

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS
(REVISED AND AMENDED, Fall 2020)

Article I
Name and Legal Identity

The name of this organization shall be the SOUTHERN SECTION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF PLANT BIOLOGISTS, hereafter referred to as the Section.

Article II
Purposes

Said Section is organized exclusively for scientific and educational purposes and shall remain such an organization without the object of financial gain. Its purposes are to encourage and promote the growth and development of plant biology as a pure and applied science of the life processes of plants and to promote the welfare and good fellowship of plant biologists generally, and particularly, in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

Article III
Membership

1. Membership is open to plant biologists and other scientists residing in the states of the southern geographical area listed above and to any other person or organization in sympathy with the purposes of the Section.
2. The Section consists of its individual members and supporting organizations. Organizations or individuals, who wish to support the Section, but not to participate as active voting members, may do so as patron or sustaining members.
3. Members join the Section by application and payment of the annual dues.
4. All individual members have the following rights: to vote in all elections; to be nominated for and to be elected to any office or committee; to serve as an official representative of the Southern 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.

Article IV Annual Meeting

There shall be an annual meeting of the Section, 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.

Article V Officers

1. The officers of the Section are Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
2. An elected representative of the Section serves as a member of the National Executive Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists. Three elected members serve as members of the executive committee of the Section.
3. Terms of the office begin at the close of the annual meeting of the Section. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary serve for one year. The Treasurer position is a three (3) year term and will be filled on a rolling basis by an elected member of the executive committee. The term of the elected member representing the Section on the National Executive Committee of the American Society of Plant Biologists is three years. The term of the elected members of the executive committee of the Section is also three (3) years, with one elected each year.

Article VI Election of Officers

1. Nominations and elections shall be administered by the Nominations Committee appointed by the Chair of the Section.
2. Nominations for the officers of the Section, a member of the executive committee and, when needed, the National Executive Committee Representative will be made by the Nominations Committee. In selecting nominees for each elected position of the Section, the committee will solicit the input of the membership and will screen all received nominations to ensure uniform representation of active members and contact all nominees regarding their willingness to serve, if elected. The committee prepares the ballot with the candidates for each position and administers the voting by the membership in a timely fashion.
3. Election shall be by secret mail ballot. The ballot shall be prepared by the Nominations Committee with the assistance of the Secretary and Treasurer for printing and mailing expenses.

4. The ballots shall be mailed to the members in sufficient time to conclude the election, at least ten (10) weeks prior to the annual meeting. At the close of the election the ballots will be opened, counted, and certified by the chair of the Nominations committee. The nominee for each office who receives a plurality of the votes shall be elected. The names of those elected will be promptly announced at the annual meeting and in the first Newsletter of the Section following the annual meeting.

5. Tie votes are to be resolved by a random selection procedure conducted by the chair of the Nominations committee.

6. In case of death, disability, or resignation of a Chair, Vice-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 Vice-chair will assume the chairmanship and serve in it through the term along with his/her duties as Vice-Chair. A vacancy in the office of the Vice-Chair will be filled by the Section Chair. A vacancy in the office of Secretary or the Treasurer will be filled by an outgoing member of the executive committee, until a replacement is chosen by election.

Article VII Standing Committees

1. There shall be four standing committees: an Executive Committee, a Nominations Committee, a Site Selection Committee, and a Program Committee.

2. The Executive Committee shall consist of the three elected officers, the National Executive Committee Representative and three additional elected members.

3. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the immediate past-Chair of the Section, who serves as Chair of this committee, and two or more additional members appointed by the current Chair of the Section.

4. The Site Selection Committee shall consist of the Vice-Chair of the Section, who serves as Chair of this committee, and two or more additional members appointed by the current Chair of the Section.

5. The Program Committee shall consist of the Secretary, who serves as Chair, the Vice-chair who serves as the organizer of the annual symposium, the Treasurer who handles the finance and one or more members appointed by the Chair of the Section. The additional members appointed to this committee shall be members located at or near the site hosting the annual meeting of the Section during the current calendar year and they are expected to provide assistance in terms of local arrangements.

6. Committee members shall assume office at the close of the annual meeting,

if elected, or at the date of their appointment by the Chair of the Section.

Article VIII
Amendments to the Constitution

Proposals for amending the Constitution may be submitted in writing by any member, group of members, or committee to the Secretary of the Section at least three (3) months before the dates of the annual meeting. Such proposals shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee. Upon approval by the majority of the executive committee voting, the amendment(s) will be placed on the annual mail ballot, and adopted if approved by the majority of the members voting.

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, 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 Treasurer and Vice-Chair as they prepare the annual budget of the Section. In all ways, the Chair will provide leadership to the Section.

b. The Vice-Chair shall plan and organize the symposium for the next annual meeting. He/she chooses the topic, selects the speakers and solicits corporate funds to support this activity. The Vice-Chair is also in charge of reviewing, editing and publishing the papers of the annual symposium in a timely fashion. The Vice-Chair serves also as chair of the Site Selection Committee and as a member of the program committee.

c. The Secretary serves as the chair of the Program Committee, shall plan, arrange and publicize the program for the annual meeting of the Section, and keep and make available to the members the minutes of the general business meeting. The Secretary shall keep and make available the minutes of the Executive Committee meetings. The Treasurer shall supervise all financial transactions of the Section and account for these to the Executive Committee and the membership. The Secretary is also the editor of the Newsletter of the section, which is published periodically throughout the year and distributed to the membership. The Secretary shall also distribute to the membership the Symposium Proceedings from last year's meeting, when they are published.

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 science of plant physiology. 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 immediate Past Chair of the section, suggests nominees for all elected positions of the section. The committee solicits the input of the membership of the section, screens all received nominations to ensure that no two officers of the Section are from the same state, and contacts all nominees regarding their willingness to serve, if elected. The committee prepares the ballot with the candidates for each position and administers the voting by the membership in a timely fashion.

c. The Site Selection Committee, chaired by the Vice-Chair, identifies meeting sites for the annual meeting of the Section two years hence. A call for suggestions from the membership is made in the Spring Newsletter of the section. The committee presents a report at the Executive Committee and general business meetings on the candidate sites for each year and the contact

persons who will assist with local arrangements. After the annual meeting, the committee administers the voting by the membership to select the new site. An updated list of all past meeting sites is kept in the files of this committee.

d. The Program Committee, chaired by the Secretary shall plan, arrange, and publicize the program of the annual meeting of the Section.

Section 3 Membership Dues

Membership dues shall be set by the Executive Committee. Information on the specific requirements for membership and for dues shall be included in the Newsletter of the Section.

Section 4 Quorum for Business Meetings

The ultimate authority in the Section lies with the membership, and is expressed by mail ballot or votes cast at the annual meeting of the membership. 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. The Section shall recognize distinguished service in Plant Physiology and in meritorious research and quality of presentation by students by the presentation of awards to deserving individuals.

b. Selection of individual members for the Distinguished Service Award shall be made by a Selection Committee from the nominations submitted by the membership. The selection committee shall consist of a previous recipient of the award as chair and three (3) additional members appointed by the Chair of the Section. The committee shall prepare a citation and an award certificate and inform the Chair of the Section six (6) weeks prior to the annual meeting where the award will be announced and presented. The Distinguished Service Award of the Section is an annual award, but it may not be made in years that, at the discretion of the selection committee, no deserving candidates are nominated.

c. Selection of the best student paper presentations shall be conducted by the members of the Student Judging Committee at the first day of the annual meeting of the Section. The Student Judging Committee is composed of a chair and two or more additional members appointed by the Chair of the Section. At the discretion of the judging committee up to two Student Awards may be given annually. Awards include a cash prize and a framed certificate. The Student Judging Committee may opt to present Honorable mentions to exceptional papers that failed to win one of the two primary awards.

Section 6

Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws may be made as described in article VIII of the Constitution. A simple majority shall be required for passage by the executive committee and by the membership.

Constitution Committee of the SS-ASPP, Fall 2001

Mel Oliver, chair

Joyce Foster

Cindy Putnam-Evans Tim Sherman

Dawn Luthe Randy Cameron Ruth Grene Marc Cohn

Amended December 2020

Jay Shockey, Chair

Mustafa Morsy

Mautusi Mitra

Aruna Kilaru, Shahid Mukhtar