

WCN Bylaws Revision – 2021

Principles guiding the Committee and Consultant:

1. Bylaws are consistent with WA State RCW 24.03.100 on non-profits and with RCW 18.79.202 that authorizes the nursing center.
2. Bylaws provide a solid foundation for an effective Board and stable governance while allowing the Board the flexibility to govern the organization without frequent bylaw changes.
3. Support the building a strong board with necessary skills and experience that reflects the diversity of the those engaged in nursing.
4. Bylaws are consistent with Governance best practices (see Board Source and CompassPoint documents)

The Consultant from 501commons is using a Bylaws template available on the Community Rising website. This template was developed by the King County Bar Association. From this, there is redline version of the current WCN Bylaws with a number of technical changes the committee is considering.

The Consultant has also structured some options for substantive changes, based on the principles above, for the consideration of the Committee and Board. These include:

1. Specifying, in the Bylaws, the Executive, Governance/Nominating, and Budget/Finance Committees as Standing Committees. Provide the authority for the Board to create other Standing Committees(e.g., Sustainability). Provide the authority for the Board to establish advisory committees.
2. Clarify how directors are appointed. The RCW creating the nursing center specifies: ““...provide grants to a central nursing resource center. The grants may be awarded only to a not-for-profit central nursing resource center that is comprised of and led by nurses. The central nursing resource center will demonstrate coordination with relevant nursing constituents including professional nursing organizations, groups representing nursing educators, staff nurses, nurse managers or executives, and labor organizations representing nurses.” Maintain consistency with the spirit of this RCW while allowing the Board to carry-out its duty to build and sustain the Board with the necessary experience and skills mix that reflects the diversity of WA State nurses.
3. Term limits for Board members with the ability of the Board to extend terms and make exceptions when warranted.