

Summary of Proposed Changes to FUS Bylaws

May 2011

Section 3.3 – Require the Parish meeting to be held between March 15 and June 15.

Comment: This is being proposed to reflect the current practice of holding the meetings the first weekend in June.

Section 3.4 – Modify the reference to Vice President to President Elect.

Comment: This was actually an oversight from the last bylaws revision where the title of Vice President was changed to President Elect.

Section 3.5 – Amend the language of how notice will be provided to say “Notice of any regular or special meeting of the Parish will be given to all members **by the same method they receive the FUS newsletter**” rather than simply saying “by mail”.

Comment: This proposal is designed to remove the necessity to send paper mail to people who have already opted to receive the FUS newsletter via email.

Section 3.5 – Amend the language to say “Notice is considered given when mailed **and posted on the FUS website**”.

Comment: Given the increasing importance of the FUS website, we are proposing a requirement to post notice of any Parish meeting on the website.

Section 5.1 – The section defining the role of the Board of Trustees will be revised to say the same thing that we say in Section 1a of the FUS Policy manual. It also puts the authority to set the agenda in the hands of the full board rather than the President.

Comment: This proposal is designed to create internal consistency between the role of the Board as we have discussed during the creation of the FUS Policy manual and the role as defined by the bylaws.

Section 5.2.a – Revise to be seven Board members instead of eleven Board members.

Comment: This proposal is in response to our belief that the new role of the Board would best be served by seven members. We are also establishing term limits of two terms before a trustee would have to come off the board for a minimum of three years.

Section 5.2.b – Revise to say that two members will be officers of the society.

Comment: This proposal reflects the elimination of the offers of Treasurer and Past President. As we transition to three year terms and a Board focused on discernment and monitoring, the need for these positions was no longer apparent. It also reflects the fact that in some years we will have only two officers (President and Secretary) while in others we will have a President-Elect as well.

Section 5.2.c – Revised to be three year terms instead of two year terms. Also removing the language referring to the role Trustees would play in terms of communications with the Councils.

Comment: We believe it would be in the best interest of FUS to have Board members serve three year terms, consistent with most other church's we looked at. We are proposing to eliminate the Councils and refocusing the Board's mission, it no longer made sense to make reference to the communication role.

Section 5.2.d – Revise to incorporate 3 year terms and the elimination of some of the former officer positions. Ongoing officer positions include President, President Elect & Secretary.

Comments: See comments under 5.2.b and 5.2.c.

Section 5.3 – Change the reference to the "Policies and Procedures Manual" to simply the "FUS Policy Manual".

Comment: This reflects the name of the new policy manual.

Section 6.1 – Revise to eliminate any reference to "Treasurer", "Immediate Past President", and "President-Elect".

Comment: See comments under 5.2.b and 5.2.c.

Sections 6.2 through Section 6.6 – Review and simplify the core duties of the Board officers to reflect the elimination of some officer positions and the more focused role of the Board going forward.

Comment: See comments under 5.2.b and 5.2.c

Section 7 - Eliminate existing article.

Comment: We are proposing the elimination of the Executive Committee to reinforce the new role of the Board and the delegation of all operating authority to the Paid Staff.

Section 8 – Eliminate the existing article and replace with new sections that establishes a Nominating Committee and defines the standing Board Committees.

Comment: As part of the governance process we are eliminated the Councils and committee structure as we have previously known it, and replacing it with ministry teams that are designed to be more flexible and thus don't need to be specifically mentioned in the bylaws.

Section 9.1 – Amend to take the term of Board members from two years to three years.

Comments: This is consistent with previous comments about board member terms.

Section 10.2 – This section is amended to outline the Board's authority to hire paid staff AND their ability to delegate that authority by policy.

Comment: The Board retains the ultimate authority to hire and fire, but in recognition of the new governance model where that authority is being delegated, the proposal is to make that expectation clear in the bylaws as well.

Section 12.2 – This section is being revised to remove any reference to the "Madison UU Young Adult and Campus Ministry". It also changes the liaison's chief contact from a "Council" to the "Board".

Comment: This proposal is in recognition of the fact that MUUYACM is now a full FUS program. (CORRECTED on May 4, 2011 post the Forums).