**Conference for Food Protection**

**2012 Issue Form**

**Internal Number: 110**

**Issue: 2012 II-002**

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| **Council Recommendation:** | Accepted as  Submitted |  | Accepted as Amended |  | No Action |  |
| **Delegate Action:** | Accepted |  | Rejected |  |  |  |

*All information above the line is for conference use only.*

**Title:**

Statement of Neutrality for Council Chair / Council Vice-Chair

**Issue you would like the Conference to consider:**

In response to a directive from the Executive Board, the 2010 - 2012 Constitution and Bylaws/Procedures Committee has created language to further clarify the role of Council Chairs and Council Vice-Chairs during their service at a Biennial Meeting. New language has been added to the position descriptions directing each to maintain their neutrality with regards to any specific issue during Council deliberations.

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall refrain from publicly voicing a personal opinion on an issue before the Council they serve. They may answer questions related to issues if the intent is to educate or provide clarification. Personal opinions on a specific issue may only be offered outside of council deliberations if clearly identified as a personal opinion or, during deliberations if their position as Chair/Vice Chair has been officially relinquished in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

**Public Health Significance:**

The Constitution and Bylaws/Procedure Committee shall submit recommendations to improve the Conference administrative functions through proposals to amend the Constitution and Bylaws and Conference Procedures.

**Recommended Solution: The Conference recommends...:**

the addition of a statement of neutrality (noted below; new language underlined), as developed by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, in the position descriptions for Council Chair and Council Vice-Chair.

**Council Chair Neutrality**

In order to maintain their neutrality during Council deliberations, the following rules of conduct shall apply to the Council Chair during the biennial conference:

* Outside the Council deliberations, the Chair shall refrain from publicly voicing a personal opinion on an Issue that is before the Council in such a manner or extent that it may call into question his or her ability to remain neutral when the Issue ultimately reaches the Council floor.
* May answer questions related to a specific Issue during Council deliberations if the intent of the response is to objectively educate or clarify the Council, presenter or person approved to address the Council.
* May offer personal opinions in the following situations:
  + Outside of council deliberations, including constituency consensus meetings and caucuses, with the clarification that one is offering a personal opinion and not speaking as the Council Chair.
  + During Council deliberations, only when one's position as Chair has been clearly relinquished to someone else (per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised).

**Council Vice Chair Neutrality**

In order to maintain their neutrality during Council deliberations, the following rules of conduct shall apply to the Council Vice Chair during the biennial conference:

* Outside the Council deliberations, the Vice Chair shall refrain from publicly voicing a personal opinion on an Issue that is before the Council in such a manner or extent that it may call into question his or her ability to remain neutral when the Issue ultimately reaches the Council floor.
* May answer questions related to a specific Issue during Council deliberations if the intent of the response is to objectively educate or clarify the Council, presenter or person approved to address the Council.
* May offer personal opinions in the following situations:
  + Outside of council deliberations, including constituency consensus meetings and caucuses, with the clarification that one is offering a personal opinion and not speaking as the Council Vice Chair.
  + During Council deliberations, only when one's position as Vice Chair has been clearly relinquished to someone else (per Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised).

**Submitter Information:**

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| Name: | Lee M. Cornman, Chair | | |
| Organization: | Constitutions and Bylaws Committee | | |
| Address: | FL Dept. of Agriculture and Consumer Services3125 Conner Blvd. MS C-18 | | |
| City/State/Zip: | Tallahassee, FL 32399 | | |
| Telephone: | 850.245.5595 | Fax: | 850.488.7946 |
| E-mail: | Lee.Cornman@FreshFromFlorida.com | | |

**Attachments:**

* "Attachment B: Council Chair Position Description Neutrality Statement"
* "Attachment C: Council Vice-Chair Position Description Neutrality Statement"

It is the policy of the Conference for Food Protection to not accept Issues that would endorse a brand name or a commercial proprietary process.