

Proposed Amendments to the SICB DEE Bylaws

June, 2021

Rationale:

We are also proposing several minor changes to update and simplify the bylaws:

- updating the voting methods, to indicate that only electronic ballots will be used (article III),
- reducing the notice required for proposed bylaw changes from 60 to 30 days, to be in line with other SICB divisions (article IX),
- reducing the details included in the bylaws regarding the DEE Best Student Presentation competitions, so that the judging criteria can be more easily updated and shared with BSP participants (article X),
- clarifying wording about limits to participation in BSP competitions by past winners (article X), and
- editing out typos and redundancies and changing some wording to be more inclusive.

Proposed changes to the DEE bylaws are indicated as follows:

Additions = **bold underline**

Deletions = ~~strikethrough~~

Article V. Administrative Organization

Section 1. Officers

~~A)A)The officers of the Division shall be Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Secretary-Elect, Program Officer, and Program Officer-Elect. These six offices shall constitute the Divisional Executive Committee and shall be responsible for the affairs of the Division. The term of office shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.~~

B) The term of office for the Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Officer, and Secretary shall be two (2) years. The term of office for the Secretary-Elect and Program Officer-Elect shall

be one (1) year. The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representatives shall begin at the end of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end at the adjournment of the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire.

C) In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete ~~his or her~~**their** term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

Section 2. Elections

A) All Officers except the Chair, Past Chair, Program Officer and ~~S~~secretary shall be elected by majority vote of all those members responding to a ballot submitted to the entire membership of the division, as required by the bylaws of the Society, at least sixty days before the expiration of the current officers' terms. B) Elections for Chair-Elect and Secretary-Elect shall be held **in** alternate years. Elections for the Secretary-Elect, and Program Officer-Elect will be held such that their term of office begins 1 year prior to the end of the term of office for the Chair, Secretary, and Program Officer. Balloting for a new Chair-Elect will be conducted in the second year of office of the incumbent Chair and Chair-Elect. C) The Past Chair, Chair, Program Officer, and Secretary, upon the completion of the second year in office, shall automatically be succeeded by the Chair, Chair-Elect, Program Officer-Elect, and Secretary-Elect, respectively. D) Elections of officers shall be held by ~~both paper and~~ appropriately secure electronic ballots. A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. The Secretary shall notify the candidates for office of the results. In the event that a vote results in a tie, the members of the Divisional Executive Committee shall vote to resolve the tie. In the event of a tie vote by the officers of the division, the division chair shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 4. Divisional Executive Committee

In intervals between meetings, management of the Division is vested in the Divisional Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Division, student and postdoctoral members excluded. ~~Elections~~

Article VI. Duties of the Officers

Section 7. All Officers

~~The~~All officers are expected to notify the Chair when they are temporarily unable to carry out their duties or are unable to complete their term. In the event the Chair is temporarily unable to carry out the duties of the office or is unable to complete the term of office, the Secretary should be notified.

Article IX. Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1.

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws may be originated by the Divisional Executive Committee or by the members of the Division. Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds vote of those responding by ballot provided that notice has been given to all members at least ~~sixty~~**thirty (30)** days in advance.

Article X. Best Student Presentation Awards

A certificate and monetary prize will be awarded for a) the Best **Oral Presentation** ~~Contributed Paper~~, and b) the Best Poster **Presentation** ~~presented~~ by a student at the annual meeting. Students who have not yet taken the Ph.D. degree, as well as new Ph.D's who have received the degree not more than 12 months prior to the meeting, are eligible to compete for the awards. The work presented must be original and must be carried out principally by the student presenting the paper or poster. Students submitting abstracts of work to be presented at the Annual Meeting may apply to compete for the awards. A student who applies must be a member of the Division of Ecology and Evolution, ~~and a prize can be awarded only once to any student.~~ **A student who wins the Best Oral Presentation may not compete in the Best Oral Presentation competition in this division in the future. A student who wins the Best Poster Presentation may not compete in the Best Poster Presentation competition in this division in the future.** If, in the opinion of the judges, none of the ~~oral papers or poster presentations presented~~ is deserving of an award, the awards may not be presented that year. In the case of a tie, duplicate awards may be presented. The Chair of the Division will appoint an awards committee who will act as judges. All papers identified as competing for the prize must be attended by at least two

judges, and preferably by three judges. No member who has a student competing for a prize shall be eligible to vote or comment on their student.

Criteria for judging papers and posters **will be agreed upon by the Divisional Executive Committee and used to create an evaluation form.** ~~are modeled after those used in the judging for the 1989 best student paper competition. Each judge receives, in advance, an evaluation form which has the name of the student, the paper or poster number, and a copy of the abstract. The~~ **evaluation** form is provided to aid the judge in evaluating the paper or poster for content and presentation. **Judging criteria will be shared in advance with BSP participants.** ~~The content and presentation of the paper or poster will be judged upon:~~

————— **Content (60%)**

- 1. ~~Originality of the research~~
- 2. ~~Efficacy of approach and methods used~~
- 3. ~~Freedom from statistical or analytical flaws~~
- 4. ~~Logical connection between conclusions and data~~
- 5. ~~Importance of research~~

————— **Presentation (40%)**

1. ~~Clarity of the objectives~~
2. ~~How well the presenter helped the audience follow the various parts of the presentation and recognize the parts as integrating into a whole~~
3. ~~How well the presenter integrated the presentation into the fabric of science represented by the work and showed the importance of the contribution to the field~~
4. ~~Ability of the presenter to answer questions~~
5. ~~Quality of graphics~~
6. ~~Lack of annoying distractions from the research presented~~

The results of the judging shall be tabulated by the Secretary, and a copy of the results given to at least one other member of the Divisional Executive Committee before leaving the meeting.