

SOBLOC 91 REPORT

This report was approved by a majority vote by the standing orders and by-laws organizational committee, and presented to the board of directors of the youth parliament of Manitoba on _____, 2012.

Introduction:

The goal of this year's SOBLOC was to examine the Standing Orders and By-Laws of the organization, and examine possible areas for change, with a geared focus on the mandate to host two model parliaments per year and the executive election process. Due to the extensive work of the previous SOBLOC committees there were only a handful of recommendations for the Standing Orders and relatively few substantial changes proposed to the By-Laws.

Standing Orders

- **08:** in an effort to remain grammatically correct, eliminate the word "of" in the sentence, "...and the appointed of time for commencement for the next sitting."
- **32:** change "Question of Privilege" to "**Point of Privilege**" to remain consistent with the rest of the document.

By-Laws

- **Article 3, clause 3, change to:** "The primary method by which this goal shall be pursued shall be the annual operation by the corporation of at least **one model parliament** open to participation by all Manitoban youth aged sixteen to twenty."
 - This amendment was proposed because in the past few years, the organization has attempted to run two model parliaments per year and in this time, the Spring Session initiative has ceased to function in its role as a rural recruitment effort and has instead placed a severe strain on the organization's monetary and human resources. Eliminating the mandate to hold two sessions does not mean that the organization will not continually be researching and developing new initiatives to advance itself, only that these initiatives should come about organically and with consideration of our resources.
- **Article 3, clause 3, sub-clause a), change to:** "**For the purposes of this clause, during any year when Western Canada Youth Parliament is hosted in Manitoba, it shall not be considered as fulfilling the requirement of this clause.**"
 - In anticipation of any confusion that may arise because of the previously proposed amendment, SOBLOC wanted to make it clear that hosting Winter Session as a Landmark Event is absolutely mandatory for YPM, regardless of whether or not WCYP is hosted in Manitoba during any given year.
- **Article 5, clause 4, change to:** "Membership shall begin upon attendance of any Landmark Event, and shall lapse **after one year.**"
 - As it stands, membership in any given year commences with an individual's attendance at a Landmark Event (as determined by the Board) and lapses immediately following the

AGM. SOBLOC found that this was ineffective because in case of a by-election or impeachment, the organization requires the vote of individuals with a membership status.

- **Article 5, clause 6, change to:** “Membership may be **granted or** revoked from **an individual** by unanimous vote of the Board.”
 - Under Article 5, certain restrictions are made concerning which individuals are eligible for membership status (which includes certain privileges, such as the ability to vote), and SOBLOC felt that there will always be certain individuals who should be able to qualify as an exception to one or more of those requirements.
- **Article 13, clause 3, sub-clause addition: c) the by-laws concerning the campaigning and nomination process, and...**
 - In light of this past Winter Session, it was extremely clear to SOBLOC that it is important to inform the general membership of the rules outlined in the by-laws pertaining to the executive elections, including the restriction of overt campaigning and the possibility for disqualification and to stress that only those individuals directly asked by candidates may serve as nominators. This task can most easily be accomplished by including this information on the election notice that is sent out to the membership during Winter Session.
- **Article 13, clause 18:** rename clause 18 to clause 10 and renumber accordingly, including change of “Clause (15)” to “**Clause (10)**”
 - When reading the By-Laws in sequential order, SOBLOC found that it made much more sense to reorder the placement of clause 18, which greatly improves the readability and flow of the document.
- **Article 13, clause 11 (formerly clause 10), sub-clause c), change to:** “automatically”
- **Article 13, clause 12 (formerly clause 11), sub-clause a), change to:** “The question and answer period shall be a maximum of fifteen minutes in length **or five minutes for each candidate, whichever is longer** in length.”
 - In case of multiple candidates running for any given executive position, SOBLOC wanted to increase the time allotted for question period depending on the number of candidates, if needed, so as not to restrict or rush the candidates’ responses.
- **Article 13, clause 12 (formerly clause 11), sub-clause addition: c) Each candidate will take turns answering first but will continue to answer the questions in the same order relative to each other.**
 - In an effort to make the election process as fair as possible, SOBLOC wanted to offer a more structured layout to the question period, which would eliminate the possibility of one candidate constantly being the first/last to always answer the posed questions. With this amendment, the arrangement would allow for a varied response approach.

Conclusion

This year's SOBLOC has examined the governing documents of the Youth Parliament of Manitoba and has found eleven aforementioned recommendations for change to improve the organization of the corporation for the future.