Dear Women’s Club Members:

The Board has begun to think about succession planning for the Presidency of the organization, and proposes a By-Laws change to reflect a new position of President-Elect. This is a one-year appointment with the potential to move into the Presidency at the end of the President’s term(s). We felt that the knowledge of the workings of the Board over that one- to two-year period would smooth the transition from one President to the next.

Once we began changing the language of the By-Laws to include that new voting member, we thought it important to scan the remainder of the By-Laws for little inconsistencies and items that could be further clarified.

What we include here are the old By-Laws and the proposed new By-Laws. This cover letter should act as a guide to the changes from old to new which are further highlighted in yellow.

Article III, Section 2: We wanted to make certain that a spouse’s disconnection from the University, by whatever means, would not affect the ability of a member to remain with the Club. To clarify, all reference to a change of responsibility at the university was removed.

Article IV, Section 2: Here we added the President-Elect position. The President-Elect is eligible to hold a second office other than the Presidency. Thus, we made it possible for another of the Directors to be elected President. With the President-Elect position in place, we thought there was no need for Vice-Presidents, and changed the titles of First and Second VPs to Program Director and Communications Director. Those new titles better reflect the duties of those officers, which duties have remained essentially the same. The subsections have been re-lettered to accommodate the addition of the President-Elect. The order in which the elected officers have been listed has been changed to put the officers first and the directors second, again in the name of consistency.

Article V, Section 1a: Again, the President-Elect has been added as an elected official, and the titles of First and Second VPs have been changed to Program and Communications Directors. These titles have been reordered to group the officers first, and the directors second, consistent with Article IV.

Article V, Section 1b: Those of us who are word-careful realized that subsection 1b was an incomplete sentence. We completed it.

Article V, Section 2: Again, we made room for the President-Elect, defined her duties, and made it possible for her to step into the Presidency if elected. The name changes for the VPs were included here, and the remainder of the subsections were re-lettered.
Article V, Section 3c: Again, we made room for the President-Elect, and renamed the VPs.

Article V, Section 3d: Since the original language was confusing, we clarified the way in which we already allow a position to be shared between 2 people.

Article V, Section 4: We clarified that the ballot for electing officers is a written one, consistent with usual practice, but here spelled out.

Article VIII: We renamed the Article as Finances, since it involves more than Monies (which we thought of as a rather quaint term, regardless).

Article VII, Section 3: We added the President-Elect and the Past President (for her historical knowledge of the budget process) to the budget discussion. We also changed the name of the First VP to Program Director.

Article IX: We changed the language requiring scholarship amounts to be equal. We had enough money to fund 3 scholarships last year, but not enough to fund them all at $2,000. This language allows the greatest flexibility in terms of numbers and amounts of scholarships to be awarded, depending on the successes of our fundraising efforts. As a matter of fact, due to the membership’s generosity, we may fund a smaller fourth scholarship this year.

As revised: We added the year 2020.

The By-Laws require that we submit the proposed changes one month before the annual spring business meeting, and passage will require a 2/3 vote of those present. The spring meeting is slated for April 3, so these changes should make their way to you in time. An announcement about the availability of these documents was in the January newsletter, and they will be on the website thereafter. For those of our members who receive communications by mail, we will send those out in hard copy.

2016 By-Laws
2020 Proposed By-Laws

Any of the Board members is available to answer questions. These changes were approved unanimously, and all members will be glad to discuss details with all of you. My phone number is 618-528-4897, and my email address is marshagryan@gmail.com.

Thanks to a wonderful working board. And thanks to our ever-involved membership.

Marsha Ryan, President          Deborah Corker, Treasurer
Laura Helsel, Past President    Olga Weidner, Membership Director
Lori Stettler, First Vice-President Susan Pearlman, Scholarship Director
Sue Burroughs, Second Vice-President Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm, Historical Director
Lyn Bame, Secretary             Julie Bohnsack, Interest Group Director