

## **Meeting Paper 13.1 COMNAP Executive Committee (EXCOM) positions: Situation for AGM discussion/decision**

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**THE ISSUE:** COMNAP finds itself in a highly unusual situation where-by all six EXCOM positions will be vacant at the same point in time. The situation is unusual because we purposefully stagger our elected EXCOM member terms so as not to have complete turnover of the entire EXCOM at any one point in time. Staggering the terms of the positions usually allows for continuity of several officers each year, while allowing one, two or three new officers to join as staggered terms are completed. The situation we find ourselves in as an organisation is described below. The Meeting Paper then presents some scenarios, allowable under our Rules of Procedure, in order to inform AGM (Agenda Item 13) discussion and decision-making.

### **THE SITUATION:**

#### **A. COMNAP CHAIR KELLY FALKNER**

- The three-year term for COMNAP Chair, Dr Kelly K Falkner (MNAP USA National Antarctic Program) began with her election on 2 August 2017 at COMNAP Annual General Meeting (AGM) XXIX (2017), Brno, Czech Republic. Her three-year term of office will be complete on at the close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).

#### **B. COMNAP VICE CHAIRS (There are a total of five COMNAP Vice Chair positions at any one time)**

##### **1. VICE CHAIR JOHN GULDAHL**

- The one-year term for COMNAP Vice Chair, Mr John Guldahl (Deputy MNAP (DMNAP) Norway National Antarctic Program) began after election on 31 July 2019 at COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria. This followed his successful completion of a three-year term as Vice Chair from 18 August 2016 to 30 July 2019. John will complete his one-year term of office at the close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).

##### **2. VICE CHAIRS UWE NIXDORF & AGNIESZKA KRUSZEWSKA**

- The three-year terms for COMNAP Vice Chairs, Dr Uwe Nixdorf (MNAP Germany's National Antarctic Program) and Ms Agnieszka Kruszevska (MNAP Poland's National Antarctic Program) began after election on 2 August 2017 at COMNAP AGM XXIX (2017), Brno, Czech Republic. They each will complete their three-year terms of office at the close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).

##### **3. VICE CHAIR HO IL YOON**

- Dr Ho Il Yoon (MNAP Korea's National Antarctic Program) began a three-year term after election on 31 July 2019 at COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Through official correspondence from KOPRI, Dr Yoon submitted his resignation from the COMNAP EXCOM on 7 April 2020 and that Vice Chair position has been vacant since that date.

##### **4. VICE CHAIR SERGIO GAGO GUIDA**

- Admiral Sergio Gago Guida (Brazil's National Antarctic Program) began a three-year term after election on 31 July 2019 at COMNAP AGM XXXI (2019), Plovdiv, Bulgaria. Through official correspondence from Admiral Guida, he informed COMNAP of his transfer from PROANTAR to another area of the Brazilian Navy. He is no longer the Brazil MNAP and therefore according to our Rules of Procedure, he cannot continue in this three-year term as Vice Chair. He will therefore complete (after one-year) his three-year term of office at the

close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).

***A and B taken together creates, at the close of the COMNAP AGM Plenary (Business) on-line session, a vacancy for the COMNAP Chair EXCOM position and five vacancies for the COMNAP Vice Chair EXCOM positions.***

**OPTIONS WITHIN THE COMNAP RULES OF PROCEDURE:**

**A. COMNAP CHAIR**

- The COMNAP AGM must elect an MNAP to the role of COMNAP Chair with a term to begin at the close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).
- The usual term of office is a three-year term, so through COMNAP AGM XXXV (2023).
  - *The COMNAP Rules of Procedure do allow some flexibility in that we could elect a Chair for a one-year term, so through COMNAP AGM XXXIII (2021), and there is COMNAP precedent for this.*<sup>1</sup>
- Who is eligible?
  - The current Chair, incumbent Dr Kelly K Falkner, has confirmed that, should it be the Members' wish, she stands ready to be nominated for election to an additional Chair term of no more than one-year duration, so through COMNAP AGM XXXIII (2021).
  - All Member MNAPs (see Meeting Paper 13.2 for current MNAP list) are eligible for the position of Chair.
  - A Vice-Chair, may, if so elected, serve one (1) term as Vice-Chair and one (1) consecutive or non-consecutive term as Chair.
    - a. *All current Vice Chairs (John Guldahl, Agnieszka Kruszewska and Uwe Nixdorf) confirm their support for Dr Kelly Falkner in the (continuing) role of COMNAP Chair for a one-year term.*
    - b. *The current Vice Chairs who are eligible for the Chair position do not make themselves available for consideration for nomination to the Chair.*

**B. COMNAP VICE CHAIRS**

- The COMNAP AGM must elect five MNAPs or up to two DMNAPs to take up the roles of COMNAP Vice Chairs at the close of the COMNAP AGM XXXII (2020).
- Current Vice Chairs John Guldahl, Agnieszka Kruszewska and Uwe Nixdorf have all confirmed that, should it be the Members' wish, they stand ready to be nominated for election, each for an additional Vice Chair term of no more than one-year duration, so through COMNAP AGM XXXIII (2021). They have also indicated that they are equally ready to successfully complete their terms as Vice Chairs in order for others to take on the EXCOM Vice Chair positions.
- Current Vice Chair Sergio Gago Guida must complete his term as Vice Chair as he is no longer the COMNAP MNAP for Brazil and so this position must be open to a call for nominations.
- The Vice Chair position currently vacant due to resignation from EXCOM by Ho Il Yoon must be open to a call for nominations.
- The term of office for each Vice Chair is a three-year term, so through COMNAP AGM XXXV (2023).
  - *The COMNAP Rules of Procedure do allow some flexibility in that we could elect one or more Vice Chairs for a one-year term, so through COMNAP AGM XXXIII (2021).*
- Who is eligible?
  - All Member MNAPs and DMNAPs are eligible for the positions of Vice-Chair (see

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<sup>1</sup> Dr José Retamales was COMNAP Chair for an initial three-year term of office (2008–2010), then elected to a one-year term as Chair (2010-2011).

Meeting Paper 13.2 for current MNAP and DMNAP list).

**SOME POSSIBLE SCENARIOS:**

SCENARIO 1: Nominate and re-elect the current Chair (Kelly Falkner) and the current three Vice Chairs (John Guldahl, Agnieszka Kruszewska and Uwe Nixdorf) each for a term of one-year (through COMNAP AGM XXXIII (2021)). Call for nominations for the two vacant Vice Chair positions (those left vacant by Ho Il Yoon and Sergio Gago Guido) each for a three-year term (through COMNAP AGM XXXV (2023)).

- a. If this was the decision it would allow for strong continuity in the EXCOM.
- b. It would allow for return to the staggering of the terms of office.
- c. It would allow for two new people to join the EXCOM now with the benefit of working closely with those who have experience serving on EXCOM.

OUTCOME FROM SCENARIO 1: EXCOM would be:

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP  
VICE CHAIR: Mr John Guldahl, DMNAP NPI  
VICE CHAIR: Ms Agnieszka Kruszewska, MNAP IBB PAS  
VICE CHAIR: Dr Uwe Nixdorf, MNAP AWI  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*  
+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SCENARIO 2: Call for nominations for all EXCOM elected positions and from those nominations elect all new EXCOM Members.

- a. If this was the decision, the recommendation would be to create terms of one-year and three-years for the Vice Chair positions to ensure staggering of terms and elect the Chair for a three-year term.
- b. Up to two of the Vice Chair positions could be from the DMNAP list.
- c. The Chair position and at least three of the Vice Chair positions must be from the MNAP list.
- d. Arguably, if this was the AGM decision, this would weaken continuity/strategic direction and likely create uncertainty within COMNAP as an organisation.
- e. It would likely over-burden the Executive Secretary as the only continuing appointed member on the EXCOM.
- f. Arguably, it seems an unwise/not ideal choice at any time, but especially now given the current uncertain global situation and uneasiness we all face.

OUTCOME FROM SCENARIO 2: EXCOM would be:

CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*  
VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*  
+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SCENARIO 3: Nominate and re-elect the current Chair (Kelly Falkner) and call for nominations for all Vice Chair positions, or for any number of Vice Chair positions. Meaning, retain none, or one, or two of the three current Vice Chairs and open the remaining positions for election.

- a. Re-elect the current Chair for a one-year term.
- b. If this was the decision, the recommendation would be to create terms of one-year and three-years for the Vice Chair positions to ensure staggering of terms and
- c. Any two (current or new), but only up to two, of the Vice Chair positions could be from the DMNAP list.

SEVERAL OUTCOMES FROM SCENARIO 3: EXCOM could be:

i. (Re-electing only the Chair and none of the three current Vice Chairs)

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

OR ii. (re-electing the Chair and any two of the three current Vice Chairs)

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *John Guldahl*

VICE CHAIR: *Uwe Nixdorf*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *John Guldahl*

VICE CHAIR: *Agnieszka Kruszewska*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *Agnieszka Kruszewska*

VICE CHAIR: *Uwe Nixdorf*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

OR iii. (re-electing the Chair and any one of the three current Vice Chairs)

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *John Guldahl*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from the MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *Agnieszka Kruszewska*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from the MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from the MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

CHAIR: Dr Kelly Falkner, MNAP USAP

VICE CHAIR: *Uwe Nixdorf*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from the MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from the MNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SCENARIO 4: Nominate and re-elect all the current Vice Chair positions (John Guldahl, Agnieszka Kruszewska and Uwe Nixdorf) and call for nominations for a new Chair and the two vacant Vice Chair positions.

- a. Re-elect the current three Vice Chairs each for a one-year term.
- b. Call for nominations for the Chair from the MNAP list.
- c. Appoint the new elected Chair for a three-year term.
- d. Call for nominations for the two currently vacant Vice Chair positions each for three-year terms.
- e. Any two (current or new), but only up to two in total, of the Vice Chair positions could be from the DMNAP list.

OUTCOME FROM SCENARIO 4: EXCOM would be:

CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs (three-year term)*

VICE CHAIR: John Guldahl, DMNAP NPI (one-year term)

VICE CHAIR: Agnieszka Kruszewska, MNAP PAS IBB (one-year term)

VICE CHAIR: Uwe Nixdorf, MNAP AWI (one-year term)

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs or DMNAPs (three-year term)*

VICE CHAIR: *Person elected from MNAPs (three-year term)*

+ the EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

SCENARIO 5: Something else?

**Rules of Procedure General Principles**

For all possible scenarios presented above (including “something else”) the COMNAP Rules of Procedure say:

- The Chair and Vice-Chairs shall all be representatives from different Member National Antarctic Programs, reflecting COMNAP's diversity and range of expertise.
- As far as practical, consideration should be given to representation and balance (in relation to geographic and cultural origin, gender, geographic areas of Antarctic operations and size and type of Antarctic activities) - at any given time but also over the years (see MP13.3 EXCOM Officers 1988 to 2020).
- Any MNAP or DMNAP can nominate any other MNAP or DMNAP for consideration.
- The MNAPs elect one (1) COMNAP Chair and five (5) COMNAP Vice-Chairs...