

WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

Governance Committee

Meeting Minutes

July 11, 2025

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by the chair.

Present: Governors Kevin Fay (chair), Francis Adewale, Dan Clark, Parvin Price; Staff liaisons: Cate Schur, Darlene Neumann; **Interested party:** Governor Kari Petrusek. **Excused:** Governor Matthew Dresden

The minutes from June 11, 2025, were reviewed and approved.

Committee Input on Draft Survey

The committee reviewed draft survey questions to be sent to current and former BOG members and WSBA staff to gather information about BOG policies. Members discussed suggested edits to title and questions that asked survey respondents to identify policies they would like to see changed and identifying policies which do not necessarily reflect current practices and therefore may not be following.

Presentation on Political Activity Bylaws section

The staff liaison presented on the background and policy considerations of Art. IV.D, and issues with the bylaw. The meeting materials also included research on political activity policies of other jurisdictions. The committee reviewed a draft of suggested amendments to Art. IV.D. They discussed First Amendment issues, the right of individual BOG members to participate in political activity, the prohibition against using WSBA official titles, WSBA resources, or imply WSBA endorsement of a candidate. Other suggested changes included making more explicit that requirements apply to both Governors and Officers, adding other communications (logos, email signatures, social media, etc.) to the Letterhead section, and other edits.

Conflict of Interest Policy

The staff liaison reviewed the background and policy considerations of the conflict-of-interest policy and the issues with the current policy. The meeting materials included research on conflict-of-interest policies of other jurisdictions. The committee reviewed and discussed the draft revised conflict of interest policy and proposed new bylaw amendment to Art. IV. Additional discussion followed regarding adding conflict-of-interest language to the Bylaws, governor receipt of gifts, representation of parties in actions adverse to WSBA, and ability to run for political office.

Next Steps:

- The staff liaison will revise the draft survey questions for the next meeting.
- The chair will draft a revised political activity bylaw for the next meeting.
- The chair will prepare drafts of the revised conflict-of-interest policy and bylaw for the next meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on August 13, 2025.