



Proposal at a glance

Public Comment Proposal: Modify Appointment Process for the Histocompatibility Vice Chair
Sponsoring Committee: OPTN Histocompatibility Committee

You may be interested in this proposal if:

- You work at a histocompatibility laboratory

Here's what we propose and why

The OPTN Histocompatibility Committee proposes to remove language from the OPTN Bylaws requiring an election to appoint the committee's Vice Chair. This position is currently determined by a national election every two years. This process is different from the appointment process of all other OPTN Committees, so the Histocompatibility Committee believes it is important to be consistent with the practices applied with other OPTN committees. The Committee views this appointment process as inefficient in light of improvements in the existing leadership appointment process.

Why this may matter to you

The OPTN will continue to seek histocompatibility experts to serve on this Committee. Committee leaders (Chair or Vice Chair) are usually drawn from the committee they currently serve on. The Committee feels confident that future Vice Chair candidates will possess the needed expertise to handle the complex issues faced by the Committee.

Public Comment Proposal

Modify Appointment Process for the Histocompatibility Vice Chair

OPTN Histocompatibility Committee

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Modify Appointment Process for the Histocompatibility Vice Chair

Affected Bylaw: Bylaws Article 7.1: Composition of Standing Committees
Sponsoring Committee: Histocompatibility Committee
Public Comment Period: August 2, 2019 –October 2, 2019

Executive Summary

The OPTN has 21 standing and ad-hoc committees that develop policy proposals and advise the OPTN Board of Directors. The committees each have approximately 18 members, led by a Chair and Vice Chair who each serve for terms defined in OPTN bylaws. The names of potential committee leaders are proposed by existing leadership with UNOS staff input and submitted for consideration. The Vice President of the OPTN Board of Directors then appoints Chairs and Vice Chairs from a list of qualified nominees.

The OPTN Histocompatibility Committee Vice Chair is the only exception to this practice and is selected via a national election by all eligible member histocompatibility laboratory representatives.

In order to achieve efficiency in OPTN governance through consistency, the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee proposes to modify the appointment process outlined in the OPTN *Bylaws, Article 7.1: Composition of Standing Committees (Bylaws 7.1)*. This will eliminate the election of the Vice Chair and make it more consistent with the manner in which all other standing and ad-hoc committees have the Vice Chair selected.

Problem the proposal will address

Bylaws 7.1 currently requires the Vice Chair of the Histocompatibility Committee be appointed through a national election process involving histocompatibility laboratories.¹ This is inconsistent with the Vice Chair appointment process for all other standing and ad-hoc OPTN committees.

Background

The Chair and Vice Chair of OPTN committees are responsible for leading diverse groups of volunteers to develop national healthcare policy for organ donation and transplantation. Succession in Committee leadership is critical to the success of OPTN policy initiatives. The Committee recognizes the importance of, and respects, the leadership appointment process used by the OPTN. Further, the Committee seeks to achieve alignment of this process with that of all other OPTN committees. Based on these principles, the Committee pursued a proposal to attain this alignment.

Vice Chair Appointment Process for Other OPTN Standing Committees

OPTN Bylaws, Article 7.2 Permanent Standing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs outlines the basic requirements for Vice Chair appointment and term length.² The selection process is designed to consider potential leaders who can:

- Navigate complex and controversial issues
- Lead groups of volunteer subject matter experts (SMEs)
- Help achieve consensus on health policy decision making
- Speak to diverse audiences regarding the rationale for the committee's initiatives.

To identify these individuals, the Vice President considers recommendations from the leadership team of the committee, biographical information on an individual, and the initiatives that may be undertaken in the foreseeable future. After considering this information in total, the Vice President appoints an individual who possesses the leadership acumen to achieve initiatives and further the goals of the OPTN Strategic Plan.

Proposed Solution

The recommended solution is to modify the appointment process outlined in the *Bylaws 7.1*. This will eliminate the election of the Vice Chair and make it more consistent with the manner in which all other standing committees have the Vice Chair selected.

Implementation

Logistics

This proposal will be implemented by doing the following: UNOS staff will publish a standard policy notice as well as a website article. The OPTN Bylaws will be updated and posted. UNetSM system programming will not be required for implementation. OPTN members will not need to do anything related to this change.

¹ OPTN Bylaws, Article 7.1 *Composition of Standing Committees*, available at optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.

² OPTN Bylaws, Article 7.2 *Permanent Standing Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs*, available at optn.transplant.hrsa.gov.

The OPTN Vice President would involve UNOS staff in facilitating the nominations and appointment of a Vice Chair to the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee, as is done for all OPTN Committees each spring. The next Histocompatibility Vice Chair is due to be appointed in 2020. No election will take place in January 2020 as the regular OPTN Vice Chair appointment process will be implemented and used.

Evaluation

No post implementation evaluation will be conducted.

Summary

In order to achieve efficiency in OPTN governance, the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee proposes to modify the appointment process in the *Bylaws 7.1*. This will eliminate the election of the OPTN Histocompatibility Committee Vice Chair and make it more consistent with the manner in which all other OPTN standing and ad-hoc committees have the Vice Chair selected. The OPTN welcomes comments on this proposal.

Bylaws Language

Proposed new language is underlined (example) and language that is proposed for removal is struck through (~~example~~).

[Subsequent headings affected by the re-numbering of this policy will also be changed as necessary.]

1 **7.1 Composition of Standing Committees**

2 Each standing Committee must be represented by each of the OPTN geographic regions. For more
3 information about the OPTN regions, see *Article IX: Regions* of these Bylaws.

4
5 All standing Committees should have at least one representative from each region as well as
6 representatives from the following:

- 7
- 8 ■ Transplant hospitals
- 9 ■ OPOs
- 10 ■ Transplant coordinators
- 11 ■ Transplant candidates, recipients, donors, or their family members

12

13 ~~In addition, the Histocompatibility Committee should have at least one histocompatibility laboratory~~
14 ~~representative from each region, and histocompatibility laboratories will also elect the vice chair to~~
15 ~~serve on the Histocompatibility Committee.~~

16

17 The vice president, as incoming president, will appoint representatives to the Committees from a list of
18 nominations received from the regional councillors. Committees will, to the extent practical, include
19 racial and gender representation reflecting the diversity of those served by the OPTN.

20

21 The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Project Officer for the OPTN contract and the
22 Director of the Division of Transplantation, or representatives they designate, serve *ex-officio* and do not
23 have a vote on the Committees.

24

25 Committee members are usually appointed to only one standing Committee at a time, but the vice
26 president may appoint members to multiple Committees to enhance communication between
27 Committees, or for any reason that may increase knowledge and productivity of the Committees.

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