

# Election and Voting Commission Update on 2020 CMB-S4 Elections

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# Summary

- Draft schedule for nominations and elections process
- Proposal for vote collecting and counting method
- Open questions from bylaws
- Plan for governing board election

# Schedule Overview

- Based on initial election experience, need more time for nominations process
- From the bylaws
  - Elections must be done in sequence to allow for candidates to stand for multiple positions
  - Terms start July 1
  - Spokesperson election must be complete by April 1 to allow for 3 month transition period
- We propose to aim to complete all elections before each year's spring collaboration meeting
  - Will include in standard election procedures document
  - Not appropriate for inclusion in bylaws

# This year's schedule

- No spokesperson election (initial 3 year term for both)
- Science council chairs, publications chair, membership chair up for election
- Half of governing board up for election
  - based on random draw to stagger terms
- Collaboration meeting set for March 31 - April 1

# This year's schedule - proposed dates

Action	Time period	2020 election start	End
Send out announcement for nominations - collect nominations	3 weeks	31-Jan	21-Feb
Final deadline for member eligibility (to vote or run)			21-Feb
EVC contacts nominees and confirms candidacy	1 week	22-Feb	29-Feb
Nominees provide written statements	1 week	29-Feb	6-Mar
Chairs Voting (email out Mon morning, close Friday night)	5 days	9-Mar	13-Mar
Tabulate and announce results for Chairs	2 days	14-Mar	15-Mar
GB Voting (email out Mon morning, close Friday night)	5 days	16-Mar	20-Mar
Tabulate and announce results for Governing Board	9 days	21-Mar	29-Mar

# Proposal for vote collecting and counting method

- **Proposal - Use OpaVote to run elections (vote collecting and counting)**
  - Pro - It is designed to do exactly this (see <https://www.opavote.com/help/online-elections>)
    - Has “code voting” option, for issues sending out unique anonymous ballots via email
  - Cons
    - It is an additional cost, depends on number of voters and number of candidates
      - anticipate \$60 total this year, \$20 per election, but may cost ~\$100 in future years
    - It’s a new system for everyone to use for voting (but it is designed for this)
    - Ballots will come from a new email address noreply@opavote.com
- **Alternative: SurveyMonkey**
  - Pros - already used it, already paying for it, meets anonymity requirements for election
  - Cons
    - Access issues - SurveyMonkey’s high security has changed login procedure, making it only practical for one user with our current subscription (adding users costs \$)
    - Limitations in the number of candidates that you can rank (16)
    - **Doesn’t have a built-in way to count results**

# Open questions from bylaws

- Bylaws only specify overlap period for spokespeople, but it seems reasonable to ensure the same overlap period for all positions, or at least all chairs
  - Long GB overlap may not be necessary since  $\frac{1}{2}$  of GB stays on each year
    - ~ 1 overlap/transition meeting?
- What to do in case of candidate withdrawing after election has begun
  - Happened last year with people who were appointed to executive team positions while GB election was ongoing
  - Staggered elections do allow a short timescale for new Executive Team to converge before GB results are finalized
  - Would like to have clearer statement of what is done, in bylaws
    - The intent of the voting method is that the candidate needs to be ignored in counting, and votes move to the next choice on the ballot
    - Tabulating results with their votes included, and then removing them from final ranked list of candidates, has a totally different outcome

# Open questions from bylaws - Governing Board

- What will be done if someone resigns from Governing Board, outside of elections period?
  - What if postdoc member resigns?
  - How many members are needed for quorum?
  - Does the EVC need to keep elections results to inform any future appointments?



# Governing Board Election

- *Bylaws: After the GB is established, it is to amend these bylaws to establish whether (a) to have **separate votes for each category of representation** or (b) to continue with a mixed **election/appointed model for its board members**. It is the expectation that the GB will evolve to a fully elected body as the Collaboration matures.*

Governing Board through 2nd election includes all 4 experiments, 3 out of 4 national labs, that were considered necessary for representation in 1st election

- Bradford Benson : 3 years (SPT, Fermilab)
- Lindsey Bleem : 3 years (SPT, Argonne)
- Tom Crawford : 3 years (SPT)
- Mark Devlin : 3 years (ACT)
- John Kovac : 3 years (BICEP)
- Charles Lawrence : 3 years
- Mike Niemack : 3 years (ACT)
- Suzanne Staggs : 3 years (ACT)
- Aritoki Suzuki : 3 years (POLARBEAR, LBNL)

# Governing Board Election

- Ranked-choice voting worked well to make the elected governing board representative of important sub-groups of the collaboration (existing collaborations, national labs)
- Part of this was due to how many open seats we had in the initial election, which means that smaller groups could get enough votes to be represented.
  - If the initial election had only been for 9 seats (like future GB elections will be), only 3 of the 4 labs and 3 out of the 4 experiments would have been represented with top 9 vote-getters
  - With 18 seats, all 4 labs and 4 experiments were represented by top ~ 13 vote-getters
  - Initial election bylaws stated that first 10 seats were elected, with appointments as necessary to fill remaining 8 seats
- **For this election**, we should be in fairly good shape due to lucky random draw from initial large election of GB seats, but **need plan from GB for this year's elected/appointed mix**
- Information from this year's election can be used to inform what procedure should be used going forwards - **EVC to provide further anonymized election results to GB?**