

Kevin Godbout  
CRO Speaker's Ruling  
SOGS Presidential Elections 2012  
May 3rd, 2012

Dear SOGS Executive and Council,

At the last meeting of Council, subsequent to the EAB report's presentation, a few members of Council indicated concerns on how hiring a CRO, who is not the Speaker of SOGS, creates a conflict with the Bylaws. Currently, part of the Speaker's duties is to serve as the CRO of the Society. The current Speaker resigned from that role during the first Presidential Election. For the second election, per the motion passed by Council, a new non SOGS member CRO will be hired.

This leaves SOGS in a strange, and possibly unprecedented, situation. The hiring of a non-member CRO is not a provision afforded in the Bylaws, but it is the option voted upon by Council, and likely the only one possible, given the current circumstances. A possible solution offered was to "Suspend the Rules" under Robert's Rules of Order, but one cannot do so if it violates the Bylaws, and a motion to "Suspend the Rules" must be announced before a Council meeting takes place.

More importantly, it is the conviction of this Speaker that the CRO and the Speaker of the Society should never be the same person. Who should become the CRO or how the CRO should be hired in the future is not something the current Speaker will comment upon. This ruling will have to serve as a temporary solution until the SOGS can study and present another means to select the CRO, separate from the Speaker, in the future.

The language below is the text of a Speaker's Ruling tabled by Council in March, and represents the best possible solution for the time being:

Currently the positions of Speaker and Deputy Speaker are united with the positions of CRO and DCRO respectively. The Speaker and Deputy Speaker can find themselves open to claims of bias by having to rule on electoral issues related to their roles as CRO and DCRO, respectively. These positions should thus be separate from the role of Speaker and Deputy Speaker, who must be able to maintain neutrality in all SOGS proceedings. The Speaker strongly recommends the positions of CRO/DCRO be elected positions akin to the EAB members. This issue is referred to the BCC for study, with a recommendation presented to Council before the end of the current Speaker's term.

The current SOGS Speaker offers this ruling in the hopes of alleviating concerns during the coming election.

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