

Here are my thoughts on your request for comments on the statutes of the Academy.

There should be a two-term limit for the positions of president, vice-president and secretary. No person should be allowed to serve more than eight years.

There should be only one yearly membership fee. The amount is not large and could be managed by anyone who has had a professional career, which will be true of all members of the Academy.

It does not seem feasible to lay down formal conditions that would be required for membership in the Academy. There are very productive scholars whose work is not particularly outstanding, and there are scholars with a lower output in terms of quantity of publications but whose work is seminal and highly significant. However, there have been criticisms of the quality of some of the scholars elected to the Academy and this fact should be addressed in the review of the statutes.

The president should have freedom to communicate officially with members directly without the permission of council.

There should be a clearly formulated mechanism for members to organize sessions in the name of the Academy at conferences or academic meetings.

Disciplinary matters should be referred to an elected committee of members who have full access to all documentation related to a proposed disciplinary action. A person charged with a disciplinary offense should have the right to counsel (either a lawyer or someone trusted by the person).

Best regards,

Craig Fraser