



American Society of Plant Biologists

Cultivating a better future through plant biology research

The Legacy Committee (TLC) Charter 2026

Background and Rationale.

Fundraising to provide financial support for ASPB's activities is an important endeavor. Initially, this was by an ad hoc process led by a few ASPB member volunteers who were supported by executive management and staff. One of the first fundraising activities was establishment of the Legacy Society by a group of Founding Members who each contributed a minimum of \$5,000. In November 2020, to sustain this fundraising activity, to provide a continuing connection between ASPB and Legacy Society members, to explore new fundraising efforts, and to assist with the Centennial Challenge, ASPB formally established and chartered Legacy Society Leadership Committee (LSLC) as a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees. This updated charter for the LSLC redefines its roles as a continued locus for fundraising and leadership efforts on behalf of the Society post-Centennial. To have a simpler name inclusive of both broad goals, the committee should be renamed as The Legacy Committee (TLC).

Charter

1. Authority

To expand upon previous fund-raising efforts and provide leadership for the Legacy Society, the ASPB establishes the TLC as a sub-committee of the Board of Trustees (BoT). The committee's authorities are to:

- a. Under the direction of the BoT, and with leadership from the ASPB Treasurer, CEO, and CFO, TLC is to conduct activities within its scope as described below, provide recommendations to the BoT, work with BoT and the Board of Directors (BoD), and serve as a resource to executive management and other employees of ASPB.
- b. TLC will continue to lead efforts and assist as needed to solicit various forms of donations, including, among others, permanently restricted funds, unrestricted donations, and estate donations.
- c. Under the direction of the BoT and the BoD, TLC has responsibilities to donors and ASPB members to steward the use of donated funds.
- d. With BoT approval, TLC will work with other ASPB committees, staff, and outside entities on any fundraising activity as requested or needed.

- e. TLC will meet no less frequently than semi-annually with BoT, with one meeting held during the annual Plant Biology meeting. Additional joint meetings can be held as required to conduct ASPB activities.
- f. BoT will invite the TLC chair to attend BoT meetings as a guest when fundraising will be discussed.
- g. The TLC chair can request attendance at BoT or Council meetings as a guest to communicate TLC activities and to solicit feedback as needed.

2. Committee Charge & Mission

The overall goal of the Legacy Society is to nurture future generations of plant biologists and, thereby, ensure the health and longevity of the Society. The mission of TLC is to establish fundraising activities that support ASPB, the next generation of plant biologists, and to provide leadership representation for the Legacy Society. More specifically, the TLC's responsibilities are to:

- a. Make recommendations to the BoT for releases of unrestricted Pioneer Program fund and other funds to address mission needs.
- b. Work with the Treasurer and BoT, executive management and other ASPB employees to develop new fundraising activities, support existing ones and make recommendations on whether specific activities should be terminated, expanded or altered.
- c. Assist in efforts to solicit various forms of donations, including, among others, permanently restricted funds, temporarily restricted contributions, unrestricted donations, and estate donations. This work will be coordinated with other ASPB communications with the assistance of the ASPB staff.
- d. As needed, make recommendations to BoT regarding outside entities that could assist in fundraising.
- e. Work with the BoT and relevant employees to propose to the BoT uses for funds donated in response to present and future TLC fundraising campaigns and other campaigns.
- f. Evaluate, at least annually, the TLC fundraising strategies and report findings and recommendations to the BoT.
- g. Represent members of the Legacy Society to ASPB governance and provide their input to inform the activities of ASPB. This could involve recommending the creation of sub-committees when special projects need to be undertaken.
- h. To engage Legacy Society members in ASPB, help plan and organize activities to engage members of the Legacy Society, including events at the ASPB annual Plant Biology meetings.
- i. To promote and encourage membership in the Legacy Society; to solicit input of members to improve their ASPB experience. To improve engagement and increase membership in ASPB in cooperation with the Membership Committee.

- j. Work with the ASPB executive staff to define fundraising related strategies in alignment with ASPB's overall business development objectives.
- k. Work with the Content & Communications staff of ASPB to ensure that fundraising activities receive the appropriate exposure and in appropriate forms of media, for example to produce articles highlighting TLC activities and other appropriate stories.
- l. Work with the Information Technology staff of ASPB to ensure that the relevant websites remain up-to-date with regard to ASPB policies and fundraising activities.
- m. Members of this committee are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with ASPB's code of conduct.

Final decisions on the appropriation and use of these funds as proposed in these documents will be subject to approval by the BoT and BoD.

3. Committee Composition

The TLC is comprised of seven to eight members, including the ASPB Treasurer, who serves as an ex officio member, and one member who serves as chair. Two members are early career researchers (ECRs) and will be selected by the process standard for all ECRs appointments. They will each serve staggered two-year terms. Staff liaisons include the CEO, the CFO and Vice President, Content & Communications. Non-ECR voting members are appointed by the current President-elect in consultation with the BoT, CEO, CFO and current TLC members, and they will serve staggered three-year terms, commencing on October 1 of each year. Members may be re-appointed for additional, full, or partial terms.

4. Committee Meetings

The committee will meet monthly to conduct its activities. The Chair of the committee will preside over committee meetings, and in the chair's absence, they may designate the Treasurer or another member of the committee to preside. A majority of the members present during a meeting will constitute a quorum for all votes taken. In consultation with the TLC chair, and approval of BoT and BoD, the CFO and CEO will budget for any expenses for TLC activities and events. Funding to support additional pre-approved fundraising events and other activities not included in the annual budget will need to be raised through those events and activities.

5. Review of Activities

The BoT will review the TLC programs and this charter as the BoT deems appropriate in the future, with a comprehensive review of this charter and TLC activities three years after approval.