

Proposed Changes to the Consent Agenda Process 2019 DRAFT

Background

1. Concerns about the title “consent agenda”:
 - a. not clear without explanation
 - b. term “consent” implies passivity, current concerns about unwanted sexual advances emphasize that passive consent is insufficient; the term is misleading and not in keeping with Quaker concern for integrity
 - c. we do not generally consider approval of “agendas”, but of concerns, minutes, nominations, etc.
2. Concern about the specifics of timing for presentation of the final version of consent agenda, which was changed too frequently and too late in the view of some Friends at Summer Sessions 2018.
3. Concern about nominations perhaps needing to be a separate process so that other items can be presented earlier and considered without the timing pressure that exists for the Nominating Committee.

Proposal

1. If Friends approve, Liaison plans to experiment with changing the term “Consent Agenda,” using the term “seasoned” instead of “consent” and dropping the word “agenda” in this context. Seasoned items are matters that the Clerk expects can be approved without discussion, that is, they have been seasoned by others prior to being brought forward for approval. Accordingly, the Clerk makes available a list of **Seasoned Business Items** and, at a subsequent business meeting, asks for approval of the list. If anyone does not agree that a specific item on the list is ready for approval without discussion, that Friend should alert the Clerk prior to the business meeting so that the item can be removed from the list to be approved without discussion.
2. For spring and fall sessions, the final version of the list of **Seasoned Business Items** including any nominations will be published in advance no later than Thursday of the weekend of the gathering, with copies also made available on paper for Friends when they arrive. Anything to be added after the deadline will be added to a regular business agenda. Approval by gathered Friends will be sought at the second or third business session.
3. For summer sessions, there will be two lists of seasoned items: for general business, the list of **Seasoned Business Items** and for nominations the **Seasoned Nominations List**. The name changes and the new processes will be presented at Spring Sessions 2019 and an explanation will be available in advance of both Spring and Summer Sessions 2019.
 - a. General business:
 - i. The list of **Seasoned Business Items** will be made available as early as is feasible, and no later than Tuesday of the summer sessions. It will be made available on paper, if possible in the Quaker Update, and electronically.
 - ii. Anything to be added after the deadlines will be added to the regular agenda.
 - b. Nominations:
 - i. A **Preliminary Nominations List** will be made available for first review no later than the Wednesday of summer sessions at 1:00 pm. It will be made available on

paper to be posted and, if feasible, also electronically. Announcements will be made in advance by the Clerk as to its availability.

- ii. There can be changes to the **Preliminary Nominations List** up until 1:00 pm of the Thursday of summer sessions. This review period provides everyone the opportunity to consider the proposed nominations and to speak with the Nominating Committee if there are questions or suggestions about the nominations. As of 1:00 pm on Thursday, the Preliminary Nominations List, with any amendments made thereto, will become the **Seasoned Nominations List**.
 - iii. Any nominations to be made after the Thursday 1:00 pm deadline will be added to a regular business agenda.
- c. All seasoned business lists will include contact individuals and their contact data in case of any concerns that could lead to a request for the item to be removed from the Seasoned Business Items list.