindly stuck around as members of the executive committee to ensure a smooth transition and tidy up loose ends. We are now proposing to enshrine that practice in our rules.

6. Elimination of corporate membership, and therefore corporate rep (again, repeated from president's report):
Eliminating corporate membership certainly does not mean that corporate organizations that employ statisticians are not important to our society, just that the corporate membership structure is no longer doing a great job of building and maintaining those relationships. In place of this, we will have a subcommittee devoted to collaborating and communicating with corporate and other non-academic organizations.
7. Section 6.6, conflicts of interest for Officers, is an area where the new Act requires more record keeping.
8. Section 9 'Dispute Resolution' is another new area where the act has certain requirements, and also a default process that applies in the absence of a compliant procedure in the bylaws. Because of the importance of this, and the fact it is new, we have actually put the process from the act in the constitution. We can add procedural details in the bylaws if desired.