

## Editorial

### Revising Journal Advisory Board Members

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The role advisory board members play in excelling scientific journals is indispensable. They give expertise advice on how to excel a journal to advance with the emerging technology or sciences. They also assist a journal by promoting it and its publications. Further, they professionally help by contributing and reviewing articles. However, it is important to remember that advisory boards are no substitute for the editorial board members or deputy editors who closely work with the journal. When advisory board members are only nominal, their disadvantage outweighs their advantage. This editorial justifies the importance of revising the advisory board of the Ethiopian Journal of Social Sciences and Language Studies (EJSSLS).

It is important to recruit advisory board members who fulfill certain requirements or standards. But the policy of EJSSLS does not explicitly state these requirements. Hence, the advisory board members of EJSSLS need a clear remit. Just like the editor-in-chief and the deputy editors, the advisory board's objectives, roles and responsibilities, terms of reference, as well as the expected time commitment should be stated explicitly in the policy of the journal instead of simply recruiting them innocently or for other reasons.

Equally important, when recruiting advisory board members, it is important to consider their composition, contribution, and symbolic value. Unfortunately, in many journals, what out lies is their symbolic significance. Their practical contribution voices less. Similarly, the existing advisory board members of EJSSLS are only nominal and are dominantly from a few disciplines regardless of the fact that the journal is a multidisciplinary.

The advisory board members (N=14) of EJSSLS are dominantly from one discipline-Anthropology- as the preliminary assessment made by the editor-in-chief of the journal shows (most of these people had been recruited by the Research and Post

Graduate Office just before the journal was launched or released its first issue in June 1914). The next higher number comes from political science, but only a few articles in political sciences had been sent to EJSSLS for publication. The worse is, one hardly finds in the list advisory board members from the disciplines which contribute reasonable number of manuscripts such as Psychology, Law and Governance, Geography, and TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language), just to mention a few. The worst of all is most of the advisory board members of EJSSLS are inactive; even a few/some of them may have passed away, who knows? Among the 14 members of the advisory board members, only two had published in the journal, and one of these two also had been involving in reviewing manuscripts. Repeated attempts have been made to communicate them through the editorial published in the Journal (Tesfaye, December, 2017) and emails, by the editor-in-chief, but that ended in vain. Consequently, the journal could not get the assistance it needs from the advisory board members implying that advancing with emerging technology and science will be challenging for the journal and the editorial board members.

Therefore, to be competent and to attract quality articles in this period of fierce global competition, it is important to revise the advisory board members and explicitly introducing into the policy of the journal objectives, roles and responsibilities, terms of reference, as well as the expected time commitment of the advisory board. In the same vein, it is also important to replace editorial board members (deputy editors) with insignificant contribution by experienced, committed, and good publication profile.

To conclude, as properly constituted advisory boards strengthen the existing board of EJSSLS, all editorial board members of the journal (deputy editors and the editor-in-chief) must discharge their responsibilities by recruiting dedicated and contributing advisory board members with reasonable composition.

The editor,

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