



15th Biennial Conference of Big Ten Women's Organizations

Cultivating Winning Strategies

June 7 – 9, 2013 with The Illinois Club

Dear Delegates,

The Illinois Club is the only organization that has offered any amendments to the Conference By-laws at this point. At the end of this document are those proposed amendments as well as some guidance on how the Business Meeting will be conducted on Sunday, June 9th. We have proposed these amendments to the By-laws for the following reasons:

1. We wish to become gender neutral in our Conference name since several of our organizations now accept men as full-fledged members. Our Conference name no longer reflects who we all are. And it would be nice to have something shorter and to the point, as well as having the same name used throughout the By-laws in place of the current two.
2. We want to honor our collective roots as beginning as women's clubs, and therefore feel that should be reflected somewhere within the By-laws.
3. We believe that if we have a choice of new organizations to admit, that preference should be given to those that began as women's clubs, again, to honor our collective histories.
4. Although it may be hard to fathom now, at some point it is conceivable that one of our universities will decide that the grass is greener on the other side of the fence, and will decide to withdraw from the Big Ten. Rather than force one of our organizations to deal with this situation in the future, why not deal with it now, while there is no emergency?
5. Purdue had a wonderful idea two years ago when they decided that each organization would have only one collective vote on amendments. This seems very fair to us, that each organization has only one vote. Since this is not what the By-laws state, it would be better to make this very clear, if that is what we believe to be fair.

We welcome any comments that you might have on any of these issues. If you have strong (or even not so strong) feelings either way about any of these amendments, you may e-mail your comments in advance so that a copy will be placed in each delegate's welcome bag. This may enable you to express your opinions more fully than at the Business Meeting.

Please send all comments to bigten@theillinoisclub.org by June 1 for inclusion. Or if you find yourself composing your thoughts on your drive to Illinois, you may hand them in at Registration and we will make sure there are enough copies to hand out to all the delegates. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Susan Haney
Chair, Big Ten Conference



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The Amendments to the By-laws will be voted upon separately and discussed in this order:

1. Under ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS, this sentence paragraph shall now read:
 - The By-laws may be amended at a business meeting of the Conference by a two-thirds vote of the delegations present. Each member organization shall be granted one collective vote on each amendment to the By-laws.
2. Under ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP, this section will begin with:
 - Member organizations began as women's clubs, with some now including men in their membership.
3. Under ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP, the second paragraph of this section will be:
 - New member organizations will be eligible to join the Conference the year that their university officially joins the Big Ten Conference, or at any time thereafter. Preference for membership shall be given to organizations that began as university women's clubs.
4. Under ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP, the third paragraph of this section will be:
 - The respective member organization of a university that withdraws from the Big Ten Conference is no longer eligible to be a member of this Conference.
5. ARTICLE I: NAME: The name of this organization shall be The Conference of Big Ten University Organizations.
6. Under ARTICLE II: OBJECT, removal of the word “women’s.”
7. Under ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP, removal of the word “women’s.”
8. Under POLICIES 2. the last sentence shall now read:
 - Copies of the Proceedings shall be mailed to the Presidents of the member organizations in The Conference of Big Ten University Organizations.
9. The title of these By-laws shall now read as: THE CONFERENCE OF BIG TEN UNIVERSITY ORGANIZATIONS.

Each of our organizations will be given the opportunity to speak for 2 minutes on these topics at the beginning of the meeting if they so desire. You are not required to do so, but each organization is being offered the opportunity to be heard in person. Remarks will be timed similarly to how Purdue timed remarks so that we can get through everything, and so that each organization has an equal opportunity. If you write out your remarks in advance, you might find that to be helpful to keep yourself within your time limit. We can then also put them into the official Proceedings and minutes of the meeting more easily. Thank you! ☺

Additions and corrections are in **green**. Subtractions are in **red**.

THE CONFERENCE OF ~~THE~~ BIG TEN UNIVERSITY ~~WOMEN'S~~ ORGANIZATIONS

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME: The name of this organization shall be The Conference of Big Ten University ~~Women's~~ Organizations.

ARTICLE II: OBJECT: The object shall be to encourage mutual communication and cooperation among the ~~women's~~ organizations on the campuses of the Big Ten Universities and to sponsor a biennial conference of the member organizations for the purpose of exchanging ideas and information among the member organizations.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP: Member organizations began as women's clubs, with some now including men in their membership. The members shall be the ~~women's~~ organizations of the Big Ten Universities, as follows: The Illinois Club; University Women's Club, Indiana University; The University Club, University of Iowa; Faculty Women's Club of the University of Michigan; Michigan State University Community Club; University of Minnesota Women's Club; UNL Women's Club, University of Nebraska; The University Circle, Northwestern University; University Women's Club, The Ohio State University; Penn State University Women's Club; The Purdue Women's Club, Inc.; University League, Inc., University of Wisconsin-Madison.

New member organizations will be eligible to join the Conference the year that their university officially joins the Big Ten Conference, or at any time thereafter. Preference for membership shall be given to organizations that began as university women's clubs.

The respective member organization of a university that withdraws from the Big Ten Conference is no longer eligible to be a member of this Conference.

ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS: Meeting of the Conference shall be held once every two years. Member organizations shall take turns acting as host for the Conference. The schedule of rotation of host universities shall be: Michigan, Wisconsin, Purdue, Illinois, Ohio State, Minnesota, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan State, Northwestern, Pennsylvania State, Nebraska.

ARTICLE V: PLANNING COMMITTEE: The Planning Committee of the host university shall have the responsibility to determine the date of the Conference and provide full information on date and schedules to the other member organizations.

The Committee shall make all arrangements for an appropriate program and schedule of events for the Conference.

This Committee shall continue to function until a Planning Committee for the following conference has been chosen.

ARTICLE VI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY: Robert's Rules of Order, Revised shall govern this organization.

ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENTS: The By-laws may be amended at a business meeting of the Conference by a two-thirds vote of the ~~delegates~~ delegations present. Each member organization shall be granted one collective vote on each amendment to the By-laws.

POLICIES

1. Presidents of the twelve member organizations shall place the Presidents of the other eleven organizations on their mailing lists so that each organization shall receive the mailings of the other organizations in the Conference.
2. Following each biennial conference, a summary of the Conference, entitled "Proceedings," shall be prepared by the Big Ten Conference Planning Committee of the host organization. Copies of the Proceedings shall be mailed to the Presidents of the member organizations in The Conference of ~~the~~ Big Ten University ~~Women's~~ Organizations.

(June 12, 2011 as proposed June 9, 2013)