Revised IAOC Membership
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Abstract

The original specification of the membership of the IAOC included the
IETF and IAB Chairs as voting members. While probably desirable initially, this has turned out to have unfortunate side effects. This document discusses those side effects and replaces those specific individuals with liaisons from the IAB and IESG.

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1. Introduction

The original specification of the membership of the IAOC in BCP 101 [1] included the IETF and IAB Chairs as voting members. While probably desirable initially, this has turned out to have unfortunate side effects. This document discusses those side effects and replaces those specific individuals with liaisons from the IAB and IESG.

2. The IAB and IETF Chairs and the IAOC

While BCP 101 specified that the IAB and IETF Chairs should serve on the IAOC (and now as Trustees of the Internet Trust [2]), there does not appear to be a strong motivation for having those particular roles expanded to include the considerable additional workload that comes with the IAOC and Trustee roles. It is clearly important that the IAOC and Trustees have direct and ongoing input from the IAB and IESG, but that responsibility need not be performed by the two Chairs. There are disadvantages associated with having the Chairs in the Trustee and IAOC roles, which include:

- **workload and full-time positions**
  Even without IAOC and Trustee roles, the IETF Chair and IAB Chair roles require considerable time and effort. It is in the interest of the community to minimize that time and effort because doing so increases the number of people who might be able to volunteer to serve in those positions and because it might permit those who do serve to participate more actively in other tasks.

- **skill set**
  The IAOC and Trustee roles ideally require special skills and experience in administration, finance, organizational management, and intellectual property issues. Those skills have not been high priorities in selection of either IESG and IAB members or the two Chairs. The bodies involved should be able to select the people from among their members with the greatest level of skill, interest, and time availability for these roles.

In addition, it is useful to clarify the role of the IAB and IESG representatives by making them (and the chairs, if different) non-voting liaisons. This reduces the requirement that IAB and/or IESG members be selected for the specific types of expertise needed on the IAOC and Trustees. If they cannot explain IESG and IAB requirements and perspectives to the voting IAOC and Trustee members and persuade them as needed, we have far more serious problems than whether or not those two people vote.
3. BCP 101 Modifications

Section 4 of BCP 101 is hereby modified as follows:

3.1. Editorial changes for clarity

1. Immediately below the title line for Section 4 ("IAOC Membership, Selection and Accountability"), insert a new Section title, "4.1 Voting Members".

2. Immediately below the line starting "o The ISOC President" insert a new Section title, "4.2 Non-voting Members and Other Liaisons"

3. Immediately after the sentence ending "...IAOC has requested the liaison.", insert a new Section title, "4.3 Other Membership Issues".

4. Renumber the additional subsections of Section 4 as appropriate.

3.2. Substantive Changes

Modify the material in Section 4 of BCP 101 (Section 4.1 as defined above), by deleting:

- The IETF Chair (ex officio);
- The IAB Chair (ex officio);

and adding at the beginning of Section 4.2 as defined above:

- One non-voting liaison from each of the IAB and IESG. These liaisons will normally be chosen from the memberships of those bodies although, should the bodies decide to do so and can arrange the necessary communication paths, someone else can be chosen. The chairs of the respective bodies are not barred from serving should those bodies decide that is appropriate, except that the IETF Chair may not represent the IAB. These liaisons are considered to be IAOC Members and hence "eligible parties" from the standpoint of the IETF Trust and may not be excluded from any meeting of the IAOC or Trustees, even executive sessions. Individuals serve in these positions at the pleasure of the IAB and IESG respectively; those bodies should review the positions at least annually at a convenient time after new members are seated.

- If one or both of the liaisons specified immediately above are not the IAB Chair or IETF Chair, those individuals have permanent liaison status with the IAOC (and Trustees): they are not expected
to attend meetings on a regular basis, but may do so and may not be excluded from any meeting, even executive sessions.

4. Transition

The changes specified in this document are effective immediately at the time of its adoption. Since the Chairs are now serving in the specified roles and eligible to continue, the IESG and IAB should review the positions at times of their choosing.

5. Acknowledgments

This document benefited from suggestions from Spencer Dawkins and Joel Halpern. Neither bears responsibility for the specifics of the approach mentioned above.

6. IANA Considerations

[[Comment.1: RFC Editor: Please remove this section before publication.]]

This memo includes no requests to or actions for IANA.

7. Security Considerations

This document makes an adjustment to an IETF and IASA procedural document. It has no Internet security implications beyond those described in the relevant base documents.

8. Normative References


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