

Proposal on how to elect our first Keeper of the Global Perspective

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Distribution: Hubs Group

This proposed process is a hybrid of methods adapted from our online discussions and meetings, designed specifically for the task. Legally speaking, we have no right to elect or appoint our representative on the TN Board because new Trustees are appointed by the current Board. Formally speaking, we are not electing, but nominating. However, the TN Board has made clear that they are happy to accept any nomination put forward collectively by the National Hubs Group.

Proposed Steps

1. You can find information [here](#) about being a TN trustee, please contact Sarah (sarahmccadam@transitionnetwork.org) if you have any questions or would like an informal discussion about the role.
2. Any individual named on the [National Hubs register](#) can nominate themselves or another person on the register to be considered for this role. If you would like to nominate another person, please check they have no objections.
3. Nominations should be sent by email to Filipa (filipapimentel@transitionnetwork.org) by Thursday 17 April.
4. All nominations will be checked to ensure that the person nominated is:
 - a. named on the National Hubs register, and
 - b. happy to be considered for the role of TN trustee.
5. We will [doodle](#) for an online election meeting date and time; duration 2 hours (could be less).
6. Received nominations and instructions for online election meeting will be shared with all participants of the meeting. Invited are all members of the **Hubs Group**, and also **Hubs Secretariat** with all the **Board of Trustees** members. Whoever is invited and attends the meeting are the right people to make decision (Open Space Technology style).
7. Online election meeting facilitated as 'election by consent', adapted for this meeting from [sociocracy](#):
 - a. all people present vote and discuss in rounds;
 - b. this method is particularly suited for transparent and participatory election and it is easily done online;
 - c. number of participants will determine online meeting platform we will use; platform must offer audio and chat for required number of participants, video is good but not necessary.

8. Formal nomination acceptance at the next Board meeting (could be done at the end of online election meeting if enough Board members are present).

Election by consent template (adapted for online meeting)

Prepared January - March 2014. Adapted from [Dynamic Governance Summary](#) for **WG Structure & Decision Making** by Nenad Maljkovic, with input from Ben Brangwyn, Sarah McAdam and Guillaume Dorvaux.

Facilitator introduction

- explains best practice in online meetings:
 - use earphones to prevent echo
 - call from quiet room or mute your microphone while not speaking to prevent background noise during the call
 - no parallel voice / chat discussions
- explains chat “hand signals”: h = hand, hh = two hands (direct response), y = yes, n = no (chat is used only for “hand signals” to avoid distractions by parallel conversations on voice and chat; chat may or may not be used by note-taker to take notes)
- explains how to start and end talking for smooth group conversation
- explains how [voting record](#) will be used by facilitator(s)
- facilitates decision on 3 guardians: heart, history, time
- sets out the key points of the election process



Guardian of the heart introduction

- names some of the feelings that are likely to come up during the meeting
- explains potentially emotionally “charged” parts of the process
- invites participants to connect with how they can make their contribution to serve the whole group



Election criteria round ¹

- Facilitator checks whether there any questions about the Trustee role responsibilities, qualifications, term, etc.
- When invited by facilitator, every meeting participant explains the criteria (qualities, competences, etc.) he or she thinks are important for the role.



Submit ballots round

When invited by facilitator, write in chat: *“I vote for [name].”*
 No explanations whatsoever needed at this point.
 Voting for yourself is fine.



¹ During rounds facilitator invites every participant to give input in turn, with no group conversation.

Share reasons round

When invited by facilitator, say: *"I'd like [name] in this role because..."*

**Nomination changes round**

When invited by facilitator, write in chat: *"I change my nomination to [name]."*

When invited by facilitator, say: *"I change my nomination to [name] because..."*

**(Open discussion)**

- Facilitator may open discussion if necessary. It is optional and seldom used (to save time).

**Consent round**

- Facilitator suggests a minute for quiet reflection before decision-making time.
- Facilitator invites participants to propose a person for the role based on what they have heard.
- When proposal is clear, facilitator asks for objections.
- If there are objections, facilitator asks for explanations. If objection can't be resolved by open discussion, facilitator asks for another proposal.
- No objections = consent. Celebration!



- **Reflection round** (facilitated by Guardian of the Heart)

REMEMBER:

- Numeric majority is less important than "weight" of reasons. On the other hand, numeric majority may be an indicator of common sense among participants.
- If necessary, proposal is amended and consent round repeated.
- **Reasoned paramount objections** are addressed according to the options ² for moving forward in the consent decision making process.
- Person being considered is asked for consent last.

DO NOT!

- Elect for an unlimited term.
- Ask for a volunteer.
- Inquire who is interested or who is not.
- Have dialogue during a round.
- Seek the **perfect** person: each person has strengths and weaknesses.

² Just for the clarity, the options mentioned above are: facilitator amends the proposal; free-form discussion followed by amendment; brief dialogue by 2 or 3 individuals; "How might you solve this?" round; conducting an experiment; referring back to idea originator to rework; referring to research task force, referring to resolution task force.

Note: Reasoned paramount objections are not very likely during this online meeting, as we will go through previous off-line process, nomination reviews and discussions.