

**Vote on AB02-04: Amendment to the Constitution: Chief  
Financial Officer**

Vote started date May 21, 2002

Vote ended June 6, 2002

Text of resolution:

**Explanatory Statement by Michael Malotte:**

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Admiralty Board,*

*As opposed to the usual form, where we present first the amendment and then the explanation, the amendment I am proposing is so pervasive that I feel it is best to explain my reasons for drafting it first.*

*When the Rickard Administration took office on January 1st, we appointed Tammy Willcox as STARFLEET Treasurer. I feel she has performed exceptionally in this role and has shown just how powerful and effective the Office of the Treasurer can be when filled with a solid candidate.*

*I cannot speak for past Administrations I have not been a part of, but in the Rickard Administration, the Treasurer is an integral and valued member in EC-level discussions with financial impact. In such discussions, her input on policy is equal to any other EC member's, even though she is a staff member. Since most EC decisions have financial impact, she is present for most of them.*

*I would like to note that the position of Treasurer is not even mentioned in the STARFLEET Constitution, whereas the Internal Auditor is. I wish to rectify this, but in a particular way.*

*I wish to elevate the Treasurer to the Executive Committee, with the new title of "Chief Financial Officer".*

*This will entitle changes to Articles 3, 4, 5, and 7 of the STARFLEET Constitution, which is why I wished to discuss this with you prior to actually presenting the amendment(s).*

*It should be stated that the Commander, STARFLEET, should continue to remain the final authority over, and be held ultimately responsible for, the finances of the Organization. Elevating the Treasurer to the EC shall not shift this authority or responsibility from the CS.*

*That being said, why make the Treasurer an EC member?*

*By elevating the Treasurer to the Executive Committee, they have the same voice in policy discussions as the rest of the EC. As Chief Financial Officer, they will be able to access the financial impact of policy decisions the EC is considering and provide that*

*information to the decision-making process. With STARFLEET preparing both an Annual Budget and a Income/Expense Report each year, and the possibility of STARFLEET having surpluses measured in the \*tens of thousands\* of dollars within a few years, the CFO becomes a more critical position for future Administrations. As STARFLEET has larger and larger financial reserves, Administrations must be sure to spend such sums prudently. Just because we will have money, does not mean we should spend it with abandon. We cannot afford the excesses of the Stillwell Administration, where we spent \$20 on materials for a membership we charged \$10 for.*

*While the CS has the power to fire any member of the EC or their staffs at will, dismissing a sitting EC member is much more high-profile than a staff member. Also, an EC member will be under much more scrutiny by the Admiralty Board and membership than a staff member. The CFO will also have the authority to express opinions on the EC/AB List and their opinions will be a matter of the Record.*

*Now to the specific changes:*

*Article 3, Section 2 - added the Chief Financial Officer as the eighth and final member of the Executive Committee.*

*Article 4, Sections 4 through 12 are all renumbered upward by one, to become Sections 5 through 13.*

*A new Article 4, Section 4 is then added to define the duties and requirements of the Chief Financial Officer.*

*Article 5, Section 3 is modified to note that there are now 13 sections in Article 4, as opposed to 12.*

*Article 7, Section 6 is changed to make all voucher checks two-signatures and the CFO and CS/VCS the two signatories. Right now, the CS alone can sign checks if they wish.*

*Article 7, Section 7 is changed to make the Annual Review optional, instead of mandatory, by a vote of the Admiralty Board. Frankly, with the monthly reporting in the CQ and to the AB, having an AB member being on the Disbursements List, and an annual budget and Income / Expenditures Report, the AB has a real-time picture of FLEET's financial picture and requiring a review is a waste of money. Plus, since I do not think STARFLEET follows the Standardized Principles of Accounting anyway, I am not sure what a CPA can say other than - "Well, I printed out the Money file and everything added up - as you already knew".*

*With that, I would like to present to you for your advice and consent the following proposed amendments to the STARFLEET Constitution:*

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**Article 3, Section 2 is hereby modified as follows:**

The administrative body of STARFLEET shall be the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET and consists of the following (in order of succession):

Commander, STARFLEET / President	Elected by the general membership.
Vice-Commander, STARFLEET / Vice President	Elected by the general membership as a slate candidate on the same ticket with the Commander, STARFLEET.
Chief of Operations	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET
Chief of Communications	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET
Commandant, STARFLEET Academy	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET
Director, Shuttle Operations Command	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET
Chief of Computer Operations	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET
Chief Financial Officer	Appointed by the Commander, STARFLEET

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**Article 4 is modified as follows:**

Sections 4 through 12 are herewith numbered upward to become Sections 5 through 13, sequentially.

The following section shall be added:

**Section 4: Chief Financial Officer**

The Chief Financial Officer reports monthly to the Commander, STARFLEET and the Admiralty Board on the financial state of the Organization. These reports shall include, at their minimum: the month-end balances of the STARFLEET General Fund Account and STARFLEET Scholarship Account; a record of all deposits, including the source of the deposit and amount; and a record of all disbursements, including the payee, check number, amount paid, and reason for disbursement (category). In addition, the Chief Financial Officer is expected to prepare a report with the same information for each issue of the STARFLEET Communiqué. The Chief Financial Officer shall open and maintain

the STARFLEET General Fund checking account, as well as being one of the signatories on all checks drawn on the account. The Chief Financial Officer shall be at least 23 years old.

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**Article 5, Section 3 is hereby modified as follows:**

The STARFLEET Admiralty Board shall serve as the formal appellate body of STARFLEET. However, in the interests of not burdening the AB with the weight of all the appeals that could possibly be filed by the membership, a body of three members shall be convened as necessary to review all those appeals that do not fall under Section 2 of this article. This includes, but is not limited to, appeals of decisions of the EC against officers not covered under Article 4, Sections 2 through 13, inclusive, decisions of a Regional Coordinator, and decisions of a Chapter/Shuttle Commanding Officer.

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**Article 7, Section 6 shall be modified as follows:**

All disbursements of STARFLEET shall be made by voucher checks, which shall show the date, payee, the type of service rendered or goods or property purchased, the budget line item into which they should fall and the amount of payment. All checks shall require dual signatures. The Chief Financial Officer shall be one of two signatories on all such checks, with the Commander, STARFLEET (or Vice Commander, STARFLEET if the CS is unavailable) the other signatory.

Article 7, Section 7 shall be modified as follows:

By majority vote, the Admiralty Board can direct the Executive Committee to provide for an annual review of the books of accounts of STARFLEET by independent certified public accountants that are in no way affiliated with or related to any member of STARFLEET. The CPA shall be selected by the Inspector General, STARFLEET and approved by a majority vote of the Admiralty Board.

Motion was made and seconded by unknown Region Coordinators.

**Report of the voting:**

R01: Aye	R05: Aye	R10: Aye	R15: Aye
R02: Aye	R06: Nay	R11: Aye	R17: Aye
R03: Nay	R07: Aye	R12: Nay	
R04: Aye	R09: Nay	R13: Aye	

By a vote of 10:04:00 this motion passed