



SHEVCHENKO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, INC.

НАУКОВЕ ТОВАРИСТВО іМ. ШЕВЧЕНКА

Established 1873

HALYNA HRYN, *President*

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December 4, 2021

Michael P. Hrycak  
Law Office of Michael P. Hrycak  
316 Lenox Avenue  
Westfield, NJ 07090

Dear Mr. Hrycak,

Your letter of August 9 was discussed at length at the next quarterly Board meeting, which took place on October 30 and November 6 of this year. Allow me to respond to each of your points.

1. Induction of regular members (*звичайні члени*) into sections as either Corresponding or Full members is decided by the Full members within each Section. The Board is involved inasmuch as the Learned Secretary, who is a vice-president and thus part of the Executive, is responsible for coordinating the work of the Sections. Individuals are elected to Full Members following recommendations from at least two (2) current Full Members and a simple majority vote within the Scholarly Section to which the nominee is applying, in accordance with our Bylaws and New York State law.
2. Please find enclosed a roster of members eligible to vote as of December 3. Ballots have been mailed to these members. Since elevations are still ongoing in some sections, we will keep you informed of any updates to the list.
3. The Working Group that prepares materials for the elections has traditionally comprised the Society's office staff and was overseen by the Administrative Director. This year the Working Group was joined by the Society's Recording Secretaries, as is standard practice for nonprofits, and also by the Society's Treasurer.
4. Both slates were announced at the same time to all members by institutional email and the same information was posted on the Society's website and Facebook page. Open Letters that were circulated among the members regarding the election, through both official and unofficial channels, have now been collected and posted in chronological order on the Society's website. All Society members have been provided a link to these materials and invited to submit further letters through the main office ([info@shevchenko.org](mailto:info@shevchenko.org)) for posting on the dedicated webpage. We are not at liberty to share members' private contact information, as it would violate privacy laws. The Society has disassociated itself from the unauthorized use of member contact information by members and supporters of your slate and urges you to discourage this practice as well.
5. Please see reply to no. 3.
6. The election is being held via confidential mail-in ballots as in 2009, 2012, 2015, and 2018. Those members who will be present at the General Meeting can bring their sealed voting envelopes on the day of the election.

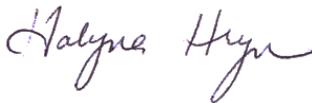
7. The rules determining the quorum for the General Meeting, including for the various items that you list, are outlined in par. 31 of our Bylaws.
8. We have instituted a policy of requiring proof of vaccination for all who attend our public meetings and have requested that appropriated face coverings be worn at all times. This information is contained in all announcements pertaining to the General Meeting. As I have already advised you, we intend to follow relevant guidelines mandated by the local authorities.

Regarding other issues raised in your follow-up letter of December 2, please note the following.

- a. I do not consider our business and legal communication to be of the same category as the Open Letters that were circulated, and therefore do not recommend it for inclusion on the dedicated web page. Neither does it fall under the category of a campaign platform or an election program of your slate. An Open Letter by your candidate for president regarding the elevation of members (see no. 1 above) was published in the Society's *Bulletin*. However, if you insist, we will make this correspondence available. Please confirm that your communication does not violate your attorney-client privilege, and we will post it online immediately.
- b. A report on the elevations and change in status will be available at the General Meeting in the Learned Secretary's report and will be reflected in the final roster presented for the vote count.
- c. There are no proposed changes to the Bylaws being put forward at the upcoming General Meeting.
- d. The Audit Committee's response to the allegations contained in Dr. Bohdan Vitvitsky's Open Letter of October 18 was emailed to all members on November 29.
- e. The Audit Committee's report regarding the 2018–2021 term will be presented at the General Meeting. The Independent Accountant's Review Report by the CPA firm Getzel, Schiff & Pesce, LLP will be available at the same time.
- f. The Nominating Committee presents candidates for election, and does not have any role in the organization and conducting of the General Meeting.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Respectfully,



Halyna Hryn  
President

- cc. Prof. Roman Kuc, chair, Audit Committee  
Prof. Virko Baley, chair, Nominating Committee  
Ms. Ivanna Bilych, chair, Law Advisory Committee