

Summary of Governance Task Force Conference Call #5
Thursday, Sept. 16th, 3:00PM ET

Official/designated Task Force members in attendance, and other speakers: Ryan Kind, Beth Soholt, Steve Gaw, Maryam Sharif, Tammy Linde, Lauren Azar (alt. for Doug Nazarian), Rob Sinclair, David Meyer & Alicia Dalton-Tingler (DOE), Craig Glazer (EIPC), Catherine Morris & Caitlin Connelly (Keystone)

Language in Charter about Chair/ Leadership Roles & Responsibilities

- There were no objections to submitting the highlighted portion of Charter language to the SSC for approval.

Language in Charter about Agenda-setting

- The language concerning who has final responsibility in developing SSC Agendas was modified to include a safeguard in the event the Chair excludes something from the agenda that 5 or more SSC members wish to include.

Chair Discussion: Report-outs/ Check-in

- Task Force members discussed the status of the discussions they have had regarding the different proposals for the selection and structure of SSC chair/leadership.
- The proposals discussed include:
 - The Task Force could coalesce around nominees for a Chair and Vice-Chair (or just one nominee for chair) and submit their name(s) for approval at the October SSC meeting.
 - These parties could serve on an interim basis, or there could be some other built-in “circuit-breaker” to assess their performance after a pre-determined period of time.
 - Alternately, sectors could put forward additional candidates, and all candidates could be put up for a vote at the October SSC meeting, with the top two vote-getters named as Chair and Vice-Chair.
 - Under all of these options, a system could be set up for rotating the Chair and Vice Chair, in which, after 6 months (or whatever period of time is determined to be acceptable), the chair would rotate out, the vice-chair would become chair, and a new vice chair from another sector would enter the queue. This proposal was suggested to address concerns about continuity and preventing one party or sector from gaining too much influence by being the chair for too long.
 - The current candidates under consideration are Kevin Gunn, Beth Soholt and Roy Thilly. It was noted that Roy Thilly is retiring, and therefore will no longer be a Public Power representative and would serve in a leadership role if compensated for his time by DOE.
- Craig Glazer registered his concern about rotating the Chair at 6 months, even if the new Chair was previously Vice-Chair, in the interest of greater continuity for EIPC and David Whiteley. EIPC would prefer the rotation be once every 12 months.

- The group did not reach consensus on a proposal and decided to take more time to discuss the issue among themselves and within their sectors.. Task Force will have up to 2 more weeks to discuss the issue before deciding on recommendations for the SSC (candidates or recommended candidates) at the October SSC meeting.

Alternatives to Consensus (2 sections in Charter)

- Tammy Linde summarized the language from the May 14th Statement for the Record on SSC Decision Making Discussion, adding that consensus would remain the goal, but that having a backstop voting process in place before the need arises would be very helpful. She recommended using a high threshold to trigger the backstop voting, a high number of votes needed for a proposal to pass, and a clause prohibiting any one sector from unilaterally vetoing a proposal.
- The following items from the May 14th “Statement for the Record” were discussed:
 - **Item D.** Some members were concerned that the language, as written, could be interpreted as requiring sectors to have internal unanimity. Some language was modified to clarify this.
 - **Item C** Placeholder language was added to indicate the criterion that no one sector could unilaterally veto a proposal. This language may need to be refined after further discussion among the sectors.
 - **Definition of consensus.** There was some discussion about whether the definition of “consensus” should be expanded beyond “no objections to a proposal moving forward,” to include the proposed backstop voting process.
- Several sectors expressed a need to consult with their caucuses in order to determine acceptable language and thresholds; this issue was placed on the next call agenda.

Other Issues

Next Steps:

- Keystone will send out a Task Force contact list
- Keystone will send out updated language based on today’s call, including a range of possible threshold numbers for the backstop voting process (23-27), and the charter as it currently stands, with the decision-making/consensus section highlighted
- Gov TF members should give some thought to who will present the Task Force’s findings/ recommendations at the October SSC meeting
- Agenda items for the next call (next week, time to be Doodled):
 - Alternatives to consensus/backstop voting
 - Recommendations on chair issue