

**American Leisure Academy
and
Academy of Leisure Sciences**

Merger Framework

1. The American Leisure Academy (ALA) would like to begin discussions with the Academy of Leisure Sciences (ALS) regarding a friendly merger

I don't know that the ALS "needs" to merge with the ALA. If the ALA is on the ropes and its members want to affiliate with a new organization, why not just have them just pay their \$50 and sign on as ALS members? I think friendly merger doesn't really suggest anything except wanting to have some "presence" within the ALS.

2. Members of ALA would become general members of the ALS unless they have been previously elected as Fellows in the aforementioned body.

No problem.

3. The history of ALS would include references to the ALA offered by the aforementioned body (if there is such a history documented). ALA would provide the written documentation.

I guess I would want to know how this reads first. I do not see this as a merging of "equals" necessarily. Is this merger framework a way for the ALA to save some sort of face? I dunno. It is my understanding that they just want someplace on our webpage or within our history to place their information. I don't see a big problem with that, but it would depend how it is written.

4. ALA would directly advance a minimum of ten (10) individuals to the ALS ballot for election as Fellows in 2013. All proper documentation would be consistent with ALS procedures but ALA, but ALA, in this sense, would serve as the nominating committee for these ten individuals. Five individuals would be advanced in 2013; five individuals would be advanced in 2014. Nominations would be made by individuals who are Fellows in both ALA and ALS.

I am not quite sure why it is necessary to formalize this? And why is 10 a magic number? Current ALS Fellows are always welcome to nominate new Fellows. If there are current members of the ALA who are worthy of consideration, why should this not happen naturally/spontaneously? Chris and I discussed this to some extent. I told him I didn't

think it needed to be something formal but would follow the procedure. There are currently about a dozen members of both organizations so this could be done. Chris thinks there are about 10 ALA members who would be worthy of consideration as fellows so that is the number. I suggested dividing it into two years for the nominations.

5. The “Christopher R. Edginton Esteemed Colleague Award” would be maintained by ALS. ALA is open to changing the focus of the aforementioned award and would be open to discussion.

I want to know more about this award. Is it the ALA equivalent of what used to be the SPRE Distinguished Colleague Award? Is it an award funded by Chris or is it simply named in his honor? Would we want two such awards? I really don't know much about this award and this part is the most problematic to me. It is a named award—no funding associated with it. Chris is willing to consider some other type of award such as a student scholarship award or something along that line. I think the thing he wants is his name to remain associated with something in the new ALS. I think this is something we could say no to if we wanted.

6. *The Papers of the American Leisure Academy*, a publication of the presentation made by esteemed colleagues at the annual meeting of ALA would be maintained. This could be done in electronic format rather than printed copy. The title of this publication should be altered to reflect the sponsorship of ALS. The publication is produced in a 10-year cycle.

If the ALA will no longer exist, does this suggest that the ALS will now offer an “esteemed colleague” presentation every year at its meeting? Is this the same as the Edginton Award? Would the ALS want to commit to this? As I understood our conversation, this could be publishing of the Butler lectures, which has not been done to date. I do not think it is a new presentation and I think publishing the Butler lectures would be good. The previous papers also could just live on our website as a part of the history.

7. ALA will transfer \$8,000 USD to the ALS account. The final amount may be slightly higher depending on the final collection of membership dues for 2012.

Are we being seduced by the \$8,000? I dunno. I suggested that ALS did not really need any more of an operating budget but really needed more added to the Future Scholars endowment and this \$8000 could be a direct gift that would forever be listed as a “major donor” to this endowment. He seemed to like that idea. So it would be a GOLD STAR or whatever we wanted to name it donation.

8. ALA membership would be asked to vote on this initiative. If ALA and ALS officials can reach an agreement, the vote would occur before the NRPA Congress to be held October 16-18, 2012. This would enable a smooth transition.

I think these details need to be worked out. I do agree that this is not really a merger, but it is a way for ALA to have a history that is part of the ALS history. I need to think about this more.