

**Proposal to amend the union's rules to allow for each national section to have more equitable representation on the MEAA Board**

The current registered rules of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance provide for a maximum of five Federal Vice-Presidents to serve on the MEAA Board as representatives of the national sections. (See Rule 79 (c) (1) (vi) at page 58 of the rules.)

The distribution of those Vice-Presidents across the Media, Equity, ECS and Musicians Sections is governed at election time by a complicated formula based on subscription fee income at June 30 from the previous year, which is then divided by an arbitrary \$200 to arrive at a "notional" number of members in each section, and then the five positions are divided up based on each section's share of the total notional membership figure. (See Rule 80 (c) at page 64.)

To show how complicated this formula is, here's a current hypothetical calculation:

Budgeted sectional income for FY2023:

Equity	\$2,541,950
Media	\$3,311,576
ECS	\$2,022,203
Musicians	\$586,170

Divided by \$200 to give the notional membership figure:

Equity	12,710
Media	16,558
ECS	10,111
Musos	<u>2,931</u>
TOTAL	<u>42,309</u>

Each section's percentage of the total notional membership figure provides their share (rounded up or down) of the five VP roles:

Equity	30%	1.5015 = 2 V-Ps
Media	39%	1.9565 = 2 V-Ps
ECS	24%	1.1945 = 1 V-P
Musos	7%	0.346 = NIL

This formula generates an inequitable situation where Musicians don't achieve genuine V-P representation on the Board and, bizarrely, as a result the ECS Vice-President is designated as representing both ECS and Musicians sections, a clearly unfair and impractical outcome from a sectional leadership perspective.

The broader issue is that our rules should sustain our ability to build a succession plan for honorary roles at the highest level of union democratic governance by building the leadership structure across all national sections.

The proposal is to abandon the complicated “notional” membership formula in favour of allocating one or a maximum of two Vice-President positions to national sections at two thresholds of actual membership numbers, being 1500 and 3000. On current membership numbers, this would result in the following Vice-President positions at the next election: Media, 2; Equity, 2; ECS, 2; Musicians, 1.

### **Proposed motions:**

THAT Federal Council approve:

The amendment of Rule 79 (c) (1) by deleting the words at subclause (vi)

~~Federal Vice Presidents (5) (the number for each section or group of sections to be determined by Rule 80)~~

and inserting these words at subclause (vi)

one Federal Vice-President elected by and from the financial membership of each national section with more than 1500 financial members as at June 30 immediately prior to the biennial elections or two Federal Vice-Presidents elected by and from the financial membership of each national section with more than 3000 financial members as at June 30 immediately prior to the biennial elections

THAT Federal Council approve:

The deletion of the whole of Rule 80 clause (c).

~~(c) The Board shall determine the number of Federal Vice Presidents to which each section or grouping or sections is entitled by applying the following formula:~~

~~(i) The annual income of each of the Media, Equity, ECS and Musicians Sections from entrance fees and membership subscriptions shall be ascertained for the previous financial year.~~

~~(ii) The ‘notional’ number of members of each section or grouping of sections shall be ascertained by dividing the amount of income for each section by \$200.00 (or other amount as determined by the Board).~~

~~(iii) The respective proportions of the notional members of each section or grouping of sections shall be ascertained.~~

~~(iv) The proportional formula so obtained in respect of section or grouping of sections shall be applied to the number five.~~

~~(v) The result rounded to the nearest whole number which one or greater shall be the number of federal vice-presidents from the respective sections or groupings of sections~~