National FFA Alumni Bylaw Amendment & Dues Rationale

This document is to further clarify the rationale behind each of the seven proposed bylaw amendments for the National FFA Alumni Association delegate body which are posted at https://www.ffa.org/events/convention/supporters.

AMENDMENT #1: The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:

- Article III: Section II
- Article III: Section III: A
- Article III: Section IV: A
- Article III: Section V
- Article IV: Section II: B: 3 & 4

resulting in the removal of annual dues and moving to 100% Affiliation Fee.
(Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

Rationale:

- 2015-16 membership year resulted in a membership growth of 163,186 primarily due to the affiliation program
- 26 states are already 100% and 80% of the alumni chapters already affiliated
- All graduating FFA members are automatically getting their alumni membership activated resulting in a dramatic increase in the ability to communicate with and engage larger numbers of local members but this will be lost after 5 years if those members do not pay annual dues.
- Allows chapters to provide membership, services and benefits to an unlimited number of volunteers/supporters for one fee while keeping the rest of their funds at the local level
- Designed to remove cost barriers and easily mobilize volunteers to support local agricultural education programs and their FFA chapters
- Communication is the #1 issue for members and affiliation can effectively resolve it
- Assists with the National FFA Alumni strategic goal of having an active alumni chapter in every FFA chapter in the country
- The number of life memberships has increased since the initial implementation of affiliated chapters instead of decreasing.
**AMENDMENT #2:** The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:

Article IV: Section II: A

removing ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP as a type of alumni membership if Amendment #1 passes.

- (Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

**Rationale:**
- If amendment 1 passed, all associate members would fall under the affiliation program and therefore receive free membership as an annual member
- Associate members do not have voting rights and are not eligible to hold office or be recognized for awards.
- Would not be considered if Amendment #1 fails as we need to have a way to effectively communicate with and engage graduating FFA members without them having to pay for five years.

**AMENDMENT #3:** The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:

Article IV: Section II: D

removing CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP as a type of alumni membership.

- (Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

**Rationale:**
- Corporate partnership provided membership to a business and not an individual so there are no voting rights, no ability to hold office or apply for awards
- This is truly a sponsor and not a member so they should be working with local, state, national foundations in order to receive appropriate visibility and recognition.
- Individuals can still join local FFA Alumni Chapters or Non-Traditional FFA Alumni Chapters
- Participation in the Corporate Partnership membership has been minimal so it is only cluttering and complicating the membership system.
  - 0 in 2015-2016
  - 3 in 2014-2015

**AMENDMENT #4:** The National FFA Alumni Council HAS NO RECOMMENDATION FOR ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:

Article V: Section III: B

expanding the office of President-Elect candidates to include ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES and past National FFA Officers.

- (Received a simple majority vote from the council)

**Rationale:**
- All council members have the same voting rights and expectations except having the ability to run for President-Elect
- All council members are Alumni members and are elected by the membership in which they represent
- National FFA operates under the precept of Diversity and Inclusion in which we build an empowered community and more inclusive organization where every person is respected, connected, affirmed and treated equally.
- Could increase the number of President-Elect applicants for state alumni delegates to select from during the Alumni General Session during the National FFA Convention and Expo. This does not provide any unfair advantage to any group
- The past two years we have had no candidates 30 days before applications were due and have had to convince council members to apply while there were other council members that wanted to apply but did not have the right.
AMENDMENT #5: The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:
Article VI: Section II: C
increasing the number of Past National Officers on the council from 2 to 3 and extending their term to from 2 years to 3 years.
- (Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

Rationale:
- All other council representatives serve 3 year terms.
- It is a common feeling among ALL council members that not until the end of their second year of service do they truly feel that they are well versed and understanding of how the National FFA Alumni Council works and what their role is. The previous 3 PNO council members have shared that just as they are truly understanding their position and making things happen it is time to retire their position and a new PNO is brought on.
- Past National Officers represent the nearly 650,000 FFA members, that serve as the future of our association. Annually roughly 115,000 per year will graduate and become FFA Alumni members and will also be represented by the PNO’s. This means that annually PNO council members will represent the largest percentage of future and current alumni members.
- Gives Past National Officers a full council experience
- If the term is extended to three years, a third Past National Officer council position would need to be added to keep the positions filled each year or otherwise every two years there would only be one PNO serving on the council.

AMENDMENT #6: The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of the underlined wording changes in:
Article IV: Section II: B: 4
Article VIII: Section II: A & B
resulting in a new delegate process for the annual meeting.
- (Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

Rationale:
- The 2015-2016 membership year is the last year of a three year freeze on delegate count
- Under the current delegate process, the affiliation program would provide a select few states over 75% of the voting delegates
- Closely mirrors the process of the student delegate process more closely to keep the organization more unified in processes.
- Increases alumni delegates to 275 and holds constant
- Two delegates will be allotted per state Alumni association in good standing providing for a more equal voice from every state
- Provides emphasis and recognition to life members and the number of active alumni chapters
- Provides a voice to life members whom have invested in the long term future of the organization.

AMENDMENT #7: The National FFA Alumni Council RECOMMENDS ADOPTION of all of the highlighted corrections/revisions/changes not previously covered by amendments 1 – 6 in this version of the Bylaws of the National FFA Alumni Association.
- (Received at least a 2/3 majority vote from the council)

Rationale:
- Corrects spelling/formatting/updating/cleaning issues but does not change in any way what alumni does, the function it serves or how it is organized or governed
- Keeps the bylaws succinct, organized and non-repetitive
PROPOSED 2017-2018 NATIONAL FFA ALUMNI DUES

a. Annual = $10 (if amendment #1 fails)
b. Life = $200

Rationale:

- Annual Dues
  - We need to continue to provide a low cost option for annual members to join the organization to keep barriers as low as possible.

- Life Dues
  - Life dues go into an investment account to secure the long term future of the organization.
  - The increase will help grow the investment account so that more resources and funds can be sent back to the state and local level.
  - Individuals that become life members see the value of the organization and not the cost to ensure that they will benefit the organization for well beyond the rest of their life.
  - National FFA Alumni life dues are far lower than other organizations yet receive far greater value. The following are just a few examples:
    - Texas 4-H: Life = $500
    - American Association for Agricultural Education (AAAE): Life = $2300
    - National Rifle Association (NRA): Life = $1000; 5 Year = $125
    - Sigma Alpha Sorority: Life = $600
    - American Paint Horse Association: Life = $500; 5 year = $150
    - American Quarter Horse Association: Life = $750
    - American Angus Association: Life = $1500
FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education.