

Summary of Major Changes to the AAPT Constitution and By-Laws 2015

The AAPT Board has endorsed the following changes to the AAPT governing documents. During the normal fall election, the membership will be asked to approve the changes. The Board encourages a “yes” vote.

Most of the changes recommended are to bring the language of the governing documents into compliance with the New York law. The more substantive changes are documented below:

1. The current AAPT Constitution and By-Laws are combined into one document called the AAPT By-Laws. This follows a best practice in governance.
2. The New York nonprofit law states that the AAPT Council is not allowed to remove members of the Board, to resolve ties in elections, or to make fiduciary decisions. Therefore, Council will no longer have these roles, and the group will be replaced by an annual Meeting of the Members that will take place at a national meeting. By Board action, Section Representatives will continue to receive support for attending the national meeting in which the Meeting of the Members takes place. Area Chairs will also receive the same support for attending the Meeting of the Members.
3. The AAPT Executive Board is renamed AAPT Board of Directors, but the current membership of the Board will not change. However, the Board will have the option to add new members in the future. Any new Board members will be non-voting until affirmed by the membership.
4. The new By-Laws include a clarification of the Committees of the Board (e.g., Audit Committee) and Committees of the Association (e.g., National Nominating Committee).
5. The Board in November 2014 established a quorum of 100 members for the Meeting of the Members. This is included in the new By-Laws.
6. The membership at the AAPT 2015 Winter Meeting approved electronic voting. A statement about this is included in the new By-Laws.
7. The New York nonprofit law allows the Board to meet via videoconference and to use email as an official form of communication with members. This too will be included in the new By-Laws.

For more details, see the PowerPoint presentation from the AAPT 2015 Summer Meeting at

http://aapt.org/aboutaapt/organization/upload/150802_SM15_Governance_Presentation.pdf.