

**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE WESTERN SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS
(ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 2004)**

CONSTITUTION

**Article I
Name and Legal Identity**

In accordance with Article IV of the Constitution and Bylaws of the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB), a geographical affinity group for ASPB members in the western region of the U.S. was chartered by petition.

This organization shall henceforth be named the WESTERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS (WASPB), hereafter referred to as the Section.

**Article II
Mission Statement**

Said Section is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and shall remain a non-profit organization. The mission of the section is to encourage and promote scientific endeavors across diverse disciplines in the field of plant biology that address fundamental issues from a basic and applied perspective, foster the career development of young researchers, and promote the welfare and good fellowship of plant biologists in the western U.S. (Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) and Canada (Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan).

**Article III
Organization**

To effectively fulfill the mission as stated in Article II, the Section is divided into six geographical subsections based on demographics, defined as 1) the Pacific Northwest (PNW): Alberta, British Columbia, Oregon, Washington; 2) Northwest (NW): Arkansas, Idaho, Montana, Saskatchewan, Wyoming; 3) Northern California (NCa): Bay area and northern California and Nevada; 4) Southwest (SW): Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah; 5) Southern California (SCa): California south of bay area; and Hawaii (HI).

**Article IV
Membership**

1. Membership is open to all plant biologists and scientists residing in the states of the western geographical area listed in Article II, and to any person or organization philosophically aligned with the stated purposes of the Section.

2. Membership in the Section consists of its individual members and supporting organizations. Organizations or individuals wishing to support the Section, but not to participate as active voting members, may do so as patrons or sustaining members.

3. Section membership requires payment of annual dues. New members may apply online at any time via the Section's web page. Active members can renew membership in the Section at the time of end-of-year membership renewal in the society. Membership in the Section does not confer membership in the national body, the American Society of Plant Biologists.

4. Membership entitles individual members to the following rights: 1) to vote in all elections; to be nominated for and to be elected to any office or committee; and 2) to serve as an official representative of the Western Section. The right to serve the Section is subject to such qualifications or requirements as may be established for an office or committee by the executive committee.

5. No member of the Section shall be entitled to any distributive share of its assets; and in the event of dissolution, its assets remaining after payment of its just debts shall be distributed, as determined by majority vote of the members of the Section, to an organization meeting the conditions prescribed, at the time of dissolution, by Section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, or any statutory enactment amending or replacing that section.

6. Section dues will be set by the Western Section Executive Committee. Section dues will be consistent with those of other ASPB Sections.

Article V Annual Meeting

1. There shall be at least one annual meeting of the Section, sponsored by a subsection, at any time or place as determined by the organization, which does not conflict with the annual meeting of the American Society of Plant Biologists or other national ASPB-sponsored venues.

2. The subsection venue will be determined by the meeting organizers.

3. Funds for a subsection meeting will be disbursed from the National ASPB annual support at the discretion of the Section Representative. Every attempt will be made to rotate subsection meetings among the 6 subsections so that ideally, each subsection meets biannually.

4. Meeting organizers will be volunteers from that subsection. Names of these volunteers will be posted on the Western section portion of the ASPB web site.

Article VI Officers

1. Section officers will consist of a Chair and Secretary/Treasurer, elected by ballot by Section members for one-year terms.

2. An elected representative of the Section will serve as a member of the National Executive Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists for a period of three (3) years.

3. The three elected members, as well as *Ex Officio* officers, will constitute the members of the executive committee of the Section. *Ex officio* officers will serve on the committee for one-year terms.

4. Installment of elected officers will take place 1 October of each year to coincide with ASPB officer term dates.

Article VII Election of Officers

1. Nominations and elections of officers shall be administered by the Nominations Committee, duly appointed by the Chair of the Section.

2. Nominations for the Section officers and the Section representative to the ASPB National Executive Committee will be made by the Nominations Committee. In selecting nominees for each elected position of the Section, the committee will solicit the input of its membership, and will ensure that Section officers (Chair and Secretary/Treasurer) represent different sub sections whenever possible. The Chair of the Nominations Committee will ascertain the willingness of potential candidates to serve if elected.

3. Nominations will be solicited by the termination of the ASPB annual meeting and the slate of candidates presented to the membership at large via the Section web page, maintained by staff at the national headquarters.

4. Elections will be held electronically by on-line ballots in September through the Section's web page. The nominee for each office receiving the majority of votes shall be elected. In the case of a tie vote, the Nominations Committee will vote to resolve the tie. Election results, compiled by national headquarters, will be posted on the Section's web site following notification of elected officers by the Section Chair.

5. In case of death, disability, or resignation of the Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, or elected executive committee member, the office shall be filled *ad interim* by the executive committee. In the case of a vacant office of the Section Chair, the *Ex Officio* Chair of the Section and serving member of the Executive Committee will assume the vacancy to conduct Section business until scheduled elections, at which time the Chair will step down and complete a term as a participating *Ex Officio* member of the Executive Committee.

Article VIII Standing Committees

1. There shall be three standing committees for the Section: an Executive Committee, a Nominations Committee, and a Program Committee.

2. The Section Executive Committee shall consist of the two elected officers (Chair and Secretary-Treasurer), the national Executive Committee Representative, and *Ex Officio* elected members.

3. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the *Ex Officio* Chair of the Section, to serve as Chair of the committee, and two additional members appointed by the serving Chair of the Section.

4. The Program Committee shall consist of a coalition of the meeting Organizers from each subsection appointed by the Section Chair to coordinate scheduling needs and programs. Organizers will serve on this committee, until such time as the subsection meeting has been completed.

5. Committee members shall assume office 1 October, or at the date of their appointment by the Chair of the Section.

Article IX Amendments to the Constitution & Bylaws

Proposals for amending the Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted in writing by any member, group of members, or committee to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section at any time. Such proposals shall be reviewed by due process by the Executive Committee. Upon approval by the majority votes of the executive committee, the amendment(s) will be presented to Section members for consideration via the Section's web page for 30 days to solicit comments prior to voting by Section members at large. The amendment(s) will be adopted if approved by the majority of the members voting by electronic ballot held within 45 days of posting.

BYLAWS

Section 1 Duties of Officers

a. The Chair shall preside over the executive committee and the general business meetings of the Section, and, in consultation with the Secretary-treasurer, shall prepare the agenda for these meetings. The Chair shall appoint, charge, and receive reports of all standing and special (*ad hoc*) committees, and inform the membership on reports and actions taken. The Chair will confer with the Secretary-Treasurer as they prepare the annual budget of the Section. In all ways, the Chair will provide leadership to the Section, including coordinating activities of the Program Committee in sponsoring annual subsection meetings.

b. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep and make available the minutes of the executive committee meetings. The Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise all financial transactions of the Section and account for the same to the executive committee and the membership. The Secretary-Treasurer will bear responsibility for ensuring organizers receive an allotment of funds to sponsor subsection meetings.

c. Section Representative to the ASPB National Executive Committee will represent the western section membership at all relevant meetings of the national ASPB Section meetings during the year. At the annual meeting, these include: two Executive meetings (one full day prior to the annual meeting and one business luncheon), the section representatives meeting, a welcoming reception for the Western section and the membership committee meeting. In addition, the Section Representative will attend a 2-

day meeting of the ASPB National Executive Committee in February at Headquarters in Rockville, Maryland and the Membership Committee meeting also in mid-year. The section representative is fully responsible for facilitating the workings of the Western Section and in communicating the events of the ASPB to the Western Section membership in conjunction with the Western Section Executive Committee.

Section 2 Duties of Committees

a. The Executive Committee has authority to act on all matters not reserved to the section as a whole. The executive committee is charged with maintaining the activities of the Section in furthering the mission of the Section. Decisions of the executive committee require a quorum of sixty (60) percent and the majority of votes cast, unless directed herein.

b. The Nominations Committee, chaired by the *Ex Officio* Section Chair, submits nominees for all elected positions of the section. The committee solicits the input of the membership at large, and contacts all nominees regarding their willingness to serve, if elected.

c. The Program Committee, shall plan, arrange, and publicize the program of subsection meetings on the Section's web page, to include on-line registration and submission of abstracts. The program and venue will be the purview of the meeting organizers. The Program Committee is responsible for fund-raising for their subsection meeting above and beyond those monies supplied by the national organization. Any funds not used by the subsection for their meeting shall be returned to the section coffers for disbursement at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

Section 3 Membership Dues

Section membership dues are established by the Western ASPB Executive Committee. Information on the specific requirements for membership is posted on the Section's web page.

Section 4 Quorum for Business Meetings

The ultimate authority in the Section lies with the membership, and is expressed by electronic ballots or votes cast as specified. Members in attendance at the annual business meeting of the Society shall constitute a quorum to transact necessary business. Action taken at the annual meeting stands unless within six (6) months a minimum of two (2) percent of the membership petitions the Chair to have the action submitted to the Section for ratification by mail ballot.

Section 5 Awards

a. Subsections shall recognize meritorious research and quality of presentation by students by the presentation of awards to deserving individuals as determined by a

Judging Committee established by the meeting organizers. Awards issued at the discretion of the judging committee, to include cash prizes and a certificate for oral and poster presentations, will be given annually at subsection meetings. The Judging Committee may opt to present Honorable mentions to exceptional papers that failed to win one of the primary awards.

b. A certificate and/or modest cash award will be presented in recognition of meritorious contributions by a high school and/or undergraduate participant at subsection meetings.

c. WASPB subsections will provide 1-2 travel awards to deserving minority students to accompany their mentor to the subsection meetings. The cash value of the award will be determined by actual travel expenses (round-trip/mileage) incurred by the student, two nights lodging at the host hotel, \$25/day per diem for meals and incidental expenses, as well as registration fee for the meeting. Eligible students should submit an application to the organizers for consideration.

Section 6 Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be made as described in Article IX of the WASPB Constitution. A simple majority shall be required for passage by the executive committee and by the membership at large.