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AL/ALAC/ST/0511/5
ORIGINAL: English
DATE: 28 May 2011
STATUS: FINAL

AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Statement of the ALAC on Academia Representation on NomCom

Introduction

By the Staff of ICANN

Christopher Wilkinson, a member of an At-Large Structure (ALS) in the European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO), composed a first draft of this statement, which he shared with the EURALO community and later with the wider At-Large community.

With the support from several At-Large members, a [wiki workspace](#) containing this statement was created. The At-Large staff sent out a call for comments from the At-Large community, to be submitted via this workspace, on 20 May 2011.

Comments were received not only on the workspace but also during the ALAC and ALAC Executive Committee monthly calls held on 24 May 2011.

On 27 May 2011, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, wrote a second draft of this statement, attached here, incorporating the received comments.

On 28 May 2011, Olivier Crépin-Leblond requested that, on the next business day, the At-Large staff begin a five-day ALAC ratification vote on this statement. In addition, the statement was transmitted to the ICANN Board Secretary, as well as to the ICANN staff member responsible for this public comment topic, with a note saying that the statement would imminently undergo the ALAC ratification process.

[End of Introduction]

The original version of this document is the English text available at www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

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The ALAC notes that this request for public comments focuses on one specific default act: the removal from the ICANN By-Laws of Article VII, Section 2.8.c: “An entity designated by the Board to represent academic and similar organizations.”

Removal of this clause would be considered if no effective way is proposed by the community to select members of academia to serve on the Nominating Committee (NomCom). In that case, this amendment would remove the position described from the composition of the Nominating Committee.

If no other proposals are indeed made, the ALAC is, in principle, in agreement with the removal of this clause – provided (and only provided) that this is undertaken as part of a wider process that keeps academia involved in the Nominating Committee, whether via the GNSO or otherwise. Such a wider process does appear to be in development, as described in the introduction of the Request for Public Comment.

A fuller description of the manner and type of wider involvement from academia in ICANN is outside the scope of this statement, but the ALAC would welcome the opportunity to provide input on this subject in the future.