

Notes: ICANN 66 - ASO AC Closed Session

6 November 2019 | 09:00 EST (-5 UTC)

a. Documentation Review

- The ASO AC asked the Secretariat to publish the *How it Works* presentation on the website.

b. ICANN Board Seat 9/10 Elections

- The ASO AC discussed the election process and the upcoming election cycle at length. BJ gave an in-depth overview of the ICANN NomCom process.
- The following points were noted:
 - The process needed to be updated.
 - There should be four distinct phases: Outreach/Nomination, Application, Review and Selection.
 - There was no need to have a separate Quality Review Committee (QRC) and Interview Committee (IC).
 - The candidates should not receive the interview questions in advance of the interview.
 - The application process needed to be improved (create an application form).
 - The candidates should be asked more about ICANN and board governance.
 - The written questionnaire should be scrapped.
 - The Empowered Community Powers had superseded the Director Removal section of the election procedure.
 - There should be more outreach during the nominating phase.
 - Updating the election procedures should be done openly: the ASO AC should be transparent about it.
 - It was suggested that a consultant, the RIRs' lawyers or HR staff could help with reviewing the procedures. Some felt that this would not be effective. It was also noted that the RIRs/NRO EC should have limited input into the process, as it was the ASO AC's task to select the ICANN Board Members.
 - Documentation should be stored so that the history was not lost but candidate confidentiality must be maintained.
 - The public ICANN NomCom documents could be used as templates/starting points for the new ASO process. A document that had advice on what to look for in a Board member would be helpful.
 - The candidate interviews should be carried out in an organized manner. There was discussion that it should be mandatory for all ASO AC members to attend all interviews. Only a subset of the ASO AC (the Interview Committee) would be able to ask questions however. These questions should be agreed upon in advance.
 - The ASO AC should come together to deliberate on the candidates. There needed to be a full discussion on how the candidates performed.
 - Internal polling, as is done by the ICANN NomCom, could be a good way to ascertain why an ASO AC member was supporting (or not supporting) a candidate. This would also improve integrity.
 - The nomination period often occurred during holiday periods. The timing should be evaluated to see if this could be avoided.

- It would be helpful if the ASO AC could have the 360-degree Board Review if the incumbent is standing for re-election.
- There was lengthy discussion on the timelines and timing and the issue of new ASO AC members coming on board at different times, which could affect the voting.
- The ASO AC noted that it would discuss the election process further in the November teleconference.

Notes: Susannah Gray (ASO/NRO Secretariat).