

British Accounting and Finance Association (BAFA)

Proposed change to structure of Board of Trustees
Invitation for expressions of interest in becoming Vice-President

Summary and call for expressions of interest

The Trustees of BAFA will be recommending an amendment to the BAFA Constitution so as to provide that there may be a Vice-President in post at all times – via increase the term of office of the Vice-President office from one to two years (before progression to two-years in office as President). This matter will be subject to a vote at our Annual Meeting (to be held during the Annual Conference, London, April 2018).

If resolved by the Annual Meeting, the amendment will create a vacancy for a new Vice-President of BAFA to join the Board of Trustees

The Trustees would like to hear from any and all members of BAFA who might be interested in becoming Vice-President. Please do not be too modest: if you think you could be willing and able to take on the role, we encourage you to contact our President, Prof Lisa Jack (lisa.jack@port.ac.uk) for a discussion and/or to register your interest.

Detail of proposed change and transitional arrangements

The number and roles of the trustees of the BAFA are set out in Section 5 of our Constitution (as last amended 17 April 2012). In short, these are as follows:

	<u>Office/Role</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Continuation after term</u>
Executive Trustees	President	2 years	Expected but not required to become a Non-executive Trustee; and to Chair trustee meetings
	Vice-President	1 year	Becomes President for 2 years
	Treasurer	3 years	
	General Secretary	3 years	
Non-executive Trustees (4)	Non-executive Trustee	2 years	

Given the automatic progression of the Vice-President after one year's service to then become President, there is a Vice-President in post only in the second year of each President's tenure. Therefore, every other year there is no Vice-President.

A significant amount time and effort is demanded of the President – inter alia, in representing BAFA, in leading the pursuit of its objectives and ambitions, and in maintaining/developing its strategy, infrastructure and external links. But for the first year of the two that a person is President, they are not supported by a Vice-President.

The Board of Trustees considered this at its meeting in September 2017. The Board decided that it is undesirable to have periods in which the BAFA President is not supported by a Vice-President; and resolved to recommend amendment of the BAFA Constitution so as to provide that there may be a Vice-President in post at all times – via increase the term of office of the Vice-President office from one to two years (before progression to two-years in office as President).

The Trustees hope that this change will be resolved at the next Annual Meeting of the Association, to be held during the Annual Conference, London, April 2018; and that a vacancy for a new Vice-President will thereby be created. It is already too late in the BAFA annual cycle, however, for formal nomination of a new Vice-President to be voted upon at the next Annual Meeting [existing Section 5(p) of our Constitution]; and, in any event, the vacancy itself will only be created, if the proposal is approved, at that meeting.

Therefore, assuming a vacancy for a new Vice-President is created by resolution to change the Constitution at the next Annual Meeting, the Trustees intend to proceed via the following transitional arrangements:

- As soon as possible (but after 30th April 2018), the Board of Trustees co-opt a new Trustee to become Vice-President of BAFA, to serve until 30th April 2019 [existing Section 5(s) of the Constitution].
- All being well, nominate that person to be voted upon at the 2019 Annual Meeting to remain Vice-President of BAFA for a further year, then become President for two years [existing Sections 5(m) and 5(p) of the Constitution]