



## **PAN AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING**

### **INTERNET VOTING PROCESS FOR ELECTION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND SUPPORT COMMITTEES OF API**

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#### **HISTORY**

Most international professional organizations have implemented voting systems to elect their authorities, which allow the participation of all their Associates, regardless of their country of residence.

Voting by postal mail for Candidates for different positions is the most common. The associates, without the need to travel to participate in Assemblies convened at the Organization's Headquarters or in other countries of the world, exercise the right to elect the Candidates for President and different management positions.

Each Associate, regardless of place of residence, receives there an invitation to vote and a brief profile of the Candidates for each position proposed by a minimum number of Associates or by a **Nominations Committee** or **Election Committee**.

In this way, a democratic process is ensured that prevents decisions made by the small group of associates who can attend the **Election Assemblies**, whether annual or biennial, as is the case of our **Pan American Academy of Engineering**.

#### **First Antecedent - API Nominations Committee**

It is probable that many Academics, admitted after 2004, ignore that that year in the **Ordinary Plenary Session** of Mexico, a project of the President was approved that is still in force, even though it is not being applied - to create and propose Candidates for the different functions of the **Board of Directors**. The Candidates identified for each position must have prior consent in case they are elected during the **Ordinary Plenary Session** that will renew authorities.

The first **Nominating Committee**, elected in Mexico 2004, was made up of Academicians David Reyes-Guerra, President, and Vladimir Mendizábal and Leizer Lerner, as Members.

The Committee fulfilled its functions in the period 2004-2006 and managed to identify Candidates for the different functions of the **Board of Directors** that was elected in the Plenary Session of Atlanta 2006.

#### **Second Antecedent – Unforeseen crisis generates a new procedure**

The statutory reform of 2008 instituted the position of **President Elect** and in the **Plenary Session** held immediately after, Academician Vladimir Yackovlev was nominated to assume the Presidency of the Academy in 2010, in Buenos Aires.



Three months before the expected date to assume this function, Dr. Yackovlev submitted his resignation, causing an unforeseen crisis, not contemplated in the Statutes. It was necessary, at that time, to urgently implement a methodology to elect the **President Elect** that would allow all Members to know in advance who will assume the Presidency as of October 2010.

The **Board of Directors** approved, in September 2010, the **President Elect Selection Process**, aimed at identifying Candidates who could assume the role of President based on Qualifications and Support:

1. Functions already performed.
2. Personal professional and academic background.
3. Statements and commitments of resources that the headquarters and the President will have.

The **Plenary Session** of Buenos Aires decided that the conditions to elect a President were not met at that time and asked the current President to continue in office for two more years. (2010-2012). The election of a new President should be done giving the opportunity to participate to the greatest possible number of Academics.

Rightly, it was decided to transfer to the **Election Committee** the responsibility of carrying out an **Election Process**, convened by Internet in which all Full Members could participate, divided into two parts:

1. Call by Internet to present **Candidacies for President Elect**, who were Members interested in presiding over the Academy who met the requirements established in the **Selection Process** approved in September 2010.
2. Online call to all Full Members to select the **Candidate for President Elect**, among the presentations received that in the opinion of the Election Committee that met the conditions imposed in the Guide.

For the Election, a process similar to that established in the Statutes for the selection of Academy Members was adopted. It was a success. 60% of the Full Members voted within the established period: September 26, 2011.

An **Extraordinary Plenary Session** convened in December 2011, in Rio de Janeiro, validated the election of the **President Elect**, thus ratifying the entire process.

## What is Proposed

1. Adopt electronic voting for the election of the officials that make up the **Board of Directors** and the **Support Committees**.
2. Delegate to the **Election Committee** the responsibility of Organizing and carrying out the early election of the **Members of the Board of Directors**, who according to Article 33, should take functions during the Biennial Plenary Sessions in the following manner:
  - 2.1 **Election of the President.**  
Six (6) months before the end of the term of the **Acting President**, the **Election**



**Committee** will convene the Full Members so that within thirty (30) days, those who wish to express their interest in being elected **President of the Academy** for the following period. The expression of interest must be accompanied as a Sworn Declaration, by the following information, which will be organized in a Form - Guide:

- Roles and functions performed and roles present.
- Personal, professional, and academic background.
- Institutional resources of its own that the future Headquarters of the Presidency will have.
- Commitment to serve the Academy with full dedication, respecting the obligations and responsibilities described in Articles 38, 39 and 40 of these Statutes.

2.2 The **Election Committee**, within ten (10) days, will select a maximum of two (2) proposals from Academics who have the conditions, capacity, and support to assume the position of President and will send to all Full Members, by Email, the Forms submitted by the Candidates together with a summarized Curriculum Vitae of each one, to a maximum of three pages or one thousand words. The letter that the President of the Election Committee will send to each Titular Member will include a ballot with the name of the Candidate or Candidates to facilitate the selection of preference. The ballot must be returned by email within ten (10) days to the President of the Election Committee, with a copy to the Acting President and the Secretary. The vote will be secret, and the confidentiality of the voters will be protected. You can only vote for one Candidate. Only those Academics who maintain their Membership Fee with a maximum delay of one year prior to the election may cast their Vote. The result of the Election will be communicated to all Members by the President of the Academy.

2.3 The Acting President may, if he so wishes, in compliance with the regulations established by the Election Committee, propose his own Candidacy for another term, also complying with the limitations on the renewal of functions that apply to all Members of the Board of Directors.

2.4 **Election of the Board of Directors:**

Three (3) months before the end of the management of the remaining Members of the Board of Directors, the Election Committee will convene the Regular Members so that within twenty (20) days, those who have a vocation to work, forming part of the Board of Directors, express in a ballot containing the positions to be elected, their preference for one or more functions. The Election Committee will draw up a list of Candidates for each position on the Board of Directors based on the responses received and according to the criteria of its Members. The list of Candidates will be presented as a suggestion to the Ordinary Plenary Session.

3. Request the Legislation Committee to study this proposal and present a Project for the Modification of the Statutes that includes it.



4. Request all Full Members to issue well-founded opinions that improve the content of this proposal, sending their contributions to the Legislation Committee.
5. Once the text to amend the Statutes containing this voting system has been prepared, the Legislation Committee will require the President (Article 38.2) to call an Extraordinary Plenary Session for the consideration of the Project.