

Ordinary Member of Council

Unlike the Secretaries, the ordinary members of Council do not have a defined duty statement, but the bye-laws and charter do specify the role of Council as a whole.

The following Bye-Laws apply:

Chapter III Section I (e)

"The term of office of the President, Treasurer, The Secretaries, the Secretary Science Policy, the Secretary Education and Public Awareness and Foreign Secretary shall be four years. The term of office of an ordinary member of Council shall be three years. Fellows shall not be eligible for re-election to Council in the same capacity in the year in which they complete their term of office."

Chapter III Section 8

"Any casual vacancy occurring in any office or seat on the Council shall be filled by resolution of the Council, and the Fellow so appointed shall hold office until the conclusion of the next Annual General Meeting. Such tenure of office by the appointee shall not be taken into account for the purpose of paragraph (e) of Section 1 of this Chapter."

Chapter III Section 11

"The Secretaries shall be responsible for the recording the proceedings of the Academy, for the keeping of the minutes of the general meetings of the Academy and of the meetings of the Council, for the conduct of the Academy's correspondence, for the keeping of its records, for its publications, and for all business except that relating to finance, science policy, education and public awareness and international relations.

The Secretaries or one of them or in emergency a Fellow appointed by the President to act in their stead shall attend all general meetings of the Academy and meetings of Council."

In addition to the general oversight of all Academy business not covered by the other Officers, the Secretary Physical Sciences (A) and the Secretary Biological Sciences (B) in particular oversee the conduct of elections to the Fellowship; selection of successful candidates for Academy awards and grants; selection of members for the National Committees for Science; and management of Council vacancies.

From the Charter

1. The objects and purposes of the Academy shall be:
 - a. To promote, declare and disseminate scientific knowledge, to establish and maintain standards of scientific endeavour and achievement in the natural sciences in Australia; and to recognise outstanding contributions to the advancement of science.
 - b. To establish and maintain associations and relations between Australian scientists and the International Scientific Unions and other international groups, meetings and unions of scientists; and between Australian scientific activities and the activities of scientists in other countries.
 - c. To administer or help in administering funds for purposes of scientific research or projects of a scientific character.
 - d. To arrange or join in arranging meetings of scientists inside or outside Australia, to hold symposia, and to arrange for visits of scientists to other countries to Australia.
 - e. To correlate and assist in correlating the efforts of other scientific bodies.

- f. To suggest ways in which scientific projects in Australia may be instituted, carried out, or revised.
 - g. To publish or assist in the publication of scientific knowledge.
 - h. To provide guidance to sources of scientific information.
 - i. To do all such other lawful things as the Academy may think incidental or conducive to the attainment of its objects or any of them.
2. Subject to the Bye-Laws of the Academy the members thereof (except Corresponding Members) shall be designated Fellows. Unless and until such Bye-Laws otherwise provide:
 - a. there shall be two classes of members, namely Fellows and Corresponding Members;
 - b. Fellows shall be Australian citizens or permanent residents of Australia; and
 - c. Corresponding Members shall be persons, not normally resident in Australia, who are eminent in some branch of natural knowledge.
3. Subject to the Bye-Laws, Fellows may be elected annually.
4. Subject to these Presents the qualifications and conditions of election of Fellows, the method of election, the privileges and obligations of Fellows including liability to expulsion or suspension, and the conditions of termination of membership, shall be such as the Bye-Laws of the Academy from time to time prescribe.
5. The affairs of the Academy shall be managed by a body to be called 'the Council' which shall be the governing body of the Academy.
6. Unless and until the Bye-Laws of the Academy otherwise provide the Council shall consist of the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary (Physical Sciences), the Secretary (Biological Sciences), the Secretary (Science Policy), the Secretary (Education and Public Awareness), the Foreign Secretary and ten other members, all elected from the body of Fellows by the Fellows in general meeting. Members of the Council shall not be paid or receive any remuneration or fees for acting as such and no member of the Council shall be appointed to any salaried office of the Academy or any office of the Academy paid by fees.
7. The Council shall have the sole control, management and superintendence of the property, income, affairs and concerns of the Academy and may appoint such secretaries and officers as it deems necessary; and, if not contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Our Charter or any Bye-Laws made hereunder or the laws and statutes of Our Commonwealth of Australia or any State or Territory thereof, may do all such acts as may appear to it to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of carrying into effect the objects of the Academy and in particular and without prejudice to the foregoing powers the Council shall have the following powers:
 - a. to accept any gift of property whether subject to any special trust or not for any of the objects of the Academy;
 - b. to invest any moneys of or belonging to the Academy in such manner as may from time to time be prescribed by the Bye-Laws of the Academy;
 - c. to borrow, raise or secure the payment or repayment of moneys in such manner as it may think fit;
 - d. to construct, maintain or alter any buildings or works necessary or convenient for the purposes of the Academy;
 - e. to sell, lease, mortgage, dispose of or otherwise deal with all or any part of the property of the Academy.

8. The Council may so far as it deems expedient delegate any of its powers (except this power of delegation) to committees including the Regional Advisory Committees for the time being of the Academy and any other committees established as hereinafter provided.
9. To enable the objects of the Academy to be carried out more effectually –
 - a. The Council may establish Regional Advisory Committees. Subject to the Bye-laws of the Academy, every Regional Advisory Committee shall be composed of Fellows normally resident within the region for which the Advisory Committee is established and such other persons as, by reason of their contributions to the advancement of science, are considered by the Council to be competent to act on the Advisory Committee;
 - b. the Council may also establish from time to time such other committees as it thinks expedient;
 - c. each Regional Advisory Committee (and each other committee) shall elect one of its number to be its Chairman;
 - d. unless and until otherwise provided by the Bye-laws of the Academy the Council shall appoint the members of the Regional Advisory Committees and other committees and may determine the terms for which the members thereof are respectively to hold office and make such rules for the conduct of their proceedings and otherwise regulate their activities as it thinks fit.

The Academy expects Council members to use their best endeavours to attend all Council meetings. Dates are circulated well in advance from year to year. In the event that a Council member cannot attend a Council meeting the member is asked to send a message of apology to the President through the Executive Assistant to the Chief Executive, and to determine whether participation might be possible through electronic means. Any written comments submitted on specific agenda items would assist in deeming that an absent Council member could have been considered to have participated in the meeting.

Council members will be invited by rotation to summarise briefly the proceedings of a particular Council meeting and to comment on any matters of process that were deemed to have proceeded well or that could be improved.

Council members will be invited to serve on various Council committees.

In April each year Council members will be invited to complete an Annual Survey of Council. The Governance Support Group of Council regards these surveys as being the best way of assessing Council satisfaction (and the mood for change), and they have asked that it be emphasised that full Council participation in the surveys would be greatly appreciated.