

Ballot for Voting between June 1 and October 1, 2016

As discussed at the 2016 annual meeting and following detailed discussions at both the 2014 and 2015 meetings, the SECOL Executive Committee is asking for a vote on the three issues below by the SECOL membership, pursuant to Article 5 of the Constitution.

According to the Constitution, the balloting procedure is as follows: “By June 1, the Secretary will conduct a vote, by electronically distributing a downloadable ballot to the membership, with instructions for mailing or e-mailing the ballot back to the Secretary by October 1, anonymous balloting not being required. To take effect, an amendment must have the approval of two-thirds of those voting.” The inclusion of website voting (by logging onto the SECOL website as a member) does not preclude hard copy or e-mail voting, so if this is your preference, you will find a downloadable ballot on the website that can be sent as an attachment or via snailmail to the Secretary (cdavies@ua.edu) or to her University of Alabama English Department address.

1. Recruiting members of the Executive Committee to assume the duties that were previously performed by the Nominating Committee

Rationale: The current SECOL Constitution ([available on the website under “History”](#)) describes and gives the charge of the Nominating Committee as follows: “There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of three members, one to be elected each year for a three-year term. The member whose term is about to expire shall act as chair. The Nominating Committee shall in alternate years nominate one person for the position of Vice-President and one each year for the vacancy on the Executive Committee and on the Nominating Committee.” Currently approximately 10% of the SECOL membership is on the Executive Committee in some capacity, which seems quite high for a somewhat small organization. Additionally, in many years, some if not all of the members of the Nominating Committee have been unable to attend the annual meeting, and the work of that committee has therefore been shared by the remainder of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee has concluded that it would be more effective to eliminate the Nominating Committee and have the Executive Committee assume its duties. The procedure to phase out the committee will include not replacing members who rotate off when their term expires (as it stands, Daniel Hasty will rotate off in 2017, Kirk Hazen in 2018, and, assuming no challenge, Paulina Bounds in 2019).

VOTE: Do you think that members of the Executive Committee should be recruited to assume the duties performed by the Nominating Committee?

Yes, I think that members of the Executive Committee should be recruited to assume the duties performed by the Nominating Committee.

No, I don't think that members of the Executive Committee should be recruited to assume the duties performed by the Nominating Committee.

2. Raising annual membership dues to \$50 for regular members effective 2017 and for libraries effective 2018

Rationale: The use of PayPal to handle membership and conference registration on the website in a much more effective way than before means that SECOL needs to cover the costs of using this service. The Treasurer has determined, and the Executive Committee has agreed, that an increase in \$5 annual regular membership and for libraries would cover this additional cost. The effective date for libraries will need to be 2018 because the EBSCO contract has already been finalized for 2017.

VOTE: Are you in favor of raising annual membership dues to \$50 for regular members effective 2017 and for libraries effective 2018?

Yes, I am in favor of these changes in membership dues.

No, I am not in favor of these changes in membership dues.

3. Accepting no new lifetime memberships

Rationale: The current SECOL constitution allows for “lifetime membership” as follows: “A member who pays twenty times the current regular membership dues amount in advance shall be designated a lifetime member and shall enjoy the rights and privileges of membership from that time forth.” The Executive Committee agreed that it would be better for the finances of SECOL if this option were eliminated, without, of course, affecting the small number of current lifetime members.

VOTE: Are you in favor of accepting no new lifetime memberships?

Yes, I am in favor of accepting no new lifetime memberships.

No, I would prefer to retain the lifetime membership as an option.

Mail ballot to:

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