

August 9, 2016 Joint Board & Discussion Forum Committee Meeting

Discussion Generator

1. Thoughts generated following recent meeting with a friend

I was thinking about our conversation and I think I may have a way to deal with the mediation concerns raised that would leave the board in control without requiring or precluding a DFC motion. To trigger my memory when next we talk -- the idea is to break the mediation effort into separate stages:

1. Board identifies issue that may benefit from mediation. Any board member or committee can submit an issue for board consideration.
2. DFC meets with opposing reps to identify the key interests that need to be 'at the table' in order to generate a politically viable consensus, a list which is submitted to AdCom for a 'go ahead' signal and perhaps advice as to participants who might be valuable for the mediation process and influential in their respective key interest milieus'.
3. DFC meets with key interest participants to explore procedural options and to reach a consensus on an option they consider acceptable - with the option of considering changes later as concerns arise.

All of the above would occur in public posted VNC or DFC agendized meetings. It's the procedural element (#3) which provides the participants with the space needed for them to design and take full responsibility for the remainder of the process including the typical alternatives proffered by skilled mediators such as:

- venue where they can feel comfortable with the 'freedom' and 'safety' essential to a successful mediation
- selection of facilitator(s)
- rules of engagement
- whether to meet in public or private meetings - mediation often requires the sort of candor and concessions which public meetings discourage, so this would have to be an option
- ability to revert to the step 3 design process if problems arise with the original design - question whether this should occur at a public DFC meeting ... I think it should so that the board can be indirectly made aware of progress or lack thereof ...
- etc.

It does not guarantee success. It merely provides the possibility of 'progress' and perhaps 'success'.

After step 3, the DFC can assist only if there is a consensus by the participants to return to improve somehow on the original design.

As to a DFC motion on substance ... I leave that for when we next meet ... perhaps the same time and place next week?

Joe

PS - I believe all of this fits under the Collaboration Vision Goal and could be of value to the VNC and the community. I doubt that any other NC has the equivalents of our VNC Vision Goals and our DFC.

2. Further thoughts as to possible future DFC recommendations

1. Put the idea on the 160809 DFC Agenda for discussion only with intent to adopt it as a DFC motion to the board at the 160913 DFC Mtg → 161010 AdCom & 161018 Board. A new SR? DFC procedure/policy?
2. Later – motion to add Vision Goals to ByLaws Mission Statement
3. Later – motion to add DFC to ByLaws as Standing Committee

Does DFC or the participants to the mediation or both prepare and submit a motion to the Board if the mediation results in a viable strategy?