

May 22, 2024

M24-012

To: SPEEA Council Delegates

From: SPEEA Council's Governing Documents Committee

Subject: **PRESUBMITTED NEW BUSINESS:** Chat

Background

In the prior council term, the chat functionality associated with the virtual meeting software was disabled during SPEEA Council meetings, but the same functionality was enabled during virtual NW Council meetings.

Some CRs find the chat distracting from the council business and with the transition to hybrid SPEEA Council meetings, the chat will only be visible and accessible to a subset of the council members and SPEEA staff. That said, this chat, while not on the record, can serve as a useful tool for those who are not physically present including those having audio issues. Zoom Chat also provides virtual attendees the ability to privately message each other, a feature that cannot be decoupled from public chat. Additionally, Zoom does provide the mechanism to allow for disabling Chat during a meeting.

Motion

It is moved It is moved THE SPEEA COUNCIL approves the enabling of chat feature during hybrid or virtual SPEEA Council Meetings subject to the following rules:

- 1) The use of the chat feature will be restricted during the meeting to purposes authorized by these rules, the chair, or the assembly.
- 2) Chat messages must be relevant to the business at hand and respectful of all members.
- 3) The chat feature will be configured to allow chat to council officers and staff. Direct personal chat may be used only to or from those running the meeting for administrative purposes as directed by the chair or the assembly. No direct personal chat among members is allowed.
- 4) A virtual member intending to make a main motion, amendment, offer a nomination, or any other motion as directed by the chair will, before or after being recognized, post such motion in writing to the chat designated for council officers.
- 5) The Chair may disable the chat function at any time if it becomes disruptive to the meeting. The chair's decision to do so is subject to an undebatable appeal that can be made by any member, must be seconded, and is decided by majority vote. The results of the vote on will be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.