

BRIEFING NOTE

TO: Council

FROM: Executive Committee

DATE: February 26, 2020

SUBJECT: 9.1 Executive Elections Expressions of Interest

☒ For Decision ☐ For Information ☐ Monitoring Report

Purpose:

To determine whether the practice of submitting an “Expression of Interest” prior to the Executive Committee elections should be made mandatory.

Background:

A convention exists that prior to Executive Committee elections in December, council members are invited to submit “expressions of interest” in being nominated to the Executive Committee, including the position of President, and Vice-President roles. The council-at-large receives the expression of interest submissions one week before the executive election date, along with the Council materials.

The Expression of Interest allows council members to signal to their fellow council members their interest in being nominated during the council meeting. The practice further provides a means of demonstrating how the council member meets the competencies required for the executive role.

There is no by-law provision that requires a council member to submit an expression of interest. Nominations at the council table on the day of the executive election are permitted by the by-law. In addition, the by-laws do not preclude a council member from self-nominating¹. Like with any nomination, seconding would be required. In any event, all candidates to the executive roles are invited to make a verbal presentation to council, regardless of submission of an expression of interest.

By comparison, the nomination procedure for a registered optician candidate for election as a council member requires a nomination in writing by the deadline. A biographical statement may be submitted *if desired* by the deadline.

For Consideration:

Some council members have raised concerns about the Executive election process currently in place and whether an expression of interest must be submitted ahead of time in order to be eligible to run for election to the Executive Committee or the President and Vice-President roles.

¹ The by-laws do not expressly address self-nomination. An express provision allowing or disallowing self-nomination can be added to the by-laws if the Executive believes this to be necessary.

Some regulatory colleges, including (but not limited to) the College of Midwives, the College of Nurses, College of Registered Psychotherapists, and the College of Optometrists, require written intent to be submitted to the Registrar before the Council meeting when the executive election is to take place.

The Executive Committee considered this matter on February 10 and recommends that Council consider whether to continue the practice of allowing Executive nominations to be made “at the table” or if submission of an expression of interest ahead of time should be made a mandatory eligibility requirement to the Executive elections.

If Council determines that submissions are required ahead of time, Council must also consider how it wishes to address situations where no expressions are received or no qualified candidates come forward. The Executive Committee recommends that Council provide its input and, should it wish to proceed, refer the issue to the Governance Committee for by-law and policy development.

Recommendations/Action Required:

That Council referred the matter to Governance Committee for further policy and by-law development, as recommended by the Executive Committee.