

American Society of Plant Biologists Ambassador Program Governance Bylaws

Article 1. Bylaws

As of January, 2019, the American Society of Plant Biologists (ASPB) Ambassador Program will be restructured to function under the following bylaws. The document below outlines the new governance structure, defines the responsibilities of each role, and details the approval of new Ambassadors.

Article 2. Ambassadorship.

Role of the Ambassador

The ASPB Ambassador Program was established to outreach ASPB's mission and membership to the postdoc, graduate, undergraduate, and industry communities. The role of the ambassadors is to act as a liaison between the organization and the outside academic, corporate, and public communities. The responsibilities of the ambassadors are to:

- Educate upcoming and new plant scientists about the importance of belonging to a professional society to enhance their career and be part of continuing the efforts of plant biology research.
- Expand ASPB's membership base of younger constituents and industry scientists to ensure continued growth of the community.
- Act as a liaison between the Governance of ASPB and the plant science community.
- Act as a representative of ASPB to the plant science community, the general science community and the public at large.
- Organize and execute local outreach activities to educate scientists about ASPB and the general public about the importance of plant biology
- Gain leadership and organizational skills by working independently and together to accomplish the goals of the ambassador program.
- Gain networking connections by communicating with other Ambassadors, scientists and ASPB member.

In order to retain membership, Ambassadors must participate in at least two selected and three required activities that meet these goals, as described below in the Ambassador requirements and benefits section. At the end of each calendar year, all Ambassadors must submit a 1-2 page report detailing the activities they participated in during the past year, outline plans for activities to occur during the coming year and discuss what they have learned as an Ambassador. A checklist/template will be provided to the Ambassadors to aid in writing this report, which is due Mid-November to the Ambassador Secretary.

Benefits

As a result of serving in the program, each ambassador will receive:

- 50% registration to ASPB's annual meeting
- Free section meeting registration
- A highlight on ASPB's website
- Access to additional grants to support ambassador activities

Awards

The Ambassador of the Year award was established to recognize the work of an outstanding ambassador. A sub-committee from the Membership Committee will review the annual report submitted by the alliance to select three finalists. The Alliance will then vote for and select the winner. The awardee receives one year of free ASPB membership, a travel stipend of \$575, and a feature in the newsletter. Members of the Ambassador Alliance are not eligible for this award.

Application Process

Those who wish to be an Ambassador must be a current member of ASPB and submit an online Ambassador application. Applications will be reviewed on a yearly basis by the Ambassador Alliance together with the Membership Committee Chair and the Director of Membership Services. The recruitment campaign will occur from mid-November to mid-January with applicants being notified by end of February.

Article 3. Governance

Executive Committee Structure

The ASPB Ambassador Program will be a semi-independent organization within ASPB with oversight by the Membership Committee. It will be governed by an ad-hoc committee of five people serving as either the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Membership Committee (MemCom) Representative, and Outgoing Chair. This group will be called the Ambassador Alliance. Each position will last for one year.

Governance Timeline

The governance year will begin in October and will be split into four quarters: quarter 1 (October - December), quarter 2 (January - March), quarter 3 (April - June), and quarter 4 (July - September). The goals for each quarter are as follows:

- Quarter 1 focuses on general operations and a review of all Ambassador reports to compile into one annual report to be submitted to MemCom by beginning of quarter 2.

- Quarter 2 focuses on general operations and orientation of new members and distribution of a summary of the previous year's activities and review applications for new ambassadors.
- Quarter 3 focuses on general operations.
- Quarter 4 focuses on elections and new officer orientation.

Article 4. Elections

The Chair and Vice Chair will typically cycle across a 2-year term. An Ambassador will first be elected to Vice-Chair and will serve in that position for one year prior to advancing with a non-contested election to the Chair position for one year. Outgoing Chairs will continue to serve on the governance committee for one year in a less active role in order to provide guidance to the current Chair and Vice Chair, if needed. This ensures autonomous oversight and preserves institutional memory.

The Secretary and Vice Chair will be elected every year to serve a one-year term. Elections for this positions is contested - any current Ambassador in good standing may be self-nominated or nominated by another Ambassador for the position. Nominations for Secretary and Vice-Chair will be collected at the end of quarter 3 and elections will be held during quarter 4. In the case that a Vice-Chair declines to continue as Chair, the Chair position will also be included on the election ballot.

The Membership Committee Representative will be appointed to the Alliance by the Chair of the Membership Committee.

Article 5. Duties.

The responsibilities of each position are as follows:

Secretary

The Secretary will work as the communication director for correspondence to the Ambassadors via newsletters or updates, and monitors the deadlines and requests from MemCom and ASPB. Ambassador reports will be reviewed by the Secretary on Plantae.

Vice Chair

The Vice Chair is responsible for assisting the Chair in whichever capacity requested by the Chair. Additionally, the Vice Chair will work with the Chair to identify authors and ensure submission of articles for the Luminaries and Membership Column sections of the ASPB newsletter and compile the individual Ambassador yearly reports into one report to be submitted to MemCom. The annual report will be submitted at the beginning of quarter 2.

Chair

The Chair oversees all activities, works with the Vice Chair to identify authors and ensure submission of articles for the Luminaries and Membership Column sections of the ASPB newsletter. The Chair also heads the Ambassador review process and organizes the internal review to finally make recommendations to MemCom. The Chair will assign current Ambassadors to working committees and seek to recruit new leadership to run the Ambassador program in the future.

Outgoing Chair

The Outgoing Chair serves on the governance committee to provide guidance to incoming Chairs and Vice Chairs. The Outgoing Chair can contribute in any crisis situation, if occurred, and will help the office holders as needed.

Membership Committee Representative

The MemCom Representative acts as a liaison from the Ambassador Program to ASPB's Membership Committee. The MemCom Rep is expected to attend all MemCom meetings and provide updates on the happenings of the Ambassador program. Rep to MemCom can contribute in any crisis situation, if occurred, and will help the office holders as needed.

Article 6. Probation.

Ambassadors who do not meet all of the requirements of the program have the potential to be placed on probationary status, and potentially terminated from the program. Any ambassador that does not have an excused exemption from any required event or responsibility will receive one strike for each offense. After two strikes, the ambassador is placed on probationary status. While on probation, the ambassador on probation will not have access to all monetary benefits available to ambassadors (i.e. meeting registration discounts, seed grant funding).

In order to be removed from probation, the ambassador must complete an extra activity and be evaluated by the Alliance. This effectively removes one strike from the ambassador's record. If the extra activity is not completed, the ambassador is removed from the program. He/she/they are not eligible to reapply to the program thereafter.

Addendum 1.

Membership Committee will appoint officers for the 2018-2019 year in order to aid the program's transition to its new structure.