

Briefing to the OPTN Board of Directors on

Modify Appointment Process for the Histocompatibility Vice Chair

OPTN Histocompatibility Committee

*Prepared by: Paula Dehetre, MPA
UNOS Policy and Community Relations Department*

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	1
Background	2
Overview of Proposal	2
Community Feedback	2
Implementation and Operational Considerations	3
Post-implementation Monitoring	4
Conclusion	4
Bylaws Language	5

Modify Appointment Process for the Histocompatibility Vice Chair

<i>Affected Bylaws:</i>	<i>Article 7.1: Composition of Standing Committees</i>
<i>Sponsoring Committee:</i>	<i>Histocompatibility Committee</i>
<i>Public Comment Period:</i>	<i>August 2, 2019 – October 2, 2019</i>
<i>Board of Director's Date:</i>	<i>December 3, 2019</i>

Executive Summary

The OPTN has 17 standing and ad-hoc committees that develop policy proposals and advise the OPTN Board of Directors (Board). 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 other community member feedback 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 per the OPTN Bylaws. This person 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 (Committee) proposes to modify the appointment process outlined in *Article 7.1: Composition of Standing Committees* of the OPTN Bylaws (*Bylaw 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.

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 this proposal to attain this alignment.

According to OPTN records, the Board approved that the Histocompatibility Committee Vice Chair would be elected, as they had been electing the regional representatives, to ensure that qualified lab directors were included in leadership of the group in June 2003.

Overview of Proposal

The recommended solution is to modify the appointment process outlined in the *Bylaw 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.

Community Feedback

The proposal was broadly supported during public comment by all regions and all member types as a non-discussion agenda item. The American Society of Transplantation (AST), American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics (ASHI) supported the proposal, as did the American Nephrology Nurses Association.

Sentiment polling was conducted at all 11 regional meetings (shown in **Figure 1**). Polling by Member Type (**Figure 2**) is also shown. There was overall support for the proposal.

Figure 1: Proposal Sentiment by OPTN Region

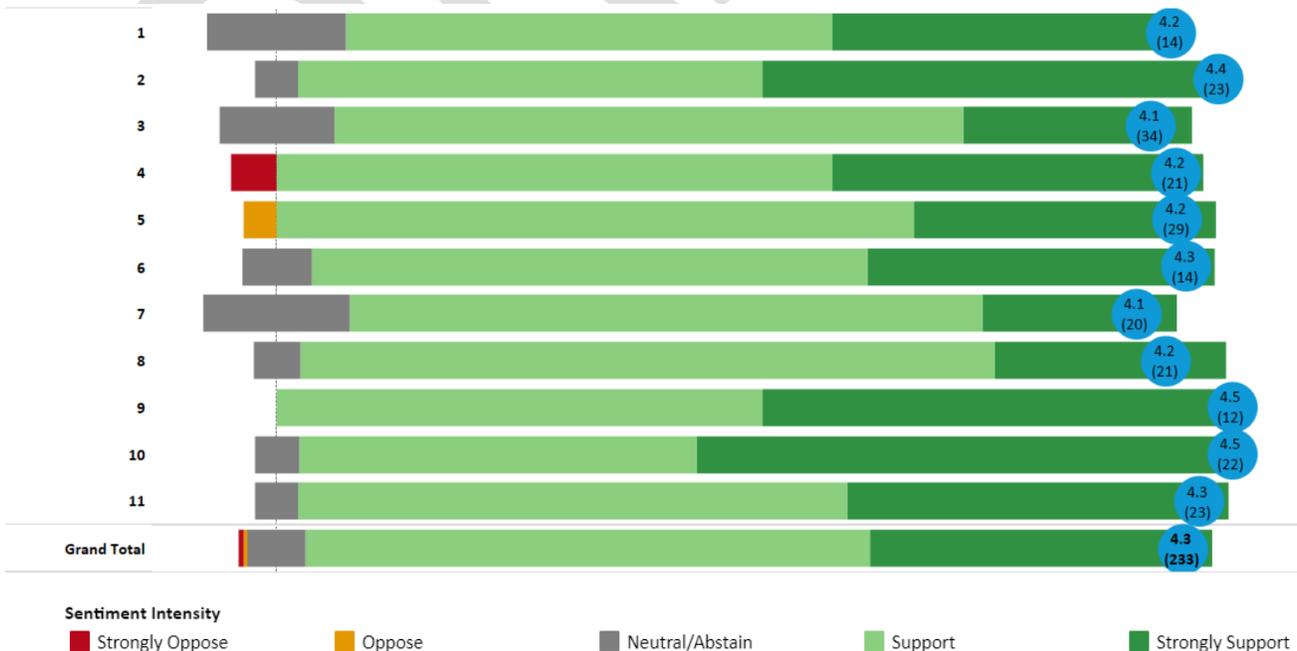
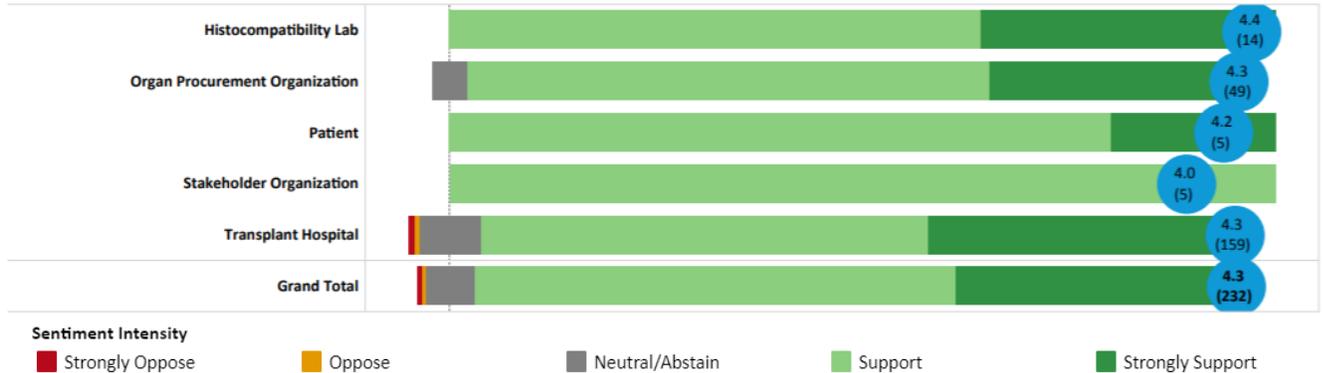


Figure 2: Proposal Sentiment by Member Type



The Committee reviewed and discussed the results of public comment and concluded the public sentiment supported sending the proposal to the Board with no changes.¹

Alignment with OPTN Strategic Plan

This proposal also achieves efficiency in OPTN governance through consistency of practice. Further, administrative time associated with the election process can be redirected to OPTN initiatives that will increase organ transplants, increase equity in access to transplantation, improve living donor and transplant patient outcomes, and increase patient safety.

Potential Fiscal Impact of Proposal

Members:

This proposal has no fiscal impact on members.

OPTN:

There are no significant implementation or ongoing efforts associated with the proposal.

Implementation and Operational Considerations

Overview

This proposal will be implemented as follows: 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.

¹ The Committee voted to recommend the proposal to the Board (Yes -15, No - 0, Abstain - 0). OPTN Histocompatibility Committee, Meeting Summary October 16, 2019, available at <https://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/members/committees/histocompatibility-committee/>.

OPTN actions

The OPTN Vice President would involve UNOS staff in facilitating the nominations and appointment of a Vice Chair to the Committee, as is done for all OPTN committees each spring. The next Committee 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.

Member actions

OPTN members will not need to take any action as a result of this Bylaw change.

Post-implementation Monitoring

Member compliance

No changes will be needed for member compliance activities.

Policy evaluation

No post implementation evaluation will be necessary.

Conclusion

The Committee, after careful consideration of efficiency measures and public comment, recommends to the Board that elections no longer be held for the selection of the Committee's Vice Chair. Rather, the Committee recommends the Vice Chair appointment process become consistent with the standard practice for all OPTN committees, where the Board Vice President will appoint the Vice Chair.

Bylaws Language

Proposed new language is underlined (example) and language that is proposed for removal is struck through (~~example~~). Heading numbers, table and figure captions, and cross-references affected by the numbering of these policies will be updated 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.

28
29 #