



Claims Department 74

>Welcome to another Claims Department, and this one is hella SMOFish, so if you got loins, you might wanna gird them.

The Business Meeting for 2024 is gonna be a mess, though a controlled mess. It's got Jesi Lipp at the helm, so I have absolutely no doubt they'll do as good a job as Kevin did when the San Jose Westercon Business Meeting (the famed SMOFpocolypse) went down.

And yes, I contributed to the mess by submitting a resolution and co-signing others. I apologize the the people who will have to sit through them while I'm at home in California, likely asleep.

This issue is going to look at every proposal. None of the other business, just the proposals and Business carried on. I'll just be including the text of the motion itself, not the statements that came with them. I will, in no way, be impartial. I'm a human, I have biases, and I don't think me trying to be a responsible journalist is a good idea. These are my thoughts, sometimes I'll agree, sometimes I'll disagree. Even with myself. I suspect sometimes you, my dear reader, will not care, and other times, you also won't care much, but just a little.

One thing that is clear is that there are some things here that speak to values, many things that speak to process, and some things that speak to both. There are also a couple of different things from past Business Meetings, but we'll get to those down the line.

This issue is dedicated to Andrew Horror. Who, you may ask? Andrew was one of the four mainstays of the Horror



Community I met early on in my TikTok days that kept me coming back, along with Belalu Ghostly, Lisa Starchild, and Living Dead Delilah. He's a good dude, and sadly, he's nearing the end of his battle with pancreatic cancer. He has a few catchphrases, one of which he uses in his movie reviews: *Here are my thoughts.*

I am using that throughout this issue. It's a small tribute, but one I hope would make him smile.

Love you, Andrew. Thanks for everything.

Now, I mentioned Jesi earlier. I was lucky enough to get some clarity on a few points of things that I thought would make the process a little clearer.

Art this issue:

Sue Mason has been kind enough to let me use some wonderful pieces Henry Welch forwarded my way. She's amazing! You'll see her pieces on the Cover, BaCover, and pages 2, 43, and 61.

The rest are Dover Clipart!



A Few Questions with Jesi Lipp: Business Meeting Presiding Officer

1) Who will be up at the head table at the Business Meeting this year along with yourself?

So there is myself as Presiding Officer, then the Deputy Presiding Officer is Warren Buff, a longtime Business Meeting attendee who has been on BM staff a few times. Warren was my deputy DH when I ran the Member Services Division in 2016, and I love working with him. Alex Acks is our Secretary, another longtime attendee who many people probably know from their BM liveblogs. So this year, their liveblog will just be the minutes. Martin Pyne is Parliamentarian; when I was Presiding Officer in Dublin, he corrected me and got me to reverse a ruling, so he was an obvious choice for that role. Ira Alexandre is our Timekeeper, who folks probably know from their incredible work shepherding the Best Game or Interactive Work Hugo into being. And then two people who won't be at the Head Table but are still on the team - Chris Hensley, who I had the pleasure of having as head of Operations in 2016, is our Floor Manager, and Jared Dashoff, who unfortunately won't be in Glasgow, is our Advisor.

2) For a repeat Business Meeting attendee, there may seem to be a few procedural changes. Could you give a brief description?

Because of the large amount of business in front of us, it was important that we figure out a way to get through everything as efficiently as possible. So, to that end, we took our remit in section 5.1.4 of the WSFS Constitution to publish some additional rules. We created the "First Pass" (which, if someone wants to come up with a better name for it, please do), where for all the new constitutional amendments, we are going to do a run through the entire list to see which items the body actually

chooses to take up, rather than choosing to postponing indefinitely or having a motion withdrawn or such. And then, after that, we will have a better understanding of what all is before us, which will allow us to move to setting debate times and continuing with the normal proceedings folks are used to.

The other big change is that we've decided to announce in advance that we're running a longer meeting, making sure everyone is prepared for and aware of how long it will take to get through this agenda and can plan appropriately. I didn't want us to be going long every day without anyone having received a warning of that. Planning to go long also meant we could schedule in a lunch break and work out a way to do pre-ordered meals with the Village Hotel. So the meeting will be from 10:00 - 15:00 with a 45-minute lunch break.

I don't know if that qualifies as "brief," but it was a description.

3) There are two matters that are going to be in Executive Session. How will that portion of the meeting work, and what sort of things will be allowed and not allowed then?

The point of executive session is that matters are being handled which might harm the society or individuals or the process for there to be a public record, or for people who aren't members of the society to be present. So that's what executive session means - only members can stay, the details aren't entered into the public minutes, and it won't be in the video recording; because the online portal livestream is not WSFS members-only, we will have to turn that off, as well.

I want to clarify a few misunderstandings that I've seen. First, if you are an attending member of WSFS, you don't have to leave the room. Second, the rules around divulging what happens in executive session only apply to non-members. Any member at the meeting is free to discuss what happened with other WSFS members (so long as they do so in a way that does not also divulge the proceedings to non-members) because they

also have an interest in the happenings of the society. Third, minutes are still recorded in executive session, they just don't become a part of the publicly available minutes, but they will be retained and could be read at a future meeting (if that meeting was itself in executive session).

4) Will there be a specified time for the Executive Session, or a sort of public announcement that attendees of the con can opt-in to that it's about to start?

There is not currently a set time. The reality of how the Business Meeting works is that we have a short amount of time to get through a lot of things, and the most efficient way of doing that is to move right from one item into the next, though the body can choose to postpone an item until a specific time. The executive session will happen at the Preliminary Business Meeting on Friday. We are looking into communicating to folks when it's about to begin.

5) With so many motions and only so much time, what sort of time-saving measures are going to be deployed?

So I already talked about the First Pass, that's the big thing. Beyond that, I'm probably going to be recommending fairly short debate times on all the items - even fairly simple items often get debate times of 6 to 10 minutes, and contentious items see debate times of 20 or 30 minutes. We know that the actual real-time elapsed is generally at least 2 or 3 times the debate allotment; thus, I doubt I'll be recommending debate times over 15 minutes for any item. If every single item is given the amount of time for debate that we all wish it could have, there's no way we'd be able to get anything done.

6) What can attendees do to make your job easier?

I'd ask folks to really consider what will actually help the body get through its work. It doesn't help us accomplish things

for someone to pop up and make a Point of Order just to prove that they know the rules. Related to that, I have seen time and again people try to save time and move through things quickly with some slick parliamentary maneuver, and what ends up actually happening is that more time is spent on the maneuver than they were trying to save. If you do have a thing you want to do, talk to the Head Table about it; that will allow us to advise you on the best way to accomplish your goal, and also make us prepared so that we don't waste time being taken by surprise.

Also, please remember that Business Meeting staff don't have the ability to duck out of the room when the meeting is in session. The short breaks the meeting takes are the only ones we get. Please give us a chance to go to the bathroom and get a beverage before waylaying us.

7) How fluid is the agenda? Might things drop off between now and the Meeting?

Now that the items have been submitted and the agenda is published, these items of business belong to the body, and only the body can make decisions on them. Nothing will drop off the agenda between now and the meeting; nothing will get added to the agenda between now and the meeting. The only exception would be if someone submits late business and I either decide to allow it (which, given the already weighty agenda is unlikely) or the body votes by 2/3 to allow it. And then it gets added to the end of the agenda, once again, unless the body votes by 2/3 to take it up sooner. But that's getting at the meeting, not before the meeting. So technically, nothing goes in before then.

8) What advice would you have for potential first-time speakers at the Business Meeting?

If you are someone who is completely unfamiliar with the Business Meeting, attend the Intro to the Business Meeting panel on Thursday. If you have questions, ask. There are folks at the meeting who are happy to explain what is going on. I should be available to answer questions after the meeting each day. And if

you're planning on speaking in debate, please be concise. We use time-limited debate, so it's "6 total minutes of debate" rather than "3 speeches at 2 minutes each."

Lastly, you didn't ask this question, really, but I wanted to try to clarify some misunderstandings I've seen.

I want to be clear that my role as the Presiding Officer is to guide the body, and that includes making rulings. It is literally my job to say if the meeting is trying to do something it is not allowed to do. I understand that some people are not happy about the decision to treat the motions of censure as a motion to form an investigative committee. However, Robert's Rules clearly says that when motions like that come before the body without having come out of an investigative committee, it is my duty to rule them out of order. I chose to not reject them entirely because I didn't think that it would be fair to the body for people to not even know that these items were submitted. By forming an investigative committee (should the body choose to do so), these issues can be properly handled by the next Business Meeting.

I understand that there are some who think there is no point to having an investigative committee, that the Business Meeting should be able to just immediately pass motions of censure that name specific people and specific allegations. However, in addition to our very real concerns about legal liability, I would also request that folks think carefully about if that is really what a fair process looks like and what precedent they want to set for how the Business Meeting will handle allegations of misconduct by its members. The reality is that we don't know the full story - that is, in fact, what many people are bothered by. The work of the investigative committee will be to try to learn more before making recommendations at the next Business Meeting.

I came up in conrunning doing Code of Conduct work. The values and strategies that I learned there are guiding my approach to this situation. CoC teams don't make decisions about how to handle complaints without looking into them first - even complaints that have received ample press or where it seems obvious to those on the outside what happened.

Especially given the severity of what happened, the Business Meeting should follow a similar procedure, which Robert's Rules provides for us. There have been serious allegations of misconduct against members of our community. Treating those allegations seriously means following a deliberate process rather than acting rashly.

I think the minutes from the 1984 Business Meeting are really helpful to consider here. The Business Meeting censured L.A.Con II for a situation to do with bid tables. The minutes then say that subsequently, the maker of the motion realized that the motion to censure was "based on a faulty premise" and published a statement that he asked to have added to the minutes: "In the heat of my zeal, [...] I jumped to a conclusion based on what seemed at the time a weighty body of evidence and succeeded thereafter in getting the Business Meeting to censure L.A.Con. While that action cannot be formally reversed until next year's Business Meeting, I would like to take this opportunity to apologize to [the convention and a specific staff person] for pillorying them unfairly." The motion of censure was, indeed, rescinded the following year.





And now...the Meat!

Standing Rule Changes

C.1 Magnum PI

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows: Rule 5.3: Postpone Indefinitely. The motion to Postpone Indefinitely ~~shall not be allowed at the Main Business Meeting, but~~ shall be allowed at the Preliminary Business Meeting ~~and the first time a main motion is brought before a Main Business Meeting~~. This motion shall have four (4) minutes of debate time and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote for adoption.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Jared Dashoff

Here are my thoughts: This is fine. It's not a huge change, but it would probably help when things get crowded.

I'm for it!

C.2 Strike 1.4

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

~~Rule 1.4: Scheduling of Meetings. The first Main Meeting shall be scheduled no less than eighteen (18) hours after the conclusion of the last Preliminary Meeting. No meeting shall be scheduled to begin before 10:00 or after 13:00 local time.~~

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kate Secor

Here are my thoughts - So far so good. This does free things up for scheduling a bit, and if the Business Meeting is going to be more 'hands-on' in handling things, and for the love of ghod I hope so, this will give some freedom.

I'm for it!

C.3 No, We Don't Like Surprises, Why Do You Ask?

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 2.2: Requirements for Submission of New Business.
Rule 2.2.1: Emergency Business. No business may be submitted to the Business Meeting without prior notice for consideration at the same meeting of the Business Meeting without unanimous consent. Any business which is submitted with unanimous consent for immediate consideration and adopted shall be subject to a motion to reconsider at the next day's meeting of the Business Meeting, and said motion may be made and/or seconded by any member who voted against its passage or who was not present at the time. No business may be brought up under this section on the final scheduled day of the Business Meeting. Excepted from this shall be business presented to the Business Meeting by the Site Selection Administrator pertaining to that year's Site Selection process and motions pertaining to the resolution of a disputed or failed Site Selection process. Except as provided within, this rule shall not be subject to a suspension of the rules.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kristina Forsyth, Erica Frank

Here are my thoughts - This is a reaction to shifty move at last year's Business Meeting made by Dave McCarty. I think it's a smart fail-safe measure.

I'm for it!

C.4 Repeal 7.9

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

~~Rule 7.9: Proxy and remote voting. Only WSFS members physically present at the Business Meeting shall be recognized for purposes of debate, or may move, second, or vote on motions on the floor of the meeting. Proxy voting is not permitted.~~

Proposed by: Jesi Lipp*, Jared Dashoff, Alan Bond, Chris Rose, Kathy Bond, James Bacon, Joyce Lloyd, Colin Harris, Gareth Kavanaugh, Farah Mendleson

* = Jesi Lipp will not be presiding over this item, as they are the maker of the motion.

Here are my thoughts - I'm not for this; I'm all the damn hell crap balls of the way for it! This opens up the possibility of participation for those of us who can't make the meetings every year.

I want this; we need this.

D. Resolutions

From the WSFS Constitution Section 3.4.3: In the event that a potential Hugo Award nominee receives extremely limited distribution in the year of its first publication or presentation, its eligibility may be extended for an additional year by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the intervening Business Meeting of WSFS.

D.1 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Conann a.k.a. She Is Conann

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Conann a.k.a. She Is Conann*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne, Amanda Wakaruk, Jason Sanford, Christopher Rowe, Chris M. Barkley

Here are my thoughts: Sure.

D.2 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Lovely, Dark, and Deep

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Lovely, Dark, and Deep*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne, Amanda Wakaruk, Paul Weimer, Chris M. Barkley

Here are my thoughts: OK.

D.3 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka a.k.a. The Boy and the Heron

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Kimitachi wa dô ikiru ka a.k.a. The Boy and the Heron*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne

Here are my thoughts: If they had asked, I'd have co-signed. This is an excellent example of an extension that makes total sense.

I'm all for it!



D.4 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Gojira – 1.0 a.k.a. Godzilla Minus One

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Gojira – 1.0 a.k.a. Godzilla Minus One*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne, Amanda Wakaruk

Here are my thoughts: No doubt. This is a fantastic film, and the narrow window is a good reason.

D.5 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Mars Express

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Mars Express*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne

Here are my thoughts: Programming film festivals has benefits, and getting to see Mars Express was one of them. It might not be my cup of tea, but it deserves a shot.

D.6 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Tiger Stripes

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Tiger Stripes*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne

Here are my thoughts: I have no specific thoughts, but I trust Cora and Olav enough to go with their judgment.

D.7 Hugo Eligibility Extension for Mollie and Max in the Future

Moved, to extend for one year the Hugo Award eligibility of the movie *Mollie and Max in the Future*, based on limited availability, as authorized by Section 3.4.3 of the WSFS Constitution.

Proposed by: Cora Buhlert, Olav Rokne, Amanda Wakaruk

Here are my thoughts: Yes.

D.8 MPC Funding Request

Resolved, That the WSFS Business Meeting requests that Worldcons donate US \$1.00 per WSFS member, and non-Worldcon conventions sanctioned by WSFS donate US \$0.30 per attending or supporting member, to the MPC to fund the committee's operations.

Proposed by: The Mark Protection Committee

Here are my...well, their thoughts:

Discussion: The MPC is and always has been dependent on voluntary donations from conventions for its funding. Other sources of income are insignificant. Decades ago, a donation of \$0.50 per site selection voter was suggested based on what the continuing expenses of the MPC were then. But continuing expenses have increased for the growing number of mark registrations in a growing number of jurisdictions, legal expenses, computer services, domain names, insurance, and inflation. Furthermore, the number of site selection voters is more volatile than the number of WSFS members or attendees. For example, there are usually fewer voters when site selection is uncontested. So this resolution suggests a donation based on membership. 2024 WSFS Business Meeting Minutes Page 16 of 98 Note that the MPC does not normally ask conventions for money until after the convention has concluded and it is reasonably clear they can afford it.

The guideline amounts in this resolution are based on the continuing expenses of the MPC projecting a few years into the future. Such payments to the MPC, when made, would continue to be voluntary contributions.

OK, now Here are my thoughts: This makes a lot of sense, and is coming from the Mark Protection Committee which is the party that knows its needs the most.

I also have a lot of problems with the MPC right now, like how they don't actually seem to manage the marks in a clear way, like how the licensees, the individual WorldCons, are on the board which would be like the director of Kenner being on the board of Disney because they licensed the Star Wars characters for actions figures, and also including how they've not released the full minutes of the February meeting where there was a great deal of action (Kevin Standlee stepping down as chair, censure motions, etc) but if we want them to operate, they do need a real budget. This should be an adequate number for the time being. I'll be honest, I'd much rather see this fixed by a WSFS, Inc. instead of the current MPC structure, but as it is, and where we are, I'm for it, though I'm still looking at the MPC as something that needs a bit of fixin'.

D.9 Business Meeting Study Group

Resolved, to establish a Study Group to review the rules governing the conduct of and participation in the WSFS Business Meeting, to report back with specific recommendations to the 2025 WSFS Business Meeting. The scope of the Study Group shall include:

1. Assessment of alternatives to Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR) as the basis for the conduct of the Business Meeting
2. Assessment of the options for remote participation by Members in the Business Meeting, at three possible levels (a) observation only (b) contributing to debate (speaking), (c) participating in votes
3. Assessment of the options for scheduling the Business Meeting separately from the Worldcon (subject to (2) since this would presumably require it to be a wholly online meeting).

For each topic, any recommendations made by the Study Group should include a clear assessment of the consequences, benefits and drawbacks of the proposed approach compared to the existing approach.

Note from Business Meeting staff: When a committee is created, if the membership of the committee, or a process for electing the membership, is not specified in the motion, it is the custom of the Business Meeting that the Presiding Officer selects a chairperson (normally the proposer of the motion, if they are interested) and the committee membership is constituted of anyone who expresses interest in joining.

Proposed by: Farah Mendlesohn, Colin Harris, Jared Dashoff, Gareth Kavanagh

Here are my thoughts - Yes. Absolutely yes. Hell, I'd serve on the committee if they'd have me. Farah has been talking about this for a while, and I think she has a good view of both the benefits and limitations that not only Roberts Rules presents, but other systems.

D.10 Hugo Process Study Committee

Resolved, that there be a Hugo Process Study Committee that shall report back to the 2025 Business Meeting with recommendations and proposed amendments. The remit of this committee shall include, but not be limited to: employing thirdparties to administer, oversee, and/or audit the Hugo Awards and the financial implications thereof; other options for independent oversight of the Hugo Awards; creation of a whistleblower process and protections; and how such processes might affect the site selection process.

The leadership and membership of this committee will be determined by the Presiding Officer.

Proposed by: James Bacon, Chris Garcia, Randall Shepard, Ian Stockdale, Sara Felix, Marguerite Smith

Here are my thoughts: Yes, that's my name up there. This one, drafted by James and co-signed by some folks I respect the hell

out of, is important to me in a lot of ways. I think the Hugos are the most important part of WorldCons, and we've had some doozies happen in recent years (Including this one) and we need some guidance.

The point of the committee in my eyes, is fairly simple: figure out where we've been going wrong and how to stop it, as well as who should be looking over administrators' shoulders. I'm big on the auditor idea, and I know that some folks, including former admins, are dead-set against outside folk taking over the reigns, but I think we need to give a serious look at it.

D.11 Statement of Values for Transparency and Fair Treatment

From the Business Meeting staff: The text of this resolution has been removed, per the reasoning stated in the introduction of this agenda. This resolution, in summary, reads as a censure of certain groups and named individuals over the administration of the 2023 Hugo Awards. It was submitted by Chris Garcia, James Bacon, Frank Wu, Chris Barkley, Steve Davidson, Kirsten Berry, Chuck Serface, Paul Weimer, Andrew E. Love, Claudia Beach, Nina Shepardson, Bonnie McDaniel, Tobes Valois, and Linda Robinette.

And

D.12 Chengdu Censure

From the Business Meeting staff: The text of this resolution has been removed, per the reasoning stated in the introduction to this agenda. This resolution, in summary, is a censure of certain groups and named individuals over the administration of the 2023 Hugo Awards. It was submitted by Terri Ash, Kevin Sonney, Cliff Dunn, and Kristina Forsyth

Let's get into it.

This had to be done in an Executive Session for a couple of very simple reasons: no one wants the con to get sued, and these are, but Business Meeting standards, hot potatoes.

You see Scotland, bless it, has ridiculous Defamation Laws, which actually make it a place people travel to so they can file brutal suits against people elsewhere. Even when compared to England, whose Defamation laws are also dumb, they're brutal. I can 100% see why they set an Executive Session up to discuss these. You can find the text for both motions if you wanna; mine's on File 770, the other on the WorldCon Business Meeting Discord.

Here's a bit from the Agenda written by their staff that explains the Resolutions that will be in Executive Sessions:

Regarding Censure Resolutions

Two of the items submitted to the Business Meeting are motions of censure regarding the 2023 Hugo Awards which make statements about the administration of the 2023 Hugo Awards and the persons involved. We are concerned that publication of these items, as well as public debate about them in Glasgow 2024 spaces, will bring us out of compliance with Scottish libel and defamation law and expose Glasgow 2024, the World Science Fiction Society (WSFS), and/or its members to significant legal liability. However, the World Science Fiction Society also has the clear right to hold its members accountable for their conduct and do so as transparently as possible.

After much consideration and deliberation, and while waiting for additional legal counsel to ensure adherence to Scottish law, we have decided to handle these items as follows:

- 1) Due to concerns about compliance with Scottish law, Glasgow 2024 will not publish the text of these resolutions in the publicly available agenda. The resolutions' titles and proposers are listed in the agenda, and the proposers are free to distribute the text prior to the convention to anyone who expresses interest.

2) WSFS does not have a specific process to address resolutions of censure or disciplinary proceedings. In the absence of WSFS-specific procedures, we are using the procedures within Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. This is the most fair and transparent way to handle these matters. Any other course of action would require Business Meeting staff to arbitrarily create a process. Therefore, as required by Robert's Rules, because these resolutions are about conduct outside the Business Meeting, we will treat them as a motion to form a committee on investigation as the first step in disciplinary proceedings. This committee would conduct an investigation into the allegations contained in the resolutions - including a reasonable attempt to speak with the members accused - and report back to the 2025 Business Meeting in Seattle, USA.

3) These items will be considered at the Preliminary Business Meeting on Friday, 9 2024 WSFS Business Meeting Minutes Page 3 of 98 August 2024. In order to shield members of the society from defamation liability, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised requires all proceedings related to these resolutions and the motion to refer to a committee on investigation to be handled in executive session. This means that the content of these proceedings must not be divulged to people who are not members of WSFS, and as such, the details of debate will not be published in the publicly available minutes, nor will this section of the meeting be contained in the posted recording of the Business Meeting. As the convention livestream is not members-only (virtual tickets are available without purchasing a WSFS membership), the livestream also will cease while in executive session.

a) The text of the resolutions will be provided to attendees once the meeting has moved into executive session.

b) While the resolution to form a committee on investigation may be debated and amended, it will still not be appropriate to discuss specific

allegations or insinuations. The debate must be focused on the committee's formation, not the subjects of its investigation. The rules of debate exist to shield members from liability and must be adhered to even in executive session.

c) When a meeting is in executive session, minutes are still recorded. However, those minutes are themselves considered confidential, and may only be read if the society enters back into executive session. Because WSFS does not have permanent officers to hold onto such minutes, the Secretary will prepare the minutes and submit them to the Secretary of the Mark Protection Committee and the Chair of the 2025 Worldcon

4) If and when the motion to create a committee on investigation is adopted, the Business Meeting will leave executive session. Members will be allowed to nominate any member of the society, including those not present, to the committee on investigation. Per Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, committee members should be "selected for known integrity and good judgment." The Presiding Officer will recommend that the committee be made up of seven people, but this can be amended as part of the motion to create the committee.

5) Those nominated who were not present at the meeting will have until 17:00 BST to submit their consent to be nominated to businessmeeting@glasgow2024.org (this will be the same as the deadline for submitting consent for nomination to the Mark Protection Committee). For members not present, it is the responsibility of the nominator to inform the nominee of their nomination so that the nominee may indicate their consent; consent to nomination may be submitted in advance of the meeting. Balloting will occur the following day, Saturday, 10 August 2024, and will follow the balloting procedures for the Mark Protection Committee election. Ballots will be available at the Business Meeting at a designated timeframe, which will be communicated in advance.

Members may choose to attend the Business Meeting in person for the sole purpose of casting a ballot.

6) The Business Meeting staff will serve as the tellers for the election, except that any staff who appear on the ballot will not serve as tellers. The results of the election will be announced at the Sunday, 11 August 2024 Business Meeting once the Site Selection portion of the meeting is completed.

We are aware that there will be a robust discussion in the time between the publication of this agenda and the Business Meeting in Glasgow, and we encourage that discussion. We believe these procedures will allow us to balance the rights of members to speak on difficult subjects; the rights of members to hold each other accountable for behavior that could harm the society; the rights of members (both present and absent) not to be defamed; the need to protect members, the society, and the convention from liability; and the good name of the society.

D.13 Apology

WHEREAS *Babel* (Best Novel), “Color the World” (Best Novelette), “Fongong Temple Pagoda” (Best Short Story), *The Sandman* (Best Dramatic Presentation - Long Form), *The Sandman* (“The Sound of Her Wings”) (Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form), and Paul Weimer (Best Fan Writer) were excluded from the Hugo Awards finalist list, and Xiran Jay Zhao from the Astounding Award finalist list, for the 2023 Worldcon for reasons not found in the Constitution; and

WHEREAS the invalidation of these nominees voided not less than 1,834 nominations; and

WHEREAS in not less than four categories, the Hugo Award nomination results listed more votes in the ninth-to-last round of nominee elimination than nominating ballots cast; and

WHEREAS an unknown and unquantifiable number of ballots for other works, mostly by Chinese authors or creators, were excluded because of alleged "slate voting"; and

WHEREAS the Chengdu Hugo Administration Committee choosing to cite "the rules that we must follow" with no further elaboration is unacceptably vague; and

WHEREAS upon being confronted with these irregularities, neither the Chengdu Worldcon Concom nor the Hugo Administrator for the Chengdu Worldcon offered further explanation for these irregularities;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the World Science Fiction Society apologizes unreservedly to all nominees, finalists, and winners of the 2023 Hugo Awards for the administration of the Chengdu Worldcon Hugo Administration Committee and any harm which may result from that; and

The World Science Fiction Society specifically apologizes to R.F. Kuang, author of *Babel*; Congyun "Mu Ming" Gu, author of "Color the World"; Hai Ya, author of "Fongong Temple Pagoda"; Neil Gaiman, author/writer for *The Sandman*; Paul Weimer; and Xiran Jay Zhao for their extra-constitutional exclusion from the Hugo Award Finalist ballot and/or Astounding Award ballot; and

The World Science Fiction Society apologizes unreservedly to the nominators and voters of the 2023 Hugo Awards for the administration of the Hugo Awards process;

The World Science Fiction Society declares that notwithstanding their extraconstitutional exclusion from the Final Ballot, the above-listed works and/or creators shall be considered to be valid finalists, and furthermore that said Finalists should be included in all official lists of Hugo Award Finalists and shall otherwise be considered Finalists for all other purposes related to the World Science Fiction Society and/or any Worldcon hereafter;

and The World Science Fiction Society requests that Dell Publications permit Xiran Jay Zhao to be added to the list of finalists for the Astounding Award for Best New Author.

Proposed by: Kristina Forsyth, Cliff Dunn

Here are my thoughts: Other than the absolute wordiness of the motion, it says many (SO MANY) of the right things, but it's also not an apology, and that's where some might turn against it. It is about adding names not nominated in as nominees, and then titling it 'Apology' which somewhat hides the major impact that the resolution would have.

Theoretically.

Those last two paragraphs will hinder this being a slam-dunk acceptance. I'm not sure how I feel about that portion, it both is and is not a re-write of history. I think there will be some questions on this one, and I'm leaning towards being in favor, but there's another one later that has ties to this one that I think has the same problem.

D.14 Make Them Finalists

Resolved, that notwithstanding their disqualification by the Hugo Administrator Team of the 2023 Worldcon, Babel (Best Novel), "Color the World" (Best Novelette), "Fogong Temple Pagoda" (Best Short Story), *The Sandman* (Best Dramatic Presentation - Long Form), *The Sandman* ("The Sound of Her Wings") (Best Dramatic Presentation - Short Form), and Paul Weimer (Best Fan Writer), are deemed to have been designated by the Worldcon community as finalists for the 2023 Hugo Awards; Xiran Jay Zhao is deemed to have been designated by the Worldcon community as a finalist for the Astounding Award; and

Therefore, the aforementioned people and/or works shall be entitled to be listed as being finalists for a Hugo Award and/or Astounding Award, and shall be

formally indicated as Hugo Award Finalists and/or Astounding Finalists in any and all relevant publications.

Proposed by: Terri Ash, Kevin Sonney, Cliff Dunn, Erica Frank

Here are my thoughts: Nope. I get what they're trying to do (and repeating the previous portion, which I assume is an idea in case the first one doesn't pass, the second one that has only the meat of the first is considered, and if the previous passes, it moots this one, really) and when it's just the part of the previous motion that I had questions on, it fails in my eyes. Still, I hope the Apology motion passes, without that apology language (so much language!), this one I hope doesn't...even though it is much shorter!

OVERALL - These are the most contentious of the matters. There are some that are important, and some that apparently are dangerous. Only one or two are questionable in my eyes. I hope there is lively debate where there can be, and I hope that we see real consideration given to all of them. I fear some will get swept up in externals, which often happens, and I hope we all understand that each of these things is well thought-out.

E. Business Passed On

See the agenda and minutes from the Business Meeting of first passage (<https://www.wsfs.org/rules-of-the-world-science-fiction-society/archive-of-wsfs-rules/>) for commentary.

The following items received first passage at Chengdu Worldcon 2023 and must be ratified at Glasgow 2024 in order to become part of the Constitution.

E.1 Marks Authorization

Article 2 – Powers and Duties of ~~Worldcon~~ Convention Committees

Section 2.2: Marks

2.2.1: Selected Convention Committees are authorized to use the WSFS Marks to the extent necessary and customary to run their Convention. The Mark Protection Committee may provide more detailed guidance.

2.2.2: Every ~~Worldcon and NASFiC~~ selected Convention Committee shall include a notice in each of its publications that clearly acknowledges the service marks of the Society. The Mark Protection Committee shall supply each ~~Worldcon~~ selected Convention committee with the correct form of such notice.

Here are my thoughts: 'eh. I don't really care. This seems like a thing done in case ASFiC happens.

E.2 Business Meeting Contingencies

Section 1.8: Membership of the Mark Protection Committee

1.8.1: The Mark Protection Committee shall consist of:

(1) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected Worldcon Committee and each of the two (2) immediately preceding Worldcon Committees,

(2) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected NASFiC Committee and for each Committee of a NASFiC held in the previous two years, and

(3) Nine (9) members elected three (3) each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting. However, if such an election is not held due to a Business

Meeting not being held or not being quorate or any other reason, the term of office of all elected Mark Protection Committee members shall be extended by one Worldcon year.

Section 5.1: WSFS Business Meetings.

5.1.1: Business Meetings of WSFS shall be held at advertised times at each Worldcon. However, if such a Business Meeting is not held, then any

reports to be submitted to that Business Meeting shall be submitted to the next subsequent Business Meeting and the ratification vote on any constitutional amendment shall be similarly postponed.

5.1.5: The quorum for the Business Meeting shall be twelve members of the Society physically present. A Business Meeting that is not quorate may nevertheless receive reports, but the ratification vote on any constitutional amendment shall be postponed until the next subsequent Business Meeting.

Section 6.6: Amendment.

The WSFS Constitution may be amended by a motion passed by a simple majority at any Business Meeting but



only to the extent that such motion is ratified by a simple majority at the Business Meeting of the **next** subsequent Worldcon **at which ratification is not postponed as per subsection 5.1.1 or 5.1.5.**

Here are my thoughts thoughts: No. The MPC membership needs to change and it needs to change in a meaningful way. The individual cons must not have representation unless they are observers. They should not have a vote. We also need to clearly state who can authorize Mark use at what level. I get it, this amendment wasn't meant to do that, but dammit, it's time we made sense! The changes here are OK, honestly they are small, but if we do not fix the make-up of the MPC, we are not doing the right thing.

E.3 Consistent Change

Section 1.5: Memberships.

1.5.4: Members of WSFS who cast a site-selection ballot with the required fee shall be **supporting WSFS** members **of for** the selected Worldcon.

1.5.6: The Worldcon Committee shall make provision for persons to become **supporting WSFS** members for no more than one hundred and twenty-five percent (125%) of the site-selection fee, or such higher amount as has been approved by the Business Meeting, until a cutoff date no earlier than ninety (90) days before their Worldcon.

1.5.8: No convention committee shall sell a membership that includes any WSFS voting rights for less than the cost of the **Supporting-WSFS** Membership required by Article 4 in the selection of that convention.

1.5.10: No convention shall terminate the sale of ~~supporting~~ WSFS memberships prior to the close of site selection.

Section 4.2: Voter Eligibility.

4.2.1: Voting shall be limited to WSFS members of the administering convention who have purchased at least a ~~supporting~~ WSFS membership in the Worldcon whose site ~~is and committee are~~ being selected.

4.2.2: The ~~supporting~~ WSFS membership rate for the convention being selected shall be set by unanimous agreement of the current Worldcon Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the US dollar fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

Section 4.4: Ballots.

4.4.1: Site-selection ballots shall include name, signature, address, and membership-number spaces. The ballot should be filled in by the voter; however, if the voter does not have their membership number, it may be supplied by the Site Selection Administrator or their designated staff member. Each site-selection ballot shall list the options "None of the Above" and "No Preference" and provide for write-in votes, after the bidders and with equal prominence. The ~~supporting~~ WSFS membership rate shall be listed on all site-selection ballots.

Section 4.8: NASFiC

4.8.3: The proposed NASFiC ~~supporting membership rate~~ advance voting fee can be set by unanimous agreement of the administering Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot

deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the US dollar fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

4.8.4: If "None of the Above" wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no NASFiC shall be held, and any **supporting membership payments advance voting fees** collected for the NASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.

Here are my thoughts: This one could be mooted next year by one of this year's proposals later on in the agenda. Thus, I kinda hope this doesn't go through so we don't have to do it again.

E.4 Convention Time Bracket

Article 4 - Future Worldcon Selection

4.X Time Bracket. A selected convention must be held between 20 June and 20 December, and should consult with their successor if after 30 September, of the year for which it is selected, unless some deviation from this is authorized under Section 2.6 of the Constitution.

Here are my thoughts: OK, let me think on this some more. Yes, I see having a bounding of the time frame being a positive because two WorldCons close together does put a financial burden on regulars who might want to attend both. Then again, it also allows for more customization to have no bounding, which could allow, say, a WorldCon to coincide with a cool festival that happens outside that bounding (I think of that cool French music festival during Montreal, and how rad would it be to have a WorldCon tied in with a major film festival like Toronto?) I'm a dither

on this one, but might be leaning against. It is still half a year when it can happen.

E.5 Bid Committee Contactability

Article 4 - Future Worldcon Selection

Section 4.4: Ballots

4.4.x: Site-selection ballots shall, with each bid qualifying to be on the ballot, include that bid's postal and email addresses.

Section 4.6: Bid Eligibility.

4.6.1: To be eligible for site selection, a bidding committee must file the following documents with the Committee that will administer the voting:

- (1) an announcement of intent to bid along with the name of the bid committee and its postal and email addresses;
- (2) adequate evidence of an agreement with its proposed site's facilities, such as a conditional contract or a letter of agreement;
- (3) the rules under which the Worldcon Committee will operate, including a specification of the term of office of their chief executive officer or officers and the conditions and procedures for the selection and replacement of such officer or officers.

Here are my thoughts - OK, I can see this one making sense. It's also not a huge change.

E.6 Ballot Completeness

Article 4 - Future Worldcon Selection Section 4.4: Ballots

4.4.1: Site-selection ballots shall include name, signature, postal address, email address, and membership-number spaces, and may include a telephone number space. The ballot should be filled in by the voter; however, if the voter does not have their membership number, it may be supplied by the Site Selection Administrator or their designated staff member. Ballots omitting name, signature, or postal address may only be counted as "No Preference". Each site-selection ballot shall list the options "None of the Above" and "No Preference" and provide for write-in votes, after the bidders and with equal prominence. The supporting membership rate shall be listed on all site-selection ballots.

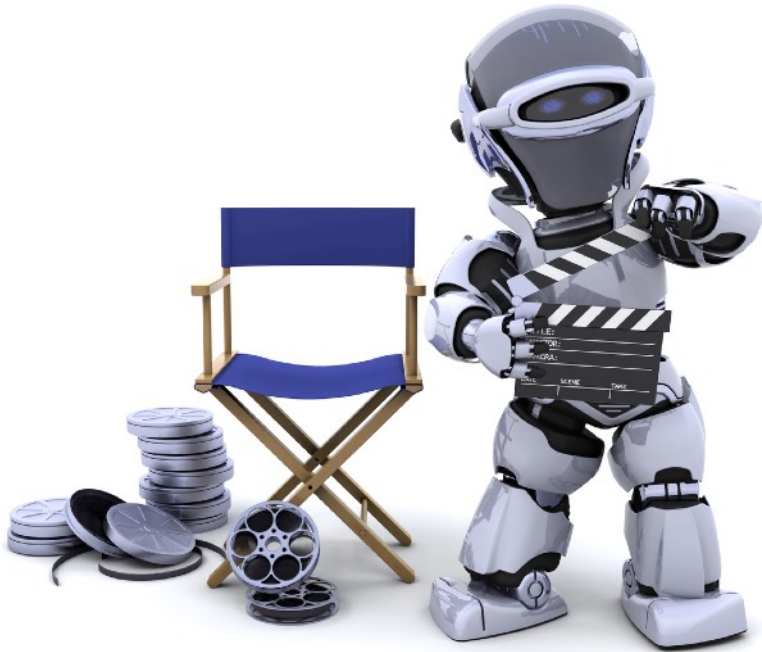
Here are my thoughts: Fuck. This. There are a couple of things on the agenda that appear as a reaction to the Chengdu election in 2021. On the surface, this looks good, right? We can only make sure a person is a real person if we have a postal address, right? We have to get rid of ones that don't, mark them as No Preference.

Let me be clear, there are parts of the world that don't work like the West (this is gonna come up a few times and in a few different ways) and Postal Addresses don't always exist. The argument that 'Well, then we're just allowing anyone with a little extra money to buy a WorldCon' is both true, and utter crap. Winnipeg got outplayed; Chengdu ran an incredible race, and beat them. Period. Yes, some of the ballots were irregular, and that's because people who were unfamiliar with the form

and format were voting. That's on us, frankly, for not making the process easier and clearer. Chengdu won because they did an incredible streaming series that brought in interest.

Now, I'm taking a big ol' side-step to take about an elephant that just walked into the room. The 2024 Hugos had an incident, effecting one category, where someone or some group bought 377 supporting memberships and bullet-voted for a single nominee. They bought sequential memberships, and filled in names like 'John Smith' followed by 'John Amith', then 'John Bmith' and 'John Cmith' and on and on. There are several that are the Chinese words for the numbers one through seven. Someone did it, the Hugo Admins caught it, and they disqualified the votes. This was a legit case of attempted vote rigging, and it came up short. Here, the attempt at it was done in a stupid way, and there is rampant speculation about who did it and whether it was done to harm an nominee or to help them. Doesn't matter too much which, honestly. I feared it was a Puppy attempt, they had talked about pivoting towards the final ballot instead of trying to stack the ballot with their people, but I don't think it's that. I think it's more likely a publisher trying to help something they published, and I don't think it's a WorldCon regular publisher like Tor or Baen or Orbit or whatever. The amount of money to do it, about 17K pounds, makes it less likely that it's an individual, and the committee said that it did not appear that the nominee effected had anything to do with it.

Not that that's out of the way, and what I've already seen alluded to as why we need Fannish Voter ID Laws like the one mentioned here, I say something very important, my first real Value Statement of this issue - we are the World Science Fiction Convention. We need to make space for a full set of different living styles, concepts, and that might not always include postal addresses. This is straight-up a reaction to Winnipeg losing, and a dumb one.



E.7 Independent Films Article 3 - Hugo Awards

3.3.X: Best Independent Short Film Award. Awarded to science fiction or fantasy productions presented in the short film format (under 45 minutes) for the first time in the previous calendar year. The films should NOT be funded by a Major studio or distribution label/platform/Streamer. Films can be funded by national film/arts grants like the BFI or TeleCanada. The award should not include broadcast or streaming television series episodes.

3.3.X+1: Best Independent Feature Film Award. Awarded to science fiction or fantasy productions presented in the long film format (over 61 minutes) for the first time in the previous calendar year. The films should NOT be funded

by a Major studio or distribution label/platform/Streamer. Films can be funded by national film/arts grants like the BFI or TeleCanada.

Provided that unless the above section is re-ratified by the 2027 Business Meeting, this Section shall be repealed; and

Provided further that the question of re-ratification shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2027 Business Meeting.

Here are my thoughts - We need this. This Ain't Perfect, but it's good enough for me. True, I'd much prefer a Best Fannish Presentation category, and the definition here is difficult, but there are so many smaller films that would qualify. For example, Hundreds of Beavers would qualify, and it was the best film I saw in 2023. I program film festivals that have dozens of science fiction and fantasy shorts that could compete given a little breathing room. I doubt this will pass, and I'm sad about that, but I really think we need a specific way to recognize these incredible films.

E.8 Eligibility Criteria for Non-English Work Article 3 - Hugo Awards

3.2.X: The Worldcon committee can establish a conversion ratio between the word count in a specific language and the number of English words. Nomination categories for written works shall be determined based on the converted English word count.

Here are my thoughts: OK, this seems good. I know from working on the Chinese SF issue of Journey Planet that word count (and column inches) are not universal.

E.9 Best Fancast Not Paying Compensation Article 3 - Hugo Awards

3.3.15: Best Fancast. Any generally available non-professional audio or video periodical devoted to science fiction, fantasy, or related subjects that by the close of the previous calendar year has released four (4) or more episodes, at least one (1) of which appeared in the previous calendar year, ~~and that does not qualify as a dramatic presentation.~~ and that does not in the previous calendar year meet either of the following criteria:

- (1) qualify as a dramatic presentation, or
- (2) paid its contributors or staff monetarily.



Here are my thoughts: I am, in general, in favor of this one. I get that there are difficult matters that complicate this, the big one is Patreon, but I think that the general idea should be that Fancasts are not paying markets, as it were.

E.10 Language Requirement Article 3 - Hugo Awards

3.4.1: A work originally appearing in a language other than ~~English~~ the main languages of the countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons shall also be eligible for the year in which it is first issued in ~~English~~ translation to a main language of the countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons.

3.4.2: Works originally published outside the ~~United States of America~~ countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons and first published in the ~~United States of America~~ countries of the administering and prior year Worldcons in the previous calendar year shall also be eligible for Hugo Awards.

Here are my thoughts: this is fine.

E.11 Convention Generalization

Replace all occurrences through the Constitution of ~~Worldcon or NASFiC~~ and all occurrences of ~~Worldcon and NASFiC~~ with ~~selected convention~~.

In addition, amend Section 2.8 as follows:

Section 2.8: Financial Openness. Any member of WSFS shall have the right, under reasonable conditions, to examine the financial records and books of account of the current ~~Worldcon or NASFiC Committee~~ ~~selected~~

conventions, all future selected ~~Worldcon or NASFiC Committees~~ conventions, ~~the two immediately preceding Worldcon Committees, and the Committees of any NASFiCs held in the~~ and all previous selected conventions back through the most recent two years.

Here are my thoughts: This could end up mooted, but if not, it's good for consistency.

E.12 Establishment of ASFiC Section 1.2: Objectives

Section 1.2: (4) To choose the locations and Committees for the occasional North American Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as NASFiCs) and Asia Science Fiction Conventions (hereinafter referred to as ASFiCs).

Article 4 - Future Worldcon Selection

4.X: ASFiC. If the selected Worldcon site is not in Asia, there shall be an ASFiC in Asia that year. Selection of the ASFiC shall be by the identical procedure to the Worldcon selection except as provided below or elsewhere in this Constitution:

4.X.1: Voting shall be by written ballot administered by the following year's Worldcon, if there is no ASFiC in that year, or by the following year's ASFiC, if there is one, with ballots cast at the administering convention or by mail, and with only members of the administering convention allowed to vote.

4.X.2: ASFiC Committees shall make all reasonable efforts to avoid conflicts with Worldcon dates.

4.X.3: The proposed ASFiC supporting membership rate can be set by unanimous agreement of the administering

Committee and all bidding committees who have filed before the ballot deadline. If agreement is not reached, the default fee shall be the median (middle value) of the fees used in the previous three (3) Worldcon site selections.

4.X.4: If "None of the Above" wins, or if no eligible bid files by the deadline, then no ASFiC shall be held, and any supporting membership payments collected for the ASFiC site selection shall be refunded by the administering convention without undue delay.

4.X.5: For the purposes of this Constitution, Asia is defined as the area bounded to the north by the Arctic Ocean, to the east by the Pacific Ocean, to the south by the Indian Ocean, and to the west by the Ural Mountains, the Ural River, the Caspian Sea, the Caucasus Mountains, the Black Sea, the Aegean Sea, the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Arabian Sea.

Provided that unless this amendment is re-ratified by the 2029 Business Meeting, the above changes shall be repealed effective with the end of the 2029 Worldcon but any previously selected ASFiC will remain an ASFiC; and

Provided further that the question of re-ratification shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2029 Business Meeting.

Here are my thoughts: I'm absolutely thrilled with this one. The fact is, Asia is a place where WorldCons should be more often (Yes, I have reservations about a near-term China bid, but there's a LOT more there than location!) and I think bringing Asia into the WSFS fold more by having a WSFS-labeled convention is a great idea! It's doubtful there would be a WorldCon in Manilla, for example, but might be space for an ASFiC.



F. New Constitutional Amendments

Items under this heading have not yet received first passage and will become part of the Constitution only if passed at Glasgow 2024 and ratified at Seattle Worldcon 2025. The Preliminary Business Meeting may amend items under this heading, set debate time limits, refer them to committee, and take other action as permitted under the Standing Rules.

F.1 Missing In Action

Moved, to amend Section 1.5.2 of the WSFS Constitution as follows:

WSFS memberships held by natural persons may not be transferred, except in the following circumstances: (a) when a person purchases a WSFS membership for someone without providing a name or accidentally purchases a duplicate membership. That membership may be transferred only prior to the opening of Hugo Award nominations in the winning convention, and (b) ~~that, in the case of death of a~~ if a natural person holding a WSFS membership dies, ~~it~~ the WSFS membership may be transferred to the estate of the decedent.

Proposed by: Linda Deneroff, Alexia Hebel, and Kevin Standlee

Here are my thoughts: OK, I'm in the minority, and I know the arguments against it, but we should be offering transfers AND refunds up until a certain point, likely 60 to 90 days prior. If we're not going to do that, transfers make sense. Yes, this could play into the recent unpleasantness with Hugo voting, but honestly, to refuse refunds is a bad thing. The thing that bugs me is that we live in a time when there are systems that deal with these things so easily. There are open source membership tracking systems that deal with transfers easily. The Museum I worked at used one (well, two, as we evolved over the years) and they're hit-or-miss, but they are easily worked with.

F.2 The Way We Were

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Replace ~~WSFS Membership~~ with **Supporting Membership** wherever it appears in the Constitution, and to replace ~~Attending Supplement~~ with **Attending Membership**, including all similar variations of the words (e.g., WSFS Memberships, WSFS members, attending supplement) to their grammatically correct replacements.

Proposed by: Linda Deneroff, Alexia Hebel, Kevin Standlee, and Kevin Black

Here are my thoughts: This idea of a 'WSFS' membership was a neat thought, but until we're doing more than just the WorldCon with this idea, it's just a confusion. Now, if we used it as a single WSFS Membership serves as your supporting to all the WSFS-branded cons, WorldCon, NASFiC, ASFiCs, then there's something there.

F.3 Required License Agreement

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

4.6.1 Bid Eligibility

(4) an executed copy, binding the bidding and prospective convention operating committee, of the most recent **WSFS Mark Licensing Agreement** that has been approved by a two-thirds vote of the **Mark Protection**



Committee.

4.5.6: Where a site and Committee are chosen by a Business Meeting or Worldcon Committee following a win by "None of the Above," they are not restricted by exclusion zone or other qualifications **except that the selected committee must execute the required WSFS Mark Licensing Agreement.**

Proposed by: The Mark Protection Committee

Here are my thoughts: Yes. There needs to be a formal signed binding agreement and a clear process for obtaining, exercising, and ending such an agreement.

F.4 MPC Procedures

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 1.7: The Mark Protection Committee

1.7.4: The Mark Protection Committee shall determine and elect its own officers, **which shall include a Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers need not be elected or appointed members of the Mark Protection Committee, which may provide that the holder of an Office who was not so elected or appointed be a non-voting ex officio member of the Committee.**

1.7.x: Meetings of the Mark Protection Committee shall be held with at least 3 days' notice either on the initiative of the Chair or within 7 days of a request by five members. The meeting shall be called by the Chair or, in their absence, the Secretary or, in the absence of both the Chair and the Secretary, any member may call a meeting.

1.7.y: A quorum of the Mark Protection Committee shall be a majority of its members. Members may attend through the use of any means of communication by which all members participating may simultaneously hear each other during the meeting, including in person, internet video meeting or by telephonic conference call.

Section 1.8: Membership of the Mark Protection Committee

1.8.x: Elected members of the Mark Protection Committee may be removed only by a two-thirds vote of that committee.

Moved by: The Mark Protection Committee

Here are my thoughts: No. The MPC needs to be re-worked, ideally to all members being elected and Convention Committee reps being non-voting observing members. If that last part had the word 'Elected' removed, and maybe added verbiage about any removed member being unable to be elected or appointed for 5 years, I'd be for it. Plus, this specifically takes the power out of the hands of the Business Meeting, which is a bad thing considering all that's happened this past year.

F.5 Transparency in Hugo Administration

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.8.2: The Worldcon Committee shall determine the eligibility of nominees and assignment to the proper category of works nominated in more than one category. Any moves or disqualifications conducted under this section shall be published and explained with the

statistics published as required in section 3.12.3 of this document.

[...]

3.8.6: If there are more than two works in the same category that are episodes of the same dramatic presentation series or that are written works that have an author for single author works, or two or more authors for co-authored works, in common, only the two works in each category that have the most nominations shall appear on the final ballot. The Worldcon Committee shall make reasonable efforts to notify those who would have been finalists in the absence of this subsection to provide them an opportunity to withdraw. For the purpose of this exclusion, works withdrawn shall be Ignored. All such withdrawals shall be published with the statistics published as required in section of 3.12.3 of this document.

Proposed by: Kate Secor, Kevin Sonney

Here are my thoughts: Yeah, makes sense.

F.6 Independent Hugo Administration

Moved,

1) to assign specific duties associated with Worldcons to a standing body that exists separately from the convention of Worldcon and has responsibility for maintaining the service marks of WSFS and associated items with due care and responsibility. This corporation shall be referred to in this document as WSFA, but may be renamed at the discretion of the Business Meeting at

the time of consideration of this motion. This corporation shall be formed by and shall assume all assets and responsibilities of the Mark Protection Committee and Worldcon Intellectual Property; and

2) amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Article 1 – Name, Objectives, Membership, and Organization

Section 1.3: Restrictions. No part of the Society's net earnings shall be paid to its members, officers, or other private persons except in furtherance of the Society's purposes. The Society shall not attempt to influence legislation or any political campaign for public office. Should the Society dissolve, its assets shall be distributed by ~~the current Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA or the appropriate court having jurisdiction, exclusively for charitable purposes. In this section, references to the Society include the ~~Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA and all other agencies of the Society but not convention bidding or operating committees.

[....]

Section 1.6: Authority.

1.6.1: Authority and responsibility for all matters concerning the Worldcon, except those reserved herein to WSFA, WSFS, or any of its committees established in this Constitution, shall rest with the Worldcon Committee, which shall act in its own name and not in that of WSFS or WSFA.

1.6.2: The Worldcon Committee may elect to hold a Hugo Award Ceremony to present the Hugo Awards, although it is not required to do so. Holding such a

ceremony does not include any right to be included in the administration of the Hugo Awards

Section 1.7: ~~The Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA

1.7.1: ~~There shall be a Mark Protection Committee of WSFS, which~~ WSFA shall be responsible for registration and protection of the marks used by or under the authority of WSFS and the administration of the Hugo Awards.

1.7.2: ~~The Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA shall submit to the Business Meeting at each Worldcon a report of its activities since the previous Worldcon, including a statement of income and expense.

1.7.3: ~~The Mark Protection Committee shall hold a meeting at each Worldcon after the end of the Business Meeting, at a time and place announced at the Business Meeting.~~ WSFA shall meet, at a minimum, once a quarter, on a schedule to be published to all WSFS members at least fourteen (14) days before each meeting. These meetings shall be public, except when legal reasons may require a closed meeting.

1.7.4: ~~The Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA shall determine and elect its own officers at one of its quarterly meetings. This meeting will be noted in the

published schedule.

1.7.5: WSFA shall be responsible for arranging for the administration of each year's Hugo Awards as provided elsewhere in this Constitution. This may not be done by asking the current Worldcon to do such administration, to preserve independence.

1.7.6: WSFA shall be supported by mark licensing fees paid by each Worldcon, which shall amount to not more than 5% of a WSFS membership or 10% of an attending supplement per member of that Worldcon, and not less than the cost to maintain the service or trade marks for the year and any expenses associated with administering the Hugo Awards (and Site Selection, should the Worldcon elect to ask them to do so).

Section 1.8: Membership of ~~the Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA 1.8.1: ~~The Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA shall consist of:

(1) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected Worldcon Committee and each of the two (2) immediately preceding Worldcon Committees,

(2) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected NASFiC Committee and for each Committee of a NASFiC held in the previous two years, and (3) Nine (9) members elected three (3) each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting. And,

(4) Any hired staff (full- or part-time) WSFA chooses to employ for purposes such as legal, accounting, or other professional services.

1.8.2: Newly elected members take their seats, and the term of office ends for elected and appointed members whose terms expire that year, at the end of the Business Meeting.

1.8.3: If vacancies occur in elected memberships in ~~the Committee~~ WSFA, the remainder of the position's term may be filled by the Business Meeting, and until then temporarily filled by ~~the Committee~~ the remaining members of WSFA.

1.8.X: WSFA members other than paid staff may be recalled at any time by two-thirds vote of a WSFS Meeting. If this happens, they are not eligible for re-election or re-appointment for at least two (2) complete terms after the completion of the one in which they were recalled.

1.8.Y: WSFA may also choose to remove one of its own members by unanimous vote (excepting the member under consideration). In this case, the seated Worldcon shall be asked to provide a replacement member until the next WSFS Meeting can elect a replacement. This election shall be held regardless of how the removed member was appointed to WSFA.

1.8.Z: Paid WSFA staff may be let go only by two-third vote of WSFA members.

Article 2 – Powers and Duties of Worldcon Committees

Section 2.1: Duties. Each Worldcon Committee shall, in accordance with this Constitution, provide for

~~(1) administering the Hugo Awards,~~

~~(2)~~ (1) administering any future Worldcon or NASFiC site selection

required, and

~~(3)~~ (2) holding a WSFS Business Meeting.

The Worldcon may, at its discretion, ask WSFA to also administer any required site selection.

Section 2.2: Marks. Every Worldcon and NASFiC Committee shall include a notice in each of its publications that clearly acknowledges the service marks of the Society. ~~The Mark Protection Committee~~ WSFA

shall supply each Worldcon committee with the correct form of such notice.

Article 3 – Hugo Awards

Section 3.1: Introduction. Selection of the Hugo Awards shall be made as **provided in this Article.**

Section 3.2: General.

[....]

3.2.8: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall not consider previews, promotional trailers, commercials, public service announcements, or other extraneous material when determining the length of a work. Running times of dramatic presentations shall be based on their first general release.

3.2.9: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA may relocate a story into a more appropriate category if it feels that it is necessary, provided that the length of the story is within twenty percent (20%) of the new category limits.

[....]

3.2.11: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA may relocate a dramatic presentation work into a more appropriate category if it feels that it is necessary, provided that the length of the work is within twenty percent (20%) of the new category boundary.

[....]

3.2.13: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA is responsible for all matters concerning the Awards, **although the Worldcon may be asked to participate in marketing and distributing materials related to the Awards.**

3.2.X: Worldcon Committee shall make available to WSFA sufficient information, including mailing and electronic mail contact information for WSFS members of their Worldcon, to permit the WSFA to administer the Hugo Awards. WSFA shall exercise due care to protect this information and shall delete any such information after it is no longer needed to administer the Hugo Awards for a given year.

Section 3.3: Categories.

[....]

3.3.20 Additional Category.

3.3.20.1: Not more than one special category Special Category may be created by the current Worldcon Committee with nomination and voting to be the same as

3.3.20.2: The Worldcon Committee must inform WSFA of their intent to present a Special Category at least three hundred and thirty (330) days before the first day of that Worldcon.

3.3.20.3: WSFA may not create a Special Category unless requested to do so by the Worldcon Committee.

3.3.20.4: The Worldcon Committee is not required to create any such category Special Category; such action by a Worldcon Committee should be under exceptional circumstances only; and any Special Category created by one Worldcon Committee shall not be binding on following Committees or WSFA, following the year in which it was requested and duly administered.

3.3.20.5: Awards created under this paragraph section shall be considered to be Hugo Awards.

[....]

Section 3.5: Name and Design. ~~The Hugo Award shall continue to be standardized on the rocket ship design of Jack McKnight and Ben Jason as refined by Peter Weston. Each Worldcon Committee may select its own choice of base design. The name (Hugo Award) and the design shall not be extended to any other award.~~

3.5.1: The Hugo Award shall continue to be standardized on the rocket ship design of Jack McKnight and Ben Jason as refined by Peter Weston.

3.5.2: If the Worldcon Committee elects to hold a Hugo Award ceremony, it may select its own choice of base design. If they do so, manufacture of the award trophy and the distribution of trophies to the winners shall be the responsibility of the Worldcon Committee.

3.5.5: If the Worldcon Committee declines or is unable to hold a Hugo Award ceremony, WSFA must still publish the winners, nominees, and long list as provided for elsewhere in this document. WSFA may opt to hold a ceremony at a time and place of its choosing, including strictly virtually. All finalists shall be invited to any such ceremony.

3.5.6: The name (Hugo Award) "Hugo Award" and the design of the Hugo Award trophy rocket shall not be extended to any other award, including any other Awards presented by the Worldcon Committee.

Section 3.6: "No Award". At the discretion of ~~WSFA~~ ~~an individual Worldcon Committee~~, if the lack of nominations or final votes in a specific category shows a marked lack of interest in that category on the part of the voters, the Award in that category shall be canceled for that year.

Section 3.7: Nominations.

3.7.1: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall conduct a poll to select the finalists for the Award voting. Each member of the administering current Worldcon or the immediately preceding Worldcon as of January 31 of the current calendar year shall be allowed to make up to five (5) equally weighted nominations in every category.

3.7.2: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall include with each nomination ballot a copy of Article 3 of the WSFS Constitution and any applicable extensions of eligibility under Section 3.4. 3.7.3: Nominations shall be solicited only for the Hugo Awards, the *Astounding* Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book.

Section 3.8: Tallying of Nominations.

3.8.1: Except as provided below, the final Award ballots shall list in each category the six eligible nominees receiving the most nominations as determined by the process described in Section 3.9.

3.8.2: ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall determine the eligibility of nominees and assignment to the proper category of works nominated in more than one category.

3.8.3: If any series and a subset series thereof both receive sufficient nominations to appear on the final ballot, only the version which received more nominations shall appear.

3.8.4: Any nominations for "No Award" shall be disregarded.

3.8.5: If a nominee appears on a nomination ballot more than once in any one category, only one nomination shall be counted in that category.

3.8.6: If there are more than two works in the same category that are episodes of the same dramatic presentation series or that are written works that have an author for single author works, or two or more authors for co-authored works, in common, only the two works in each category that have the most nominations shall appear on the final ballot. ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall make reasonable efforts to notify those who would have been finalists in the absence of this subsection to provide them an opportunity to withdraw. For the purpose of this exclusion, works withdrawn shall be ignored.

3.8.7: ~~The Committee~~ WSFA shall move a nomination on an individual ballot from another category to the work's default category only if the member has made fewer than five (5) nominations in the default category.

3.8.8: If a work is eligible in more than one category, and if the work receives sufficient nominations to appear in more than one category, ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA shall determine in which category the work shall appear, based on the category in which it receives the most nominations.

3.8.9: If a work receives a nomination in its default category, and if ~~The Committee~~ WSFA relocates the work under its authority under subsection 3.2.9 or subsection 3.2.11, ~~The Committee~~ WSFA shall count the nomination even if the member already has made five (5) nominations in the more-appropriate category.

[....]

Section 3.10: Notification and Acceptance.

3.10.1 ~~Worldcon Committees~~ WSFA shall use reasonable efforts to notify the finalists, or in the case of deceased or

incapacitated persons, their heirs, assigns, or legal guardians, in each category prior to the release of such information. Each person notified shall be asked at that time to either accept or decline the nomination. If the person notified declines nomination, that finalist(s) shall not appear on the final ballot. The procedure for replacement of such finalist(s) is described in subsection 3.9.4.

3.10.2 In the Best Professional Artist category, the acceptance should include citations of at least three (3) works first published in the eligible year.

3.10.3 Each finalist in the categories of Best Fanzine and Best Semiprozine shall be required to provide information confirming that they meet the qualifications of their category.

Section 3.11: Voting.

3.11.1: **WSFA shall conduct** Final Award voting ~~shall be~~ by balloting in advance of the Worldcon. Postal Ballots cast by postal mail shall always be acceptable. Only WSFS members may vote. Final Award ballots shall include name, signature, address, and membership-number spaces to be filled in by the voter; however, if the voter does not have their membership number, it may be supplied by the Hugo Administrator or ~~their a~~ designated staff member **of WSFA**.

3.11.2: Final Award ballots shall list only the Hugo Awards, the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer, and the Lodestar Award for Best Young Adult Book.

3.11.3: "No Award" shall be listed in each category of Hugo Award on the final ballot.

3.11.4: ~~The Committee~~ WSFA shall, on or with the final ballot, designate, for each finalist in the printed fiction categories, one or more books, anthologies, or magazines in which the finalist appeared (including the book publisher or magazine issue date(s)).

3.11.5: Voters shall indicate the order of their preference for the finalists in each category.

Section 3.12: Tallying of Votes.

3.12.1: In each category, tallying shall be as described in Section 6.4. "No Award" shall be treated as a finalist. If all remaining finalists are tied, no tie-breaking shall be done and the finalists excluding "No Award" shall be declared joint winners.

3.12.2: "No Award" shall be the run-off candidate for the purposes of Section 6.5.

3.12.3: The complete numerical vote totals, including all preliminary tallies for first, second, . . . places, shall be made public by ~~The Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA within ninety (90) days after the Worldcon. During the same period, the results of the last ten rounds of the finalist selection process for each category (or all the rounds if there are fewer than ten) shall also be published.

Section 3.X: Hugo Award Administration Subcommittee.

3.X.1: WSFA shall each year appoint a Hugo Award Administration Subcommittee (HASC) consisting of eligible competent persons to administer the Hugo Awards for a given Worldcon.

3.X.2: Only WSFS members shall be eligible to join the HASC, regardless of any position in WSFA.

3.X.3: When the membership of the HASC has been selected and all selected members have agreed, the membership of the HASC shall be made public.

3.X.4: The HASC may consist of members of WSFA and/ or other persons. Members of the HASC shall serve at the pleasure of the WSFA, and may be removed by a majority vote of the members of WSFA at any time during term.

3.X.5: The HASC shall be responsible to WSFA regarding any decisions regarding eligibility and other interpretations of the Hugo Award rules in this Article, and shall publish a listing of such decisions and their rationales alongside the statistics required elsewhere in this Constitution.

3.X.6: The HASC shall have use of the existing WSFS websites and social media accounts currently controlled by the Mark Protection Committee.

Section 3.13: Exclusions.

No ~~serving~~ member of ~~the current Worldcon Committee~~ WSFA, the Hugo Award Administration Subcommittee, or any publications or other works closely connected with ~~those Committees~~ these persons shall be eligible for an Award. ~~However, should the Committee delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.~~

Section 3.14: Retrospective Hugo Awards.

3.14.1: A Worldcon held in a year that is an exact multiple of 25 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded may ~~require WSFA and the HASC to~~ conduct nominations and elections for retrospective

year Hugo Awards for that year with procedures as for the current Hugo Awards, provided that year was 1939 or later and that no previous Worldcon has awarded retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year.

3.14.2: In any listing of Hugo Award winners published by a Worldcon committee, [WSFA](#), or WSFS, retrospective Hugo Awards shall be distinguished and annotated with the year in which such retrospective Hugo Awards were voted.

Provided that the changes in this motion shall not take effect until the conclusion of the Worldcon two years following the ratification of this motion.

Proposed by: Kate Secor, Kevin Sonney

Here are my thoughts: Whew. Another long one, because it says a ton, a lot of which is kinda limited. It's a no from me, but not an enthusiastic one. The re-naming is good, but this is where we should be removing voting rights from licensee conventions. It also does nothing, at least as far as I can tell, to ensure that there is actual external oversight of the Hugos. If WSFA becomes an actual corporation, in essence WSFS, Inc., that is another thing, but there are issues here. Honestly, I'm not as much opposed to this; I'm just disappointed.

F.7 No Illegal Exclusions

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.13: Exclusions.

3.13.1: No member of the current Worldcon Committee or any publications closely connected with a member of the Committee shall be eligible for an Award. However, should the Committee delegate all authority under this

Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.

3.13.2: No work shall be removed for a reason not in this Constitution unless required in local law. In the event that a work is excluded from the final ballot for reasons other than those provided in this Constitution, that category shall not be run in that year and the category shall be eligible for a Retro Hugo starting 5 years thereafter.

Proposed by: Kevin Sonney, Cliff Dunn

Here are my thoughts: AB. SOL. UTE. LY. NOT!!! This motion should end after "No work shall be removed for a reason not in this Constitution" Not running the category is a killing stroke for the credibility of the awards, but worse, it's highly likely that we'll have no idea that there were illegal disqualifications until AFTER the voting, which would make this pointless. Now, with other things on the docket this year, this might be OK, but as it is, the idea of killing a category will do massive damage. Some of this is addressed in the following proposal.

F.8 Irregular Disqualifications and Rogue Administrators

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.6: "No Award".

3.6.1: **Lack of Interest.** At the discretion of an individual Worldcon Committee, if the lack of nominations or final votes in a specific category shows a marked lack of interest in that category on the part of the voters, the Award in that category shall be cancelled for that year.

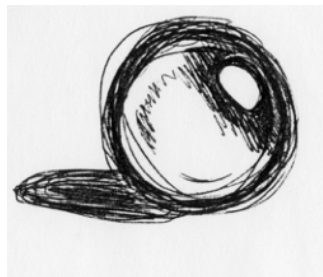
3.6.2: Irregular Disqualification. If one or more nominees who have received sufficient nominating ballots to qualify as finalists are removed from the ballot without either (1) citing a clause of this constitution or (2) evidence of fraud or misconduct with respect to the Hugo Award Finalist selection process, then the Award in that category shall be not be run in that year.

3.6.3: Category Run Irregularly. In the event that a category with irregular disqualifications is run regardless of other restrictions, any nominees irregularly disqualified shall be deemed to be Finalists. The category shall have its irregular nature indicated in all official publications without prejudice to the Finalists and Winner. The category shall be eligible for being run as a Retro Hugo category ten years afterwards.

3.6.4: Non-Retroactivity. 3.6.3. Shall not operate retroactively, though this shall not prejudice the ability of WSFS to otherwise make similar provisions for events in years prior to passage.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kristina Forsyth, Erica Frank

Here are my thoughts: This is worse than the previous motion. It's garbage. It adds the asterisk, which is great if we want to make things worse. These are far far far worse than letting them simply stand. Yes, what happened with the Americans running the 2023 Hugos was terrible, but to give the Mark of Cain to every nominee who did nothing to deserve the distinction is absolutely awful, and it will do damage to the Hugos. I have no idea why these are being proposed when they are so clearly dangerous.



F.9 And the Horse You Rode in On

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.14: Disqualification of Administrator.

Any Hugo Administrator, or other person ultimately responsible for administering the Hugo Awards, who disqualifies an otherwise-eligible nominee for a reason other than one found in this Constitution and who thereafter allows the category to be run without them shall thereafter be barred from participating in the administration of the Hugo Awards. Any Worldcon Committee which appoints such a person to a role administering the Hugo Awards and does not remove them upon being informed of their ineligibility shall be deemed to have declared themselves incapable under Section 2.6 of this Constitution. Should a Worldcon Committee decline to delegate authority to a Subcommittee under Section 3.13, the Convention Chair(s) shall be considered responsible under this section alongside the Hugo Administrator and be sanctioned accordingly.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Kevin Sonney, and Kristina Forsyth

Here are my thoughts: Yeah, this works, though I do not think it's ideal. Yes, let's make it impossible for folks who screw us over to be in the position to do it again. The endgame here is heavy, and the better thing here should be to create a permanent Hugos committee, or external groups to manage it.

F.10 Make the Change

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 1.9 Membership of the Software Advisory Committee.

1.9.1 (1) One (1) member appointed to serve at the pleasure of each future selected Worldcon Committee and each of the two (2) immediately preceding Worldcon Committees, (2) Three (3) members elected one (1) each year to staggered three-year terms by the Business Meeting.

1.9.2: Newly elected members take their seats, and the term of office ends for elected and appointed members whose terms expire that year, at the end of the Business Meeting.

1.9.3: If vacancies occur in elected memberships in the Committee, the remainder of the position's term may be filled by the Business Meeting, and until then temporarily filled by the Software Advisory committee.

1.9.4: Authority of the Committee: The Committee shall determine the required software to be used for tabulating the Hugo votes and site selection or other election conducted by the Worldcon Committee, and the Worldcon Committee shall use this software.

Article 2 – Powers and Duties of Worldcon Committees

Section 2.1: Duties. Each Worldcon Committee shall, in accordance with this

Constitution, provide for

(4) the current Worldcon becomes the active committee on January 1 of the year elected to hold the Worldcon. The current Worldcon shall not bear responsibility for actions of prior Worldcons, but shall have the authority

to require prior staff to complete duties or take corrective actions as needed.

3.13 Exclusions

No member of the current Worldcon Committee or any publications closely connected with a member of the Committee shall be eligible for an Award. ~~However, should the Committee delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.~~ The Current Worldcon Committee shall delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.

Section 3.15 Membership and Authority of the Hugo Oversight Committee.

3.15.1 The Authority of the Hugo Oversight Committee is to have an unhindered and transparent view of the Hugo nominating and final voting process. If at anytime a majority of the committee believe the Hugo Subcommittee is not conducting any part of the Hugo nominating/voting in a fair uncorrupted manner; Then the committee shall revoke the authority of the Hugo Subcommittee and authority to conduct the Hugo Awards in a given year shall be transferred to the next Worldcon.

3.15.2 Membership of the Hugo Oversight Committee. This committee shall be comprised of representatives appointed, one each, by the following bodies: The Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists, Science Fiction & Fantasy Writers Association, European Science Fiction Society.

Section 4.6 Bid Eligibility 4.6.1 [...]

(4) The bidding committee shall have executed a licensing agreement with Worldcon Intellectual Property, LLC for use of all Worldcon Marks as determined by the Mark Protection Committee.

(5) Shall certify that there are no legal impediments whether local, state/province or national to using the required Worldcon software as determined by the Software Advisory Committee.

Proposed by: Randall Shepherd, Sara Felix

Here are my thoughts: OK, I like the idea, and I think it's a set of changes that will make things a little smoother. This is a case where having representation from the cons makes a lot of sense, as it's a working group, more or less, with the workers being the individual cons.

F.11 Hugo Administration and Site Selection Monitoring

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.13: Subcommittee and Exclusions. ~~No member of the current Worldcon Committee or any publications closely connected with a member of the Committee shall be eligible for an Award. However, should the~~ Each Worldcon Committee shall delegate all authority under this Article to a Subcommittee whose decisions are irrevocable by the Worldcon Committee, ~~then this exclusion shall apply to members of the Subcommittee only.~~ No member of this Subcommittee, including the members elected by the Business Meeting,

or any publications or works closely connected with them, shall be eligible for an Award.

Section 5.x: Hugo Administration and Site Selection Monitoring. The Business Meeting shall elect, as follows, four (4) different persons, two (2) each year, who have submitted their written consent to such election and a statement that they are not affiliated with either of the next two Worldcons committees and will not become so affiliated during their term of office:

(1) two (2) persons, one (1) each year, to two-year staggered terms who shall serve as special members of each required Worldcon Committee Hugo Award Subcommittee; and

(2) two (2) persons, one (1) each year, to two-year staggered terms who shall serve as special site selection tellers on the same basis as the site selection tellers provided by convention bid committees.

These persons shall report to the Business Meeting and to the Mark Protection Committee as to the propriety of the procedures followed by the Hugo Award administrations and site selection that they monitor and describing any circumstances that made such monitoring difficult or impractical. Should a vacancy occur in this set of four persons, the remainder of their term may be filled by the Business Meeting and until Business Meeting so acts, temporarily filled by the Mark Protection Committee.

Provided that, at the first election of the special site selection tellers and special Hugo Award Subcommittee members, four persons shall be elected with the first elected of each pair elected to a two-year term while the second shall be elected to an initial one-year term to establish the staggering of the terms in office.

Proposed by: The Mark Protection Committee

Here are my thoughts: OK, this one takes some thinking, and I'm not sure where I end up fully. I think going fully outside of our community is a better idea, but that pretty much means an accounting firm and that certainly means cash money. This does give some added security, though an outside auditor would also be more secure. I'm leaning towards yes, but not enthusiastically.

F.12 Site Selection by the Worldcon Community

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.2: Voter Eligibility.

4.2.1: Voting shall be limited to WSFS members who have purchased at least a supporting membership¹ in the Worldcon whose site is being selected and meet one of the following criteria:

1. Voted in person at the administering convention,
2. Have cast a valid vote in the site selection that selected the administering convention, or
3. Have attended the previous year's Worldcon or cast a valid vote in the Worldcon site selection administered by the previous year's Worldcon.

Worldcons shall make available to the following Worldcon the information necessary to confirm criteria 3 above. Ballots that do not meet any of these criteria will be processed as if voted for "No Preference".

Section 4.1: Voting.

4.1.2: Voting shall be by written ballot cast either by mail or at the current Worldcon with tallying as described in Section 6.4. **Votes cast by mail must arrive at least 15 days before the end of on-site voting or they will be processed as if voted for "No Preference".**

Proposed by: Donald E. Eastlake III, Jill Eastlake, Kevin Standlee, Tim Szczesuil

Here are my thoughts: Again, terrible and wrong and stupid and absolutely terribly stupidly wrong. WE SHOULD NOT BE MAKING IT HARDER FOR NEW MEMBERS TO PARTICIPATE!!! This screams "we only trust the people we already know and are going to vote the way we want them to!" This is garbage, and the reliance on antiquated means for Site Selection voting absolutely needs to be changed, ideally by deploying an online system that does checks against IP Addresses and the like. The fear that the current system makes it possible to be bought is kinda legit, but it was only when China beat a very TradSMoF bid from Winnipeg that it became a problem big enough to do anything about. Let's come up with a better way than by making it harder. The fix for the problem they want to solve is increasing the number of votes. Period.

F.13 Location, Location, Location

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.6: Bid Eligibility

4.6.6: No bid filing shall be accepted for a proposed location which, at the time of filing, does not adhere to reasonable standards for minimum human rights and democracy as defined by at least one commonly accepted standard.

The standards at this time shall be:

- a) Reporters Without Borders: rating of not less than 60 out of 100 in their Global Score
- b) Freedom House: rating of not less than 60 out of 100 in their Freedom in the World dataset
- c) Economist Intelligence Unit: rating of at least 6.00 in their Democracy Index

A bid filing which cannot meet any of these standards shall be deemed to be incapable of freely executing the Objectives of the Society as put forth in Article 1, Section 1.2.

4.6.6.1 Bids shall, as part of their filing, indicate their scores on each current scale or index in effect at the time of filing. A bid which does not meet or exceed the minimum score on at least one standard shall not be accepted by the Site Selection Administrator.

4.6.6.2 In the event that a location is seated which later falls out of compliance with the standards in effect at the time, it shall be the duty of the current convention committee to provide for, at a minimum, the Business Meeting, Site Selection, and administration of the Hugo Awards to take place in a location in compliance with a named standard. If the current convention committee shall fail to do so, that shall be considered committee failure under Section 2.6 of the Constitution.

4.6.6.3 If there are one or fewer operative standards, the current convention committee may, with the concurrence of the next convention committee, designate no less than one and up to three published standards of a similar nature, to be in effect for the coming year, in order to guarantee at least one and no more than three active standards at all times.

4.6.6.4 Changes can be made to these standards by following the regular Constitutional amendment process.

Proposed by: Cliff Dunn, Amy Kaplan, Joshua Kronengold, Ruth Lichtwardt, Ellen Montgomery, Ron Oakes, Ann Marie Rudolph, Randall Shepherd, Kevin Standlee, Gayle Surette, Tim Szczesuil, Eva Whitley, Mark Whitroth

Here are my thoughts: Let me start a bit off-topic, then swing back around. My family of four is pretty damned diverse. We're four people with varying ethnicities, physical ability, races, gender presentations, sexualities, religions, and on and on. There are many parts of the world where we wouldn't even be welcomed, and many many many more where we would not be safe. I read about cities that I have good memories of good times visiting, like Huntsville, Alabama, where there were Anti-Semitic attacks at synagogues I had friends at (that the state decided weren't hate crimes for some reason...) and where the legislative movements have made it nearly illegal for my kids to visit. There are countries where a WorldCon might go to where I couldn't attend because I'm Jewish. This is not the WorldCon's fault; it is the fault of a world that has never figured out a way to live in harmony Star Trek-style.

This motion does nothing to help that, and worse, it loudly cries "OUR VALUES ARE THE ONLY ONES THAT MATTER!"

There's a lot more to why I think this is the worst of all the motion, that this one specifically makes WorldCon look like a bunch of Western People using Western Standards to keep the WorldCon Western.

Now, I've got a lot more arguments against this that I'm going to write about now, but I want to say that I looked at the list of countries that would be eliminated from consideration and, wouldn't you know it, none of them are Western Countries, and wouldn't you know it, three of them are countries that either have had or are currently having bids - Uganda, UAE, and China.

Huh? Whoda thunk it?

Here are multiple levels of hating this, presented on a few pages, more or less, in no particular order, mixed in with general philosophy and such.

First, one argument I keep seeing is 'we need an objective way of removing countries that don't value free speech and other protections from hosting WorldCon' so they lean on these indices (and I think there were a couple of others they found and passed on) and scores to establish a series of numbers. 'A con only has to satisfy one of them' they say, to make it look slightly less exclusionary. This is garbage, because it's trading the subjectivity of an Administrator or Business Meeting for the subjectivity of the creators of those scores.

And the call for Objectivity is, in my eyes a problem.

You see, simply, the call to remove a country from consideration, something that we should take mind-blisteringly seriously, is at its very heart a Subjective matter. We FEEL that a site is unsuitable, that we would be unsafe. That is what we should make these decisions on.

Look, I'm actually in favor of passing a 'China can't get another WorldCon for ten years' like motion. I really want Chinese fandom to have their WorldCon. I'm not sure that's possible, and with the Pidu Economic district's 10 year plan, I am really doubting it could happen without the sort of interference that we experienced. Yes, I know it was the Americans what done it, but they were clearly advised by their Chinese team members as to what had to happen. This leads a massive 'Government Censorship vs. Sponsors are Drivers' argument that has made my eyes cross more than once.

But I think it is the Business Meeting that has to do it. The Business Meeting has to stand up and make the declaration. Not an Administrator. Not some set of scores from external groups (one of which is State Department driven, and thus could become questionable) but the members of the Business Meeting. We need to be held accountable for our actions, and for something as incredibly powerful as saying that a group is not

allowed to hold a WorldCon, we need to either be able to stand together and say 'This is not right. We are taking what we see as an appropriate action' and then live with the consequences of that choice.

When I push back against this idea, I was asked 'what lists would you use?' And the answer is none...sort of. Yes, use those scores to partially inform a decision, but then show specific cause. For China, we've got their last pass at the show, and the Pidu district's ten year plan to use WorldCon IP to help boost their science fiction plans, and you can tack those scores on to, along with others. As a package, I think that makes a case that is defensible, if not universal. It is a set of problems that can be addressed, and not simply because a set of scores dictate it. The right group would be making the decision.

Now, this is where my thinking actually increases the general safety potential of doing it in an 'ad hoc' fashion. Without the structure that this lame proposal inserts, we can take action on locations at a more granular level. If there are a series of anti-LGBT laws passed in, say, Tennessee, or the city of Modesto, or Uganda, or on and on and on, we can make a motion to exclude that specific area FOR CAUSE.

Man, I'm using a lot of all-caps...

That, to me, is the key - for cause. Some rating on a scale with some set of criteria that we have little to no view under the hood does not hold the same power as a series of reasons put forward to a Business Meeting that might include those same numbers, but doesn't rely on them solely.

There is, also, a built-in backstop: voting. No matter what, they still have to get enough votes. The argument that China did nothing but buy the WorldCon is false; they ran an excellent, smart and way ahead of Western Fandom type campaign to get Chinese voters and Winnipeg was stuck in 20th century bidding concepts. Wanna way to help stop folks from buying a con? I really like the suggestion James mentioned on File 770 of using a TAFF-like "20% required on both sides" element.

So, if we believe our members wouldn't be safe in Texas, we could make that motion, and then have to defend it to the rest of the Business meeting. In fact, there are a lot of parts of Texas where I wouldn't feel safe bringing my family (including a portion of the state where I've got cousins from both sides living!) Though that doesn't include the big cities.

The fact is, we need to own it. I agree, take the judgment of the administrator out of the equation and put the choice, and optics, where it belongs, on the Business Meeting.

OK, next part: let's not be exclusionary AS A RULE. I read this list, and take the countries that wouldn't qualify and go "well, WorldCon is apparently for White people."

Yes, there are several countries on the 'You're OK' list that are in Asia, South America, or Africa, but look at the exclusions and see what sticks out among the 80+ countries.

Abkhazia
Afghanistan
Algeria
Angola
Azerbaijan
Bahrain
Bangladesh
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Brunei
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cambodia
Cameroon
Chad

China
Crimea
Cuba
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Djibouti
Eastern Donbas
Egypt
El Salvador
Equatorial Guinea
Eritrea
Eswatini
Ethiopia
Gaza Strip
Georgia

Guatemala
Guinea
Guinea-Bissau
Haiti
Honduras
Hong Kong
Iran
Iraq
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Kuwait
Kyrgyzstan
Laos
Lebanon
Libya
Madagascar
Maldives
Mali
Morocco
Mozambique
Myanmar
Nagorno-Karabakh
Nicaragua
Niger
Nigeria
North Korea

Oman
Pakistan
Pakistani Kashmir
Qatar
Russia
Rwanda
Saudi Arabia
Somalia
Somaliland
South Ossetia
South Sudan
Sudan
Syria
Tajikistan
Tanzania
Tibet
Togo
Transnistria
Tunisia
Turkey
Turkmenistan
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Venezuela
Vietnam
West Bank

Western Sahara
Yemen
Zambia

Some of these are clearly places that are literally dangerous just to walk about in. Some are politically dangerous. Some are dangerous to individual groups that are a part of fandom. Some are simply not fans of free speech.

Almost none of them are primarily White. Few of them are Primarily Christian (Vatican City doesn't get covered for some reason...) and about half are predominantly Muslim. My counting there might be off, but it's certainly a high percentage. That's the thing about using any sort of external list - they're gonna have biases. Is that better than our personal biases? No. Because there are biases that will flow towards and away from these countries. Are there any on this list I'd want us to hold a WorldCon in? Honestly, yes, but that's also not the point. The point is by saying these standards must be met and you all fail, we're just doing more exclusion, making fandom smaller, more isolated. We're actively trying to make it a proud and lonely thing...

Let's get real - only a couple of these places are in a position to bid, and none of them are in a position to win. Is it possible that they'll do the terribly feared move of 'buying' the WorldCon? How is the danger there any greater that Chicago buying it? Or Toronto? Or anywhere? Again, the way to prevent it is to widen the circle of voters, and if the community is widely against a place hosting for various reasons, then we need to stand up and say so instead of using these sorts of external devices to justify our biases.

Because no matter who or what you are, there are going to be biases.

One of the arguments made by one of the folks who proposed this is that Helen Montgomery at SMoFcon, I think, during a Fannish Inquisition, stopped them from asking specific

questions of the Uganda bid about anti-LGBT laws because of the prejudicial nature of even asking the question, and that it's clear that the Business Meeting would never consider these sort of motions out of the appearance of prejudice. Bullshit, says I, loudly. The fact is we put forward a motion, we vote on it. Let's say that these scores that may or may not be heavily weighted towards Western values (and let's face it, they are) are the reasons we're saying we shouldn't welcome people from a fair chunk of the world to be worthy of a WorldCon.

A fair chunk of the world which might be the future of a WorldCon.

The optics of it alone are awful, and if we want the WorldCon to survive, grow, and thrive, we should be looking to many of these countries. *There are science fiction fans in all of them. There are clubs and cons in some of them. There are zines in some of them (I have couple of Russian zines) and there are people who would love to interact with WorldCon fandom in a meaningful way. This is a great way to discourage them from becoming involved. Some of these nations may prove to be the next phase of fandom and SF in general. Look at how Oghenechovwe Donald Ekpeki has burst on to the scene, despite troubles with international travel into the US. We wouldn't be able to have a Nigerian WorldCon because of this. I would feel it's as if we were saying Oghenechovwe was not welcome in today's fandom. And, at the same time, if a Lagos bid came up, I might expect a motion to exclude, and I would hope it failed, but if the Business Meeting was willing to own the exclusion so be it. I wouldn't vote for it, as cool as it would be to have a WorldCon Nollywood adjacent, and I doubt many others would do exactly the same.*

I've gone on and on (like that motion earlier...) and all I can say is this wouldn't make WorldCon better. It would just make us more exclusionary and less international.

F.14 Popular Ratification

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 6.6: Amendment. The WSFS Constitution may be amended by ~~a motion passed by a simple majority at any Business Meeting but only to the extent that such motion is ratified by a simple majority at the Business Meeting of the subsequent Worldcon.~~ the process described in this Section.

6.6.1. First Passage. A Constitutional amendment passed by a majority vote at any Business Meeting shall be submitted to the members of WSFS for ratification by a process administered by the following year's Worldcon.

6.6.2. Ratification. Each Worldcon shall conduct an election to ratify Constitutional amendments given first passage by the Business Meeting of the previous Worldcon. All WSFS members of the Worldcon administering the election on or before the end of the election period shall be entitled to vote on each amendment. Each amendment shall be presented as a separate proposal and voted upon individually.

6.6.3. Election Period. Ratification voting shall open at least ninety (90) days before the first Preliminary Business Meeting and shall close at the same time as Site Selection voting at the Worldcon administering the election.

6.6.4. Arguments For and Against Ratification. The Business Meeting may provide by the Standing Rules for the Governance of the Business Meeting for a process whereby arguments for and against ratification may be presented to the membership. The Worldcon administering the ratification election shall be responsible for making such arguments available to the eligible members.

6.6.5 Vote Required for Ratification.

(1) Any amendment that receives more votes in favor of ratification than votes opposed to ratification shall be considered ratified, except as otherwise provided in this Section.

(2) Should amendments with conflicting provisions receive more votes in favor of ratification than votes opposed to ratification, only the amendment that receives the most votes in favor of ratification shall be considered ratified.

(3) Should amendments with conflicting provisions and with the most votes in favor of ratification be tied, the Business Meeting of the Worldcon administering the voting shall determine which version shall be considered ratified after it receives the results of the ratification vote. However, the Business Meeting making such decision may not amend the amendments pending ratification, but may only select from among them.

6.6.7. Announcement of Results. The Worldcon administering the voting shall announce the results of each ratification vote at the Site Selection Business Meeting.

Section 6.7: Commencement. Any **change ratified amendment** to the Constitution of WSFS shall take effect at the end of the Worldcon ~~at which such change is ratified~~, that administered the ratification election for that amendment, unless a later date is specified in the amendment, except that no change imposing additional costs or financial obligations upon Worldcon Committees shall be binding upon any Committee already selected at the time when it takes effect.

Provided that this amendment shall first affect Constitutional amendments that receive first passage at the 2026 Business Meeting, so that

any Constitutional amendments receiving first passage at the 2025 Business Meeting must be ratified by the the 2026 Business Meeting by the process in place before the ratification of this amendment;

Provided further that upon initial passage of this amendment, the Nitpicking and Flyspecking Committee is directed to draw up proposed Standing Rules for the regulation of arguments for and against ratification, as provided for in new section 6.6.5, and to report such proposed rules to the 2025 WSFS Business Meeting for consideration if this Constitutional amendment is ratified;

Provided further that unless the above changes are re-ratified by the 2030 Business Meeting, this amendment shall be repealed and the wording of sections 6.6 and 6.7 shall revert to what was in place at the time of this amendment's initial ratification; and

Provided further that the question of re-ratification of this amendment shall automatically be placed on the agenda of the 2030 Business Meeting.

Proposed by: Kevin Standlee, Berni Phillips Bratman, Linda Deneroff, Lisa Hayes, Laura Miller, Cheryl Morgan, Ron Oakes, Linda Robinette, Olav Rockne.

Here are my thoughts: I am all for this one! This clearly does something so many other proposals this year don't: it opens up the process to more people who might never otherwise be a part of it. That is exactly what we should be doing these days.

F.15 Meetings, Meetings, Everywhere

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

1.5.3: The rights of WSFS members who have an attending supplement of a Worldcon include the rights of WSFS members plus the right of general attendance at said Worldcon and at **any duly organized** ~~the~~ WSFS Meetings ~~held there at~~.

Section 2.1: Duties. Each Worldcon Committee shall, in accordance with this

Constitution, provide for

- (1) administering the Hugo Awards,
- (2) administering any future Worldcon or NASFiC site selection required, and
- (3) ~~holding a WSFS Business Meeting supporting~~ **WSFS Business Meetings as provided for in section <TBD>**.

Section 2.3: Official Representative. Each future selected Worldcon Committee shall designate an official representative to the **Primary** Business Meeting to answer questions about their Worldcon.

Section 2.9: Financial Reports.

2.9.1: Each future selected Worldcon or NASFiC Committee shall submit an annual financial report, including a statement of income and expenses, to each **Primary** WSFS Business Meeting after the Committee's selection.

2.9.2: Each Worldcon or NASFiC Committee shall submit a report on its cumulative surplus/loss at the ~~next each~~ **Primary** Business Meeting after its convention **until all surplus is expended or all debt discharged**.

~~2.9.4: In the event of a surplus, the Worldcon or NASFiC Committee, or any alternative organizational entity established to oversee and disburse that surplus, shall file annual financial reports regarding the disbursement of that surplus at each year's Business Meeting, until the surplus is totally expended or an amount equal to the original surplus has been disbursed.~~

4.1.4: The site-selection voting totals shall be announced at the **currently seated** Business Meeting and published in the first or second Progress Report of the winning Committee, with the by-mail and at-convention votes distinguished.

Article 5 – Powers of the Business Meeting

Section 5.1: WSFS Business Meetings.

5.1.1: **Primary** Business Meetings of WSFS shall be held at advertised times at each Worldcon. **Secondary Business Meetings** of WSFS may be held throughout the year, so long as each such meeting is announced at least two weeks before its date and is attended by a quorum of WSFS members.

5.1.2: The current Worldcon Committee shall provide the Presiding Officer and Staff for each **Primary** Meeting.

5.1.3: Standing Rules for the Governance of the **Primary** Business Meeting and related activities may be adopted or amended by a majority vote at any **Primary** Business Meeting. Amendments to Standing Rules shall take effect at the close of the Worldcon where they are adopted; this rule may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

5.1.4: **Primary** Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of (in descending order of precedence) the WSFS Constitution; the Standing Rules; such other rules as may be published in advance by the current Committee (which rules may be suspended by the

Business Meeting by the same procedure as a Standing Rule); the customs and usages of WSFS (including the resolutions and rulings of continuing effect); and the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

5.1.5: The quorum for ~~the~~ **any** Business Meeting shall be twelve members of the Society **physically** verifiably present. **Verification of membership for attendees shall be the responsibility of the administering organization.**

5.1.6: Deadline for Submission of New Business. The deadline for submission of non-privileged new business and committee reports to the **Primary** Business Meeting shall be thirty (30) days before the first Preliminary Meeting. Proposed agenda items may be withdrawn by the consent of all proposing members at any time up to fourteen (14) days before the published deadline for submitting new business. A list of such withdrawn business must be made available to the membership. The Presiding Officer may accept otherwise qualified motions and reports submitted after the deadline, but all such motions shall initially be placed at the end of the agenda. This rule may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

5.1.X: Secondary Meetings shall have the ability to propose and vote on amendments to business present on the agenda passed by the Primary Meeting, for items on their FIRST year of passage only. Secondary Meetings shall only be able to ratify or reject business in its SECOND year of ratification, and shall provide vote tallies to the Primary Meeting for inclusion in votes on those items.

Section 5.2: Continuation of Committees. Except as otherwise provided in this Constitution, any committee or other position created by a **Primary** Business Meeting

shall lapse at the end of the next following Business Meeting that does not vote to continue it.

Section 5.3: Constitutional Pass-along. Within sixty (60) days after the end of each Worldcon, the Business Meeting staff shall send a copy of all changes to the Constitution and Standing Rules, and all items awaiting ratification, to the next Worldcon Committee

Section 6.6: Amendment. ~~The WSFS Constitution may be amended by a motion passed by a simple majority at any Business Meeting but only to the extent that such motion is ratified by a simple majority at the Business Meeting of the subsequent Worldcon.~~ The WSFS Constitution may be amended by any motion passed by a simple majority of votes aggregated across the Primary and Secondary Business Meetings, provided that it shall be ratified in the same form and in the same manner in the subsequent year. Should the item be amended by Secondary Meetings during the first year and these amendments adopted by the Primary Meeting, then the item shall be be considered thusly:

1

If the amendments reduce the scope of change of the motion, as determined by the Primary Meeting, then the item shall be in its second year of ratification as amended.

2

If the amendments increase the scope of change of the motion, as determined by the Primary Meeting, then the item shall once again be in its first year of ratification.

Moved, to amend the Standing Rules as follows:

Rule 1.1: Meeting and Session. The Primary Annual Meeting of the World Science Fiction Society shall consist of one or more Preliminary Business Meetings and one or

more Main Business Meetings. The first meeting shall be designated as a Preliminary Business Meeting. All meetings at a Worldcon (preliminary, main, or otherwise) shall be considered a single "session" as defined in the Parliamentary Authority (see Section 5.1 of the WSFS Constitution), regardless of whether such gatherings are called "meetings" or "sessions."

Rule 1.3: Main Business Meeting(s). The Main Business Meeting may reject, pass, or ratify amendments to the Constitution, including all reported vote counts from Secondary Meetings in any vote tallies to be taken. One Main Meeting shall be also be designated as the Site-Selection Meeting, where Site-Selection business shall be the special order of business.

Rule 1.X: Duties of the Meetings The Primary Business Meeting shall debate, amend, and ratify motions discussed at the previous year's Secondary Meetings as appropriate. The Primary Business Meeting shall also set the agenda for discussion in Secondary Meetings between Primary Meetings.

Rule 2.2: Requirements for Submission of New Business. Two hundred (200) identical, legible copies of all proposals for non-privileged new business shall be submitted to the Presiding Officer before the deadline in Section 5.1.6 of the WSFS Constitution, unless such proposals are distributed to the attendees at the Worldcon by the Worldcon Committee. All proposals must be legibly signed by a maker and at least one seconder. Any proposals being submitted on behalf of a properly constituted Secondary Meeting shall be accepted as new business, unless they contravene other Constitutional requirements.

Rule 5.1: Nonstandard Parliamentary Authority. If a Worldcon Committee adopts for the governance of the Business Meeting a parliamentary authority other than

that specified in the Constitution, the Committee must in timely fashion publish information about how to obtain copies of the authority in question. **Secondary Meetings may adopt any democratic governance procedure, provided that the procedure is included in the Meeting announcement and that it is readily available to prospective attendees.**

Rule 7.9: Proxy and remote voting. Only WSFS members **physically verifiably** present at **the any** Business Meeting shall be recognized for purposes of debate, or may move, second, or vote on motions on the floor of the meeting. ~~Proxy voting is not permitted.~~

Proposed by: Kate Secor, Kevin Sonney

Here are my thoughts: I've been dithering on this. Do I like the general tenor of it? Sure. Are there elements that I think aren't great? Yep. I like the idea of multiple meetings, and Proxy voting being allowed. Combined with the Popular Ratification, I think that kicks it over. So, gently yes.

F.16 When We Censure You, We Mean It

Moved to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 4.X: Bid and Convention Committee Eligibility

4.X.1: No person who has been censured by the WSFS Business Meeting shall be eligible to participate in bidding for or administering a WSFS-selected convention or any associated responsibilities, for a period of five (5) years or until the censure is lifted, whichever is longer.

4.X.2: Any bid naming a censured person on their committee shall become ineligible to appear on the Site

Selection ballot or for selection by write-in vote. Any Worldcon committee naming a censured person on their staff at any level or as a named guest shall be deemed incapable and their WSFS business functions (site selection and Hugo administration) shall be assumed by the following seated Worldcon.

Proposed by: Kate Secor, Kristina Forsyth, Terri Ash, Kevin Sonney

Here are my thoughts: Yes, I like this. It does come into play next year, potentially, and that might get messy, but overall, I think this is a good thing. The one thing that worries me is when something like my motion, not a censure but a condemnation, comes up, would it have the same effect? I would think not.

F.17 Editorial Alignment

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

3.3.12: Best Editor Long Form. The editor of at least four (4) novel-length works primarily devoted to science fiction and / or fantasy, **at least one of which was** published in the previous calendar year, that do not qualify as works under subsection 3.3.11.

Proposed by: Ava Kelly, Christopher Bell, Clara Ward, Emily D.E. Bell, Gregory A. Wilson, Joyce Chng, Minerva Cerridwen, Patricia E. Matson, Paul Weimer

Here are my thoughts: An incredibly minor change and one that is good. Kinda refreshing, honestly.

F.18 Cleaning up the Art Categories

Moved, to amend the WSFS constitution as follows:

3.3.13: Best Professional Artist. ~~An illustrator whose work has appeared in a professional publication in the field of science fiction or fantasy during the previous calendar year.~~ One or more collaborators on a body of work first displayed during the previous calendar year and created as i) work for hire, ii) on paid commission, or iii) for sale (either directly or via a paywall-like structure).

3.3.17: Best Fan Artist. ~~An artist or cartoonist whose work has appeared through publication in semiprozines or fanzines or through other public, non-professional, display (including at a convention or conventions, posting on the internet, in online or print-on-demand shops, or in another setting not requiring a fee to see the image in full-resolution) during the previous calendar year.~~ One or more collaborators on a body of work first displayed during the previous calendar year in a fashion that did not qualify for Best Professional Artist - i.e., neither work for hire, nor commissioned for pay, nor for sale, Free copies of a publication in which an artist is published shall not constitute "pay" unless they are supplied with the expectation of resale by the artist.

3.10.2: In the Best Professional Artist ~~category~~ and Best Fan Artist categories, the acceptance should include citations of at least three (3) works that were first displayed in the eligible year.

Proposed by: Terri Ash, Kate Secor, Kevin Sonney

Here are my thoughts: It's not a huge change, more of a solidification of what qualifies. There are aspects of the categories that are hard to pin down, so any clarity is

good, but I don't know if this does what it should. I do like the striking of the term 'illustrator' though.

F.19 No More Retros

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.14: Retrospective Hugo Awards

~~3.14.1. A Worldcon held in a year that is an exact multiple of 25 years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded may conduct nominations and elections for retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year with procedures as for the current Hugo Awards, provided that year was 1939 or later and that no previous Worldcon has awarded retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year.~~

~~3.14.2:~~ In any listing of Hugo Award winners published by a Worldcon committee or WSFS, Retrospective Hugo Awards **presented prior to the 2026 Worldcon** shall be distinguished and annotated with the year in which such retrospective Hugo Awards were voted.

Proposed by: Kent Bloom, Kevin Standlee

Here are my thoughts: it's clear to me that some people just hate fun.

F.20 Save the Retro Hugos

Moved, to amend the WSFS Constitution as follows:

Section 3.14: Retrospective Hugo Awards

3.14.1. A Worldcon held in a year that is an exact multiple of **25** **10** years after a year in which no Hugo Awards were awarded may conduct nominations and elections for retrospective year Hugo Awards for ~~that~~**one such** year with procedures as for the current Hugo Awards, provided that year was 1939 or later and that no previous Worldcon has awarded retrospective year Hugo Awards for that year. **Trophies may be presented, but are not a requirement.**

Proposed by:

Cora Buhlert, Chris M. Barkley, Janice Newman, Kris Vyas-Myall, Dr. Fiona Moore, Brian Collins

Here are my thoughts: I like this a lot, though we're running out of years. I'd love it if we opened it up to years before 1939, but I'll take this. I would have co-signed this. Because I like fun.

