



April 1, 2011

Dan Danner, DVM, AAVSB Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair
AAVSB
380 W. 22nd Street, Suite 101
Kansas City, MO 64108

RE: Request for Amendments to AAVSB Bylaws

Dear Dr. Danner:

This letter is in response to your memo from the AAVSB Bylaws Committee in regard to the California Veterinary Medical Board's request that the American Association of Veterinary State Boards (AAVSB) bylaws be amended to:

1. Designate a position on the Board of Directors that is specifically for a public member with the proviso that the candidate selected for that particular position (currently a public member position) must be a public member and not a licensee of any member board. An additional proviso would be that if no public members are nominated in any given year, that a member can be selected from those persons actually nominated, and
2. Designate a position on the Board of Directors that is specifically for a registered veterinary technician with the proviso that the candidate selected for that particular position must be a registered veterinary technician (RVT) unless no RVTs are nominated in which case a member can be selected from those persons actually nominated.

Thank you for your input on the proposals put forward by California. By way of some history on the request, California originally submitted a similar request for the conference in 2010, but withdrew its requests for amendments as originally written and agreed to submit its request written as directed by the AAVSB Board of Directors. So the recommendation that the language allow a professional to be considered if no public member was nominated came directly from the AAVSB Board of Directors.

Since the request for the proviso about other options for nominating persons each year came from the AAVSB Board of Directors, if its legal counsel is recommending that it be deleted California does not have a problem with removing it or just removing "in any given year" while maintaining the language for the designated public member position on the Board. Although the California Board requested designated positions for a public and RVT member, its primary concern is the public member position.

The statement about the confusion that could result in the nomination process does not seem to be related to the request for a designated public member, but may call into question the nominating process itself which appears to be a separate issue.

It appears that the issue about other states not having public members on their licensing boards is also not related to the request. It does not appear that this should be an issue that should prevent the proposal from going forward and it does not appear that one designated public member on an

Dan Danner, DVM, Chair
AAVSB Bylaws Committee
April 1, 2011
Page 2

eight-member board would put any state at a disadvantage. Whether or not states have a public members on the board, all states represent “consumer/public” protection mandates; therefore, all states should support a public member on the national regulatory Board. If a state chooses not to support the proposed amendment, then they could simply vote against it at the Delegate Assembly.

Although this request is originating from California, it is not strictly a California issue. It is an issue of the composition of a public service organization representing public service licensing boards. Since the AAVSB is a national regulatory entity representing consumer/public protection licensing boards, the AAVSB Board itself should be supporting having a designated public member on its board in order to insure a fair, balanced and transparent public image.

The AAVSB’s vision is “*to inspire participation of all veterinary regulatory agencies in North American and to be their collective voice.*” The “collective voice” of regulatory boards must include public members and registered veterinary technicians on the national decision-making board.

Thank you in advance for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Susan M. Geranen
Executive Officer

Cc: Stephanie Ferguson, DVM, CA Board President
David Ylander, DVM, AAVSB Board President
Robyn Kendrick, AAVSB Executive Director