

MCJA

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1: ARTICLE V. Student Travel Scholarship

Intent of the Amendment: As discussed in our 2023 Annual Business Meeting and at our Mid-Year ACJS Business Meeting, this amendment would add a new article to our By-Laws (ARTICLE V. Student Travel Scholarship). The proposed amendment establishes guidelines and procedures that support the Student Travel Scholarship, which will provide funding to selected student recipients each year.

“ARTICLE V. Student Travel Scholarship

Section 1. The Association will establish a Student Travel Scholarship with the purpose of providing travel scholarships to eligible applicants to attend the Association’s Annual Meeting.

Section 2. The process for establishing Student Travel Scholarship(s) will commence each year.

A. At the spring Executive Board business meeting, typically held at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences’ Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall report to the board the amount of total monies available for Student Travel Scholarships and shall recommend to the Executive Board: (1) the amount of money, (2) the number of awards, and (3) the maximum amount for each award, to be offered for that following fall’s Annual Meeting. The Treasurer’s recommendation may be presented as information for the Board or may be presented as a motion.

B. The Executive Board shall consider and discuss the Treasurer’s information or motion concerning (1) the amount of money, (2) the number of awards, and (3) the maximum amount for each award, to be offered for that fall’s annual meeting.

C. The Executive Board shall vote on a motion on whether or not to offer Student Travel Scholarship(s) for the upcoming fall’s Annual Meeting. The Executive Board may, at its discretion, decide to not offer Student Travel Scholarship(s) for a given Annual Meeting.

D. If Student Travel Scholarship(s) are to be offered for the next Annual Meeting, the Executive Board shall vote on a motion that includes (1) the total amount of money to be encumbered for all Student Travel Scholarships, (2) the maximum number of Student Travel Scholarships, and (3) the maximum dollar amount for each Student Travel Scholarships.

E. At the spring Association Business Meeting, the Executive Board shall set the due date for applications, and a date by which applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application.

Section 3. The Executive Board will announce the availability of Student Travel Scholarships to Association members each year prior to the Association’s Annual Meeting.

A. If the Board votes to allocate funds for Student Travel Scholarship for that fall’s Annual Meeting, that Board shall announce that Student Travel Scholarship are available for the fall’s Annual Meeting and publicize the application process. The announcement and a description of the application process shall be conveyed via an email to all currently registered Association members during the summer preceding the

next Annual Meeting. Reasonably sufficient time shall be allowed for members and students to apply for a Student Travel Scholarship.

B. The Board, at its sole discretion, may also communicate availability and the Student Travel Scholarship process via other mediums (such as posting on the Association webpage, social media, and/or email to past or not-current members of Association) simultaneously.

Section 4. The following eligibility criteria will be used to award the Student Travel Scholarship.

A. An applicant must meet the criteria for “student” as defined by the Association’s Constitution, Article III, Section 3.

B. An applicant must provide confirmation of their enrollment in at least 1 credit hour at an accredited institution of higher education during the fall semester in which they will attend (and present at) the Annual Meeting. A letter or an email from a faculty member at that institution which states the student is enrolled in at least 1 credit hour will be sufficient to establish eligibility.

C. Applicants must attend the fall’s Annual Meeting to present a paper or a poster. The applicant does not have to be the lead author on the paper or poster but must be the lead presenter at the Annual Meeting.

D. The Executive Board, at its sole discretion, may establish other eligibility criteria at its spring Association Business Meeting through the passage of motions.

E. All eligibility criteria shall be communicated to the membership when the announcement and a description of the application process for Student Travel Scholarship(s) are emailed to the Association membership and announced via any other communications mediums adopted by the Executive Board.

Section 5. Applications for the Student Travel Scholarship will be reviewed for meeting the eligibility criteria

A. The Executive Board will review the applications, unless the Board decides to create an ad hoc review committee.

B. Applications shall be reviewed, and applicants notified, by the date designated by the Board at the spring Executive Board business meeting. The application review and notification dates should be advertised by the Executive Board with any Student Travel Scholarship availability announcement.

C. The Executive Board should endeavor to notify applicants of their outcome with sufficient time for applicants to book or adjust their travel plans for the fall Annual Meeting.

Section 6. Awarding of Student Travel Scholarships.

A. Applicants awarded a Student Travel Scholarship shall attend the fall Annual Meeting and present satisfactorily their paper or poster before they shall receive their scholarship funds. Money shall be awarded by the Executive Board at the Business meeting at the fall Annual Meetings. Awardees are encouraged to attend the Association business meeting, but they do not have to attend the business meeting to receive their travel scholarship.”

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2: ARTICLE X: Elections, Section 2.

Intent of the Amendment: This amendment would modify Article X (Elections), Section 2., which addresses nominations for open officer positions. The proposal addresses two issues. First, it establishes a specific timeframe for the opening and closing of nominations, consistent with other language used in Article X, Section 6, which relates a reasonable timeframe for voting. Specifically, the language specifies that nominations stay open no less than 30 days but no more than 45 days, which gives members sufficient time to nominate an eligible candidate. Second, the amendment seeks to remove the existing requirement that each open position have at least two nominees. Historically, it has been difficult to meet this requirement and so the proposed change eliminates the requirement, and states that the Nominations and Election Committee shall evaluate the eligibility of candidates in a manner consistent with Article X, Section 3 and shall present all eligible candidates for purpose of election.

Current Constitutional Language: “The Nominations and Election Committee shall select a slate of candidates of not less than two (2) nominees for each office. The committee will also solicit nominations electronically from the regular membership.”

Proposed Constitutional Language: “The Nominations and Election Committee shall solicit nominations electronically from the regular membership, and shall accept nominations for a minimum of thirty (30) days and a maximum of forty-five (45) days prior to the election. The Nominations and Election Committee shall confirm the eligibility of all nominees as defined in Article X, Section 3., and shall present the slate of eligible candidates to the membership for respective elections.”