

PROPOSAL B

The Academy of Leisure Sciences shall establish an association for academics and scholars interested in the study of leisure, to exist under the auspices of the ALS but with semi-independent organizational structure.

If Proposal B is approved, a Task Force shall immediately be appointed to address details as noted below and will present their report to the ALS Executive Committee, to be shared with all Fellows via ALS-L for commentary and input. The Task Force will subsequently incorporate suggestions and submit a revised proposal to the ALS Executive Committee which will be put forward for an online vote. The Task Force will submit their initial proposal or a progress report before January 31, 2012.

Specifically, this Task Force will:

- Be appointed by the ALS President and consist of three ALS Fellows plus three people who are not Fellows but who have served in leadership roles with SPRE or related professional associations
- Propose a name, mission statement, and initial membership dues for this new Association
- Identify actions, events, and roles that this new Association will undertake that will become the tangible confirmation of its mission
- Propose an initial organizational structure and set of Bylaws that will:
 - define the roles of officers and the process of elections
 - establish operating procedures and standing committees
 - establish the mechanism for changing the Bylaws
- Propose necessary changes to the ALS Constitution as needed to allow oversight and integration of this new Association, including but not limited to:
 - the means by which this new Association shares governance with or interacts with ALS
 - shared engagement in the Future Scholars Committee
 - shared engagement in budgetary decisions
- Identify a management firm that would become responsible for membership dues, website development, and related administrative tasks and offer a projection of what those services would cost
- Propose a schedule and related procedures for making this new Association active

Rationale and Justification for Proposal B

Comments at the 2010 ALS Business Meeting and more recently on ALS-L make it apparent that many Fellows want the Academy to take a leadership role now that SPRE no longer exists. Proposal B asks the Fellows to support a new general-membership association that would exist

under the auspices of the Academy but would have semi-independent governance. If Fellows approve this proposition, an appointed Task Force will develop a report that clearly identifies how this association will be structured and how it will interact with the Academy. A vote to accept the Task Force report will occur in 2012.

Why Establish it as a Semi-Independent Association under ALS?

Under this proposal, the Academy would be responsible only for establishing the administrative structure and facilitating the “birth” of this new association but would not assume direct responsibility for managing it. In recent years, there has been reluctance among Fellows to step into leadership roles in the current Academy; keeping this new association as a semi-independent organization prevents us from taking on even greater responsibilities of governance. This proposal would establish a new organization with a separate set of Bylaws, but the growth and governance of that association would be the responsibility of its own members.

If, after this new association becomes established, the Fellows of the Academy wanted to merge into one large association they could vote to do so. At that time, they would have better information upon which to base a vote about abolishing separate governance. Likewise, if there came a time when it was no longer desirable to have this association under the umbrella of the Academy, it could break away and become independent with minimal impact on the Academy.

Why Should ALS Do This?

The existing tax status, financial security, and stability of ALS makes it more feasible for the Academy to establish a new organization than to have volunteers start from scratch. The difficulty of starting a new association is apparent by noting that a dedicated group from the old SPRE Board worked hard but were unable to get this association underway. Details like managing membership records, start-up costs for tax-exempt status, and creating a website were expensive hurdles for a new organization that could not yet guarantee an income. The Academy already represents visible scholars and leaders in this field; their presence gives a more focused direction to the new association and makes it likely that this association will attract members. If a new association is to emerge in the absence of SPRE, it seems like the Academy must step forward to make it happen.

Establishing this as a semi-independent association that operates under the auspices of the Academy is a conservative first step. A vote for this proposal is a commitment to establish that new association but reserves the final approval until after we have a report that details exactly how this association will impact the Academy.