

Council Nominations Committee Selection Process and Guidelines

Nominations Committee Selection Process

Council should be a senior body of statespersons not explicitly representing any constituency. They need to be mindful of the needs of funders, the membership, partners, and all relevant stakeholders, but also willing to make difficult strategic decisions that may not please all. While a fully democratic approach to selecting Council members is not appropriate because it would introduce partisan lobbying and special interests, it *is* appropriate for the Nominations Committee to represent diverse interests.

It is essential that Council have the trust and confidence of the funding agencies supporting RDA operations. It is equally essential that Council have the trust and confidence of the RDA membership. RDA must also be seen as a neutral, authoritative, and effective body by the broader research and data sharing community. Finally, prospective Council members must have an understanding of the work involved and a willingness to work in a collaborative, community-driven, consensus-based environment.

These considerations inform the following process:

- Council appoints a new Nomination Committee every year at their first meeting after the annual Council election.
- The Nomination Committee shall consist of four to seven individuals, with at least one representative from the following stakeholder constituencies:
 - Funding agencies currently supporting central RDA operations
 - The general individual membership chosen by Council from members proposed by TAB
 - The organisational membership and affiliates chosen by Council from Organisational Members proposed by OAB
 - Former Council members
- A new Nomination Committee is appointed every year, but there is no limit on how long someone can serve on the committee, and Council should ensure some continuity in membership from year to year.
- Council should ensure there is reasonably broad regional representation on the committee.
- Council should determine the members of the committee through a consensus-based approach.

Guidelines for the Nomination Committee

When developing the slate of Council candidates, the nominations committee should try to identify senior statespeople who do not represent any particular constituency. Council members should have broad connections with funders, one or more research or data communities, and other relevant stakeholders.

The committee should also strive for a balanced representation on the Council. The balance criteria for the Technical Advisory Board may be instructive although they need not be applied as rigorously. The TAB balance criteria are as follows:

Region:

- North America and South America

- Europe and Africa
- Asia and Oceania

Discipline

- Natural sciences
- Engineering and technology
- Medical and health sciences
- Agricultural sciences
- Social sciences
- Humanities

Professional role:

- Data Generator
- Data Manager
- Data Technologist
- Data User
- Data Policy maker
- Other