

## Proposed changes to the SICB Constitution & Bylaws, Spring 2017

The following amendments to the SICB Constitution and the Bylaws are proposed by the Executive Committee of SICB in accordance with the procedures outlined in the SICB Constitution and the SICB Bylaws (published below and found on the SICB website – [Constitution](#); [Bylaws](#)). The proposed amendments are here presented to the SICB membership one month prior to voting and will be on the May ballot.

The relevant sections describing the proposed amendments are shown below. The revisions indicate the current wording with new wording shown in **bold underline** for additions and ~~struckthrough~~ for deletions. The revisions are followed by a rationale, providing relevant background where required.

Comments and questions about the amendments should be addressed to the SICB Executive Officers ([execofficers@sicb.org](mailto:execofficers@sicb.org)). Substantive concerns will be shared with the membership before the ballots open and during voting through the SICB website.

The contents of this email will be published in the spring 2017 newsletter.

A summary of the proposed changes under consideration:

1. Voting - cleanup of voting mechanisms to reflect current practice.
2. *Integrative and Comparative Biology*, the SICB journal - changes in titles of some editorial board members as requested by the Editorial Board and to reduce confusion.
3. Bylaws Changes on Committees - two changes on the appointment of Chairs of the Educational Council and the Development Committee.
4. Absences - change to deal with absences of key officers or committee chairs, especially at events such as Executive Committee meetings.

### **SICB current policy for amendments to the SICB Constitution:**

#### **Article VII: Amendments**

Section 1. Proposed amendments of the Constitution may be originated by the Executive Committee or by the members of the Society. Proposals from members shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing and shall bear the signatures of at least twenty-five members.

Section 2. The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting by ballot, provided a quorum of the Society membership votes (see Article V). Proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be posted by the Society Secretary on the Web Page at least one month prior to voting. Ballots will be made available to the membership and one month will be allowed for voting. The ballot closing date shall be stated on the ballot.

Section 3. Votes will be collected and tabulated and the Secretary will notify the Executive Committee of the results. The Secretary will also post the results on the Society's Web Page and in the appropriate fall or spring Newsletter.

Section 4. Amendments shall become effective following their adoption as stated in Article VII Sections 1-3.

Section 5. Articles of Incorporation: The Articles of the Constitution and Bylaws of this Society

may be amended except that no such action shall be taken that would adversely affect the qualification of the Corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

### **SICB current policy for amendments to the SICB Bylaws:**

#### **Article XVII: Bylaws**

Section 1. Proposed amendments of the Bylaws may be originated by the Executive Committee or by the members of the Society. Proposals from members shall be submitted to the Executive Committee in writing and shall bear the signatures of at least twenty-five members.

Section 2. The Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members voting by ballot, provided a quorum of the Society membership votes (see Article V of the Constitution).

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be posted by the Society Secretary on the Web Page at least one month prior to voting. Ballots will be made available to the membership and one month will be allowed for voting. The ballot closing date shall be stated on the ballot.

Section 3. Votes will be collected and tabulated and the Secretary will notify the Executive Committee of the results. The Secretary will also post the results on the Society's Web Page and in the appropriate fall or spring Newsletter.

Section 4. Amendments shall become effective following their adoption as stated in Article XVII Sections 1-3.

#### **Article V of the Constitution referenced above: Quorum**

Section 1. Fifty members shall constitute a quorum of the Society, and twelve a quorum of the Executive Committee.

## Proposed changes to the Constitution and the Bylaws

### 1. Proposed Amendment on Voting

Constitution Article III: Administrative Organization

Section 4. Elections: Elections of Society-wide Officers, Members-At-Large of the Executive Committee, and Divisional Officers shall be held by ~~both paper and~~ appropriately secure electronic ballots. The Secretary shall make certain that ballots are made available to the entire membership of the Society and allow one month for their ~~return~~ **completion**, the due date being stated on the ballot. The Secretary shall be responsible for overseeing the counting, ~~tabulation~~, and recording of the votes and shall notify the candidates and the Executive Committee of the results of the election. The results of the election will be published in the Fall Newsletter of the Society prior to the Annual Meeting. In the event that the vote for any Society-wide candidate should result in a tie, the three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee shall vote to resolve the tie.

**Rationale:** The changes reflect our current practice of having exclusively electronic ballots.

## 2. Proposed Amendments Associated with the Journal, *Integrative and Comparative Biology*

### **SICB Constitution**

Article VIII: The SICB Journal: *Integrative and Comparative Biology*

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall appoint the Editor of *Integrative and Comparative Biology* after consultation with the Editorial Board of the journal. The Editor of *Integrative and Comparative Biology* shall serve for a term of five years, with reappointment for one or two additional terms permissible, and shall serve as Chairperson of the Editorial Board.

Section 2. The Editor shall have the authority to appoint one or more Associate Editors (to assist with ~~day to day~~ editorial duties) and **one or more Managing Assistant** Editors (to provide administrative and secretarial assistance), subject to approval by the Editorial Board.

Remuneration of the Editor and **the Managing Assistant** Editors, and payment for standard and appropriate journal operating expenses, shall be determined by the ~~Executive~~ **Finance** Committee and shall be included as items in the annual budget of the Society.

**Rationale:** The first part clarifies the appointments of the Associate Editors and the Managing Editor(s); some terminology changes were requested by the *ICB* Editorial Board. Assistant Editors will now refer to members of the Editorial Board and language has been modified in the bylaws covering these changes. Operating expenses (last sentence above) must still be approved by the Executive Committee as they approve the annual budget. As a practical matter, details of the journal operating budget are first worked out by the Finance Committee and then approved by the Executive Committee. Therefore, the structure will be an Editor, Associate Editors, and an Editorial Board (Assistant Editors).

### **SICB Bylaws**

Article XV: Standing Committees

Section 5. Editorial Board: The Editorial Board of *Integrative and Comparative Biology* shall consist of one **Assistant Editor** ~~member~~ from each Division, each of whom shall serve for a term of five years. Additional **Assistant Editors** ~~members~~ may be added to the Editorial Board as ~~Associate members~~ and each shall serve a term of 2, 3, or 4 years, as agreed between the Editor and the appointee. All members of the Editorial Board shall be appointed by the President upon nomination by the Editor and approval of the Executive Committee. The Editorial Board shall advise the Editor in matters relating to journal policy, with particular reference to determining editorial and business policies for the journal in all respects not otherwise specified by the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Rationale:** The change is to now refer to Editorial Board members as Assistant Editors and to remove the somewhat confusing terminology associated with “Associate members” of the Editorial Board. These changes do not affect the methods of appointment for the Assistant

Editors. Divisional representatives will be Assistant Editors as will those appointed as “additional” Assistant Editors. Associate Editors have a slightly different process for appointment requiring approval of the Editorial Board; this process has not changed.

### 3. Proposed Amendments on Committees

#### SICB Bylaws

Article XV: Standing Committees

Section 2. Educational Council:

**The President shall appoint a Committee consisting of at least six members, each for a term of three years. The President shall appoint the chair of the Committee. The term of the Chair shall be three years and the Chair is a member of the Executive Committee.** ~~The President, after consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint an Educational Council consisting of five members, and a sixth member who shall serve as Chair will be elected by the general membership of the Society. The Chair is a member of the Executive Committee.~~ Selection of new members will be made by a recommendation of the Council to the President-Elect. ~~Each member shall serve for a term of three years, and initial members will serve staggered terms so that two replacements are made each year.~~ The Council will report to the Executive Committee through the Chair and will meet once a year at the Annual Meeting of the Society. ~~The charge to the Educational Council will be to provide information to the SICB membership on educational issues in the life sciences, to facilitate the development of consortia to respond to opportunities for funding from granting agencies, and to respond to educational issues and questions brought up by members of the Society. The responsibilities of the Educational Council may include, but not be limited to, the following: educational development for graduate students; coordination of outreach activities; liaison with other professional groups with reference to educational issues; and response to proposals from members for particular projects. Ad hoc working groups will be established by the Educational Council to carry out these projects. The Educational Council will communicate with members through the SICB newsletters and *Integrative and Comparative Biology*.~~

**Rationale:** The proposed change is modeled after the wording in Section 6 for the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee and Section 12 for the Broadening Participation Committee. On these committees, the chair is appointed by the President. Requiring the chair of the Educational Council to be elected by the membership of SICB requires that two candidates be put forth. The best source of candidates for the Ed Council comes from the members of the Ed Council itself because the members are involved deeply with the activities of the group. The chances of having two members of the six-member Ed Council agreeing to stand for election is rather small. It would necessarily force a candidate unfamiliar with the recent history and activity of the Ed Council to run for the chair. Experience with other SICB committees has shown that committee chairs are most engaged when they understand the recent history and activity of the workings of the committee.

Section 11. Development Committee: The President shall appoint a Committee consisting of at least three members, each for a term of three years. The appointment of members of the Committee shall be ordered so that the term of one member shall expire each year. **The**

**President shall appoint the chair of the Committee.** ~~The senior member of the Committee shall serve as Chairperson and~~ The Treasurer shall serve as an *ex officio* member. The Committee is broadly charged to assist the Executive Committee to develop and enhance resources for the Society to support its programs.

**Rationale:** This committee in recent years has been very active and its members have brought to the table different talents and ideas. For a variety of reasons, the best person to chair the committee in any given year is not always driven by longevity of service on the committee.

## 5. Proposed Amendments on Absences

### **SICB Bylaws**

Article XIV: Vacancies **or Absences** in Office

**Section 1.** If for any reason the office of President should become vacant before the expiration of the normal term, the President-Elect shall immediately assume the duties of President.

**Section 2.** If there is no officer-elect to assume the duties, a vacancy in the office of Secretary, Program Officer, Past Program Officer, or Treasurer shall be filled through appointment by the President for the remainder of the term.

**Section 3.** If a member-at-large of the Executive Committee shall be unable to serve on the Executive Committee because of election to an office of the Society, resignation, or any other cause, a member-at-large shall be elected at the next annual election of the Society to serve the remainder of the term so vacated.

**Section 4.** A member-at-large of the Executive Committee shall not be eligible for immediate re-election unless a term of less than three years shall have been served.

### **New Section**

**Section 5.** In divisions where there is no specific provision in the divisional bylaws for someone to serve as the Divisional Chair when the Chair is temporarily absent from her/his duties, then the Divisional Executive Committee may appoint a representative in place of the absent Divisional Chair, provided that notice is given to the SICB President. The SICB President also has the authority to appoint a representative. The SICB President has the authority to appoint temporary committee chairs.

**Rationale:** This applies mainly to divisional chairs in divisions where there is no specific provision for another person to represent the division at the Executive Committee meeting when the chair is not present. Vacancies are generally covered in the bylaws, but absences are not always covered. For example, if a division does not have a chair-elect, then who serves in the absence of the divisional chair? But the provision also applies to the committee chairs that sit on the Executive Committee and who may not be able to attend the Executive Committee meeting.