

“Motion to form committee to review By-Laws – to anchor ABS in North America and internationalize the Association.” (Chair Christine Brenner, with Victor Konrad and Javier Duran) (TP/VK – Approved Unanimous). (AG/approved unanimity)

In response to the charge to the committee, committee members have reviewed the ByLaws and offer the following recommendations.

1. The committee suggests changes to Article III, Purpose, Items B. and C. and Article IV, Board of Directors, Items B. and C, and Article V, Officers, Items A. and B. Revisions of these Articles and Items accomplish the charge to the committee.
2. The committee also recommends several updating revisions to reflect the changes in the ABS since the ByLaws were revised in 1995. This includes a final posting requirement for amendments.

In order to initiate the review and revision process, we offer the following suggestions for changes (highlighted) for Board consideration.

Article III, Purpose

B. The ABS is a nonprofit, learned society of scholars established to facilitate scholarly interchange of ideas and information relating to international border areas. The ABS was formed in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands region. The organization remains anchored in this region, with the recognition that borderlands studies extend globally, and the commitment to engage and represent border scholars internationally.

C. The ABS encourages a multidisciplinary approach to scholarly Borderlands research and seeks to provide the means for disseminating research reports and scholarly information to members from various disciplines, as well as those engaged in policy formation and action programs. Also, it seeks to provide a forum for policy makers, program directors and scholars to exchange views on problems unique to inter-national border regions worldwide.

Article IV, Board of Directors

B. *Number, Representation and Qualification.* The authorized number of Directors of the Corporation shall be nine (9), but that number may be changed (in no event to a number less than three (3)) by an amendment to these ByLaws duly adopted by an action of the members of the Corporation. Directors need not be residents of the State of New Mexico. Although no geographical or other formula of representation of directors is mandated in these ByLaws, the Board of Directors shall represent the diversity of the ABS membership, including academic

interest, representation of discipline, stage of academic career, gender, ethnicity and nationality.

C. *Selection and Term of Office.* The nine (9) Directors shall be appointed as follows: each year three (3) members shall be appointed for three (3) year terms on a rotation basis, nominated by the President and sustained by two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors voting. When Directors are elected to executive positions, the current President will appoint another ABS member to fill the remaining years of their term using the procedures outlined above for other appointive positions. These appointments to the Board of Directors will reflect regional, academic, discipline, **career level, gender, ethnicity and nationality considerations** of the entire ABS membership as much as possible. Each Director shall hold office until a successor is selected, or until the Director's death, resignation or removal. Directors may serve more than one term.

Article V, Officers

A. *Officers and Qualifications.* The Officers of this Corporation shall consist of a President, a President-Elect, a **First** Vice-President, a **Second Vice-President**, an Executive Secretary, a Treasurer and a Journal Editor. ***(The rest of A. remains the same.)***

B. *Duties of Officers*

1. *President*

b. ***(The existing text remains. Add the following sentence.)*** **The President, or his or her designee, shall serve as liaison to the Western Social Science Association as long as the two organizations continue to conduct their annual business together.**

2. *President Elect*

a. After serving a one year term as **First** Vice-President, the **First** Vice-President shall become the President-Elect. He or she will assume the office in the spring for a one year term. (The President-Elect will subsequently become the President and the **Second Vice –President will become the First Vice-President.**)

c. ***(Sentences 1 and 2 remain. Replace sentences 3 and 4 with the following.)*** The **First** Vice-President will become the President-Elect, **and the Second Vice-President will become the First Vice-President.** A replacement **Second** Vice-President will be nominated by the new President and sustained by two-thirds (2/3) of the Directors voting. ***(Sentence 5 remains the same.)***

3. *Vice Presidents*

a. Each year a **Second** Vice-President shall be elected by majority vote of the membership voting. He or she will assume office in the spring for a one year term. (The **First** Vice President

will subsequently become the President-Elect, and the **Second Vice-President will become the First Vice-President.**)

All subsequent references to Vice-President in Article V, 2.b. and 2.c., shall be **First Vice-President.**

The following recommendations for revision of the ByLaws reflect the need to make these ByLaws current.

Article I, Name, Seal and Offices

- A. Name.** The name of this nonprofit Corporation is ASSOCIATION OF BORDERLANDS SCHOLARS, INC. (sometimes abbreviated “ABS”). **The name of the nonprofit corporation has also included the Association of Borderlands Studies and the Association of Border Studies.**

Article II, Members

- A. 3. a. *Members* are self-designated because of their professional standing and their current activity at academic institutions, research bureaus or border agencies. This designation indicates a willingness to participate actively in the organization as well as a professional commitment to the field of Borderlands **Studies.**

Article X, Financial Procedures

- A.** Annual dues will be due and payable prior to or within 30 days after the annual ABS Spring meeting for the current year’s membership. Amounts shall be as follows: regular members, **\$65 CAD**; student members, **\$25 CAD**; **Non-OECD countries, \$45 CAD (online access only).**

Article XI, Amendments

- A. Amending procedures for making changes in these ByLaws are as follows:

5. Proposed changes to the ByLaws must be sent to the membership and posted two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

Christine Brenner Javier Duran Victor Konrad