

Report from the Nominating Committee

Stefan Helgesson

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In preparation for the elections at the 2025 ICLA congress in Seoul, the Nominating Committee (NC) for the 2025–2028 period consists of the following members:

Stefan Helgesson (chair)
Kathy Komar
Rita Terezinha Schmidt
Zhang Longxi
Lucia Boldrini (ex officio)

We have convened online on three occasions thus far to agree on our procedure and discuss possible nominees. Calls for nominations have gone out both to the Executive Committee (EC) via email and to all ICLA members through the newsletter. A small number of nominations have been received through those channels.

According to ICLA's current bylaws, the "Nominating Committee shall make every effort to present at least two candidates for each position, excluding the President". This is what we have done and are doing, with the exception of nominees for treasurers and secretaries, where it is a challenge simply to match the number of positions. **I suggest that this situation needs to be discussed by the EC: treasurers and secretaries are strategically crucial positions with very specific requirements.** With regard to treasurers, moreover, bank accounts are not easily moved. For these reasons, it seems wise not to insist on finding at least two candidates for each of these positions.

In our discussions, and in accordance with the bylaws, the NC has agreed that the composition of nominees should aim for geographical representativity, gender and generational balance, and disciplinary diversity. Elected officers eligible for a second term have been asked if they wish to be nominated again.

We have decided that it is wisest not yet to circulate the names of candidates in this report, but names can be discussed during the EC meeting. Thus far we have the following **confirmed numbers** of nominees for the different positions:

President (1) – 1 (Asia)

Vice presidents (4) – 4 confirmed, additional candidates pending (1 North America, 2 Asia, 1 Europe)

Treasurers (3) – Asian treasurer (second term) confirmed; treasurers for the Americas (first term) and Europe/Africa (second term) seem to be secured, but confirmation is pending

Secretaries (2) – 1 confirmed, French-speaking secretary under negotiation

EC members (18) – 26 confirmed, and a few more pending (4 North America, 9 Europe, 6 Asia, 3 Africa, 3 South America, 1 Australia)

The geographical labels indicate where the candidates currently are based. In terms of research areas, there is a more equitable distribution. (More than three candidates have a research focus on African and/or Arabic literatures, for example.)

This is what will happen the next few months:

- A second general call for nominations will be sent out to ICLA members after the September EC meeting.
- The NC will secure the remaining candidates for treasurers and secretaries, plus additional candidates for VPs and EC members. We have another four or five candidates in mind for the EC; of the EC candidates, two or three might be approached as possible VC candidates.

Points to discuss at the September EC meeting:

- The above-mentioned issue about treasurers and secretaries: do we need to present two candidates for each position?
- The status of VP candidates. These are, by definition, experienced and respected ICLA members with important contributions to make. If not elected, however, they have no remaining role in the Executive Council. A possible improvement could be to combine the nomination lists of VPs and EC candidates, and then, after the elections, confirm who will be the four VPs. Hence, in practice, a few nominees would be listed as candidates *both* for VP and the EC. This cannot be implemented in the coming election, but it would be worth discussing the idea for future mandate periods.

/Stefan Helgesson

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