

EXC-009 Motion for SI GA 2015 – presented by AG on behalf of Exco

Subject Working Group: Modernization of procedures

Title of motion

Amend election rules - SI committees and officers

National Secretary and national member group proposing motion:

Ann Greenhough on behalf of Exco

Summary of the motion.

To replace 2012 GA decision 5 (made on 25.8.12)

<i>Starting at the 2012 GA, a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if he/she has been in an elected or appointed Servas International position for a total of 6 or more years within the last 10 years. The clock starts at the 2012 GA.</i>

Starting from the 2018 GA a person cannot be nominated for an elected Servas International position if they have already served two terms (six years) in that post within the last 10 years.
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Background information and reasons for proposing the motion.

<p>The decision putting into place restrictions for those either in an elected or in an appointed SI role was made in the closing session of the 2012 GA. It is the result of an amendment to a motion discussed in one of the Subject Working Group sessions.</p>
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<p>There was no opportunity for the nominations committee, as responsible for accepting candidates for elected posts, to be consulted on this amendment prior to it being presented to the GA for a decision.</p>

<p>With little time for the GA to debate the issue, the possible unintended consequences of this decision were not fully explored prior to the vote.</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Unlike elected posts there is no comment within the statutes or any guidance for SI committees and roles that clearly defines what should be considered an 'appointed' SI position. There is therefore uncertainty about which people volunteering for SI tasks in an unelected capacity are to be excluded from standing for elected SI office from 2018 onwards.ii. Evidence from the 2012 nominations process gives no indication that anyone was inhibited from standing for an elected post because someone was seeking to remain in post for an excessive length of time. In fact in 2012 there were very few nominations for key posts by the start of the GA and limited candidates for many posts by the elections.iii. There is nothing to suggest that more candidates would come forward if others were |
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excluded from standing for election.

- iv. To carry out the responsibilities of Servas International Exco relies on support from those willing to commit their time to a wide range of essential tasks, sometimes over many years. These include work on the Dolphin host and key list system, the SI Help Desk, ICT support, UN observers and the appointed budget and membership committees. There are also those who offer professional expertise in the SOL project and in maintaining the SI website.
- v. Under the current restrictions someone who has been a committed SI volunteer for some time may find they are excluded from standing for an elected post on Exco or another SI committee.
- vi. In the future anyone asked to carry out a task for Servas International in an appointed role may need to consider whether at a later date this might restrict the length of time they could take up an elected post or exclude them from standing altogether. This is potentially discriminatory to those volunteering to support the work of SI.
- vii. The current rule to come into force in 2018 will also restrict those who have served two terms in one or more SI roles from standing in a new elected role. As a result Servas International risks losing valuable experience and expertise.
- viii. The restriction works against making best use of the available skills, commitment and experience within Servas.

For example:

- An experienced SI treasurer not being able to bring financial expertise to the work of the audit committee.
 - An experienced audit committee member not being able to stand as the SI treasurer.
 - Young people after gaining in experience and confidence in the youth team then being restricted from standing for Exco or another SI committee.
 - ICT and SOL team not being able to bring expertise into SI Exco, in particular to the future host list coordinator role with its emphasis on managing the SI website and online system.
 - An Area Coordinator not being able to stand on Exco or another SI committee.
- ix. The importance of encouraging new people to come forward to take up key roles on Exco and other SI committees is recognised. Therefore a restriction preventing someone serving more than 2 terms in the same elected SI post is supported.
 - x. The proposed changes present no barrier to new people coming forward as candidates. However an unnecessary restriction is removed so that experienced people in elected or appointed SI roles can stand for a new elected role.

Likely benefits for Servas International and national groups if the motion is passed.

Unfair restrictions lifted on those in appointed SI roles standing for elected SI office.

Opportunity for Servas to benefit from those with previous experience and expertise gained in an SI

role being able to take on a new elected role.

Resource implications if the motion is passed in terms of time, human resources and specialist expertise.

None

What are the budget implications, if any, of the motion for Servas International and for national groups in the short and longer term?

None

Who should be responsible for the actions arising from the motion in terms of planning, development and management, for example which officer within SI Exco or SI Committee.

Nominations Committee and SI Exco

Would there be implications for the Servas International statutes if the motion is passed?

Not clear.

What is the likely impact if the motion is not passed?

Potential loss of experience and expertise offered by valued members of SI committees and in other SI roles.