

PROPOSED REVISION TO PROCEDURE RULE 1(10)

In the light of the difficulties encountered at the recent statutory annual meeting in relation to the election of Chairman of the Joint Standards Committee, the Working Group is invited to consider and recommend to the Council a revision to Procedure Rule 1(10) to provide greater clarity on this rather than rely on practice or custom.

The Chairman of the Council presides at special meetings of the newly-appointed Committees for the purposes of electing a Chairman. If what Rule 1(10) says about the Council acting in the event failure to elect a Chairman includes (or is meant to include) an equality of votes, then the role of the Chairman of the Council in presiding may be open to question. Failure to elect could of course include the lack of any nominations or the willingness of any nominee to serve.

Although the Chairman of the Council may not a member of the Committee as such, Procedure Rule 2 gives a presiding Chairman all the powers of an elected Chairman, without qualification, and covers the situation at ordinary meetings where a Chairman or Vice-Chairman is absent.

Should it be thought helpful for the presiding Chairman at the special meetings to have a casting vote only in the event of an equality of votes, then Rule 1(10) can be adapted as follows:

Annual Meeting

- (10) In connection with the special meetings of Committees referred to in 7(j) above, the Chairman of the Council shall preside for the purpose of electing a Chairman. In the event of **an equality of votes between nominees a casting vote may be exercised.** **Should the** Committee **otherwise fail**ing to elect a Chairman, the Council shall appoint a Chairman for that Committee.

If this or something similar is not agreed, then it is suggested that Procedure Rule 2 is clarified so that, for the avoidance of any doubt, the powers and duties generally given to presiding chairmen do not apply in this specific situation.

DURATION OF MEETING

Procedure Rule 1(6) currently gives discretion to the Chairman of the Council. To strengthen the regulation over the duration of business a ‘guillotine’ approach can be taken, or otherwise a move to adjournment at a given point. A suggested revised approach could be to replace this procedure rule with the following (which takes account of standard or different start times):

Regulation of business and duration of meetings

- (6) (i) The business of meetings of the Council (and its Committees and Sub-Committees) shall cease 2.5 / 3 hours after the meeting has commenced, or such sooner or later time as the Chairman shall consider appropriate.

APPENDIX B

- (ii) When a meeting is terminated, any remaining business shall stand adjourned until a date and time to be fixed by the Chairman.
- (iii) Where (ii) above applies, given that the agenda and associated reports and papers for the original meeting have been published, the adjourned meeting can be called as soon as practicable and without necessary delay, having regard to the remaining business and venue availability. In the case of Committees and Sub-Committees, where Substitutes have been appointed the same Members should attend (the Substituted Members must not take their seats).
- (iv) Notice of the adjourned meeting will be published on the Council's website, unless the adjourned meeting is held within 24 hours.