Explanation of 2024 MLA Bylaws Edits

Follow along with the attached bylaws pdf. Each of these bullet points refers to red text in the bylaws.

Article III, Section 2
- Inclusion of “Affiliate Membership” as a membership type
- Deletion of “Institutional Membership” – this has been replaced by the Affiliate Membership type and all benefits related will roll into the affiliate membership
- Rearranged information for better symmetry throughout the bylaws

Article III, Section 3
- used to be section 4, now 3 because “Honorary Membership” to be section 3, but is now under section 2 for better organizational symmetry
- Part b and c under the new section 3 now references “individual” and “affiliate” members and their payment due dates and delinquencies to be clear that dues expectations apply to both types of membership

Article IV, Section 1
- Clarified that it’s division officers who are responsible for holding meetings and communicating with division membership
- Changed expectation from regular meetings to meeting quarterly with consistent communication expected, which will be defined via best practices in updated manual.
- Took "membership activity" out of the expectation and replaced it with meetings and communication to better clarify what an activity is
- Added language that Divisions will "oversee assigned interest group"

Article IV, Section 1
- Part a
  - changed list of expectations to match the new wording under the definition in section 1 (see above)
  - Line ii.: mirrored new language from the section 1 definition clarifying expectation that division officers hold quarterly meetings
- Part b
  - listed expected elected officers to match Article VI, Section 2 and indicated that divisions must outline any additional officers in their bylaws.
  - added that IG chairs will serve in an advisory capacity to the Division elected officers
Article IV, Section 2

- added language indicating that an IG is overseen by a division assigned by exec board
- Part a:
  - added language that a division must recommend the creation of an IG before the petition is sent around for signatures
  - reworked the steps to establish a division to make it clearer (listed as sequential steps rather than just a list)
- Part b:
  - Added language that IG’s are overseen by a Division, mirroring new language in definition of section 2
- Part c:
  - added that for discontinuance of an interest group, a division should recommend the interest group be discontinued before the executive board votes

Article IV, Section 3, part a

- changed "reach" to "meet," which is a more appropriate word

Article XIV

- cleared up that the vote for changes to the bylaws needs a simple majority, added clarity of what is being sent at least 60 days' prior to the voting deadline