

This document was posted to the SICB web site on June 1, 2020. Voting will open July 1, 2020 and close August 1, 2020. Please send comments to President@sicb.org.

Proposed Amendments to the SICB Constitution

June, 2020

Rationale: Under the current SICB Constitution, undergraduate or high school student members are not allowed to vote in Society elections, and Postdoctoral Members are not allowed to hold Society offices. These limitations on student and postdoctoral involvement in the Society are contrary to the Society's intentional efforts to engage and support early career members. The proposed changes below allow all members of the Society to vote in elections, allow Postdoctoral Members to hold office, rename the membership category for undergraduate and high school students, and remove limits on the duration of time a membership category may be held.

In addition, Student Members of the Society have required the sponsorship of a Full Member to present a poster or oral presentation at the annual meeting, and the Constitution limits students to a total of one presentation. The requirement of sponsorship by a Full Member makes the meeting less accessible for students whose advisor is not a member of SICB. The proposed changes eliminate that requirement. Instead, when a student submits an abstract, they will be prompted to provide the email address of their research advisor, who will receive an alert that the abstract was submitted. The proposed changes also remove some text limiting students to one presentation, as it is our current practice to allow all members to present one poster and one oral presentation at a meeting.

Proposed changes to the Constitution are indicated as follows.

Additions = **bold underline**

Deletions = ~~strikethrough~~

Article II: Membership

Section 3. Graduate Student Members: Any student enrolled in a graduate program in the biological sciences **natural sciences or related fields** shall be eligible for Graduate Student Membership. ~~An individual may hold Graduate Student Membership for a maximum of six years. After six years, the Graduate Student Member who has completed a doctorate shall automatically be promoted to Full Membership. A Graduate Student Member may request a limited extension of Graduate Student Membership by written request to the Business Office.~~ Graduate Student Members shall receive announcements of meetings and all Society publications. Graduate Student Members

may vote but may not hold office. A ~~Graduate Student Member~~ may present one paper or poster at each meeting of the Society under sponsorship of a Full Member.

Section 4. **Undergraduate and High School (UHS) Student** ~~Student-in-Training~~
Members: Any undergraduate college or upper-level high school student who has demonstrated a ~~precocious and clear-cut~~ **strong interest in and** understanding of science, ~~which should lead to Full Membership at a later date,~~ may hold **shall be eligible for** this membership. Normally an individual may not hold SIT Membership for more than five years, after which he/she should be eligible for Graduate Student Membership. ~~SIT~~ **UHS Student** Members shall receive announcements of meetings and all Society publications. They may neither vote nor hold office. **UHS Student Members may vote but may not hold office.** A ~~SIT Member~~ may present one paper or poster at each meeting of the Society under sponsorship of a Full Member.

Section 6. **Postdoctoral Members:** Any **individual** ~~student~~ who has earned a doctoral degree and is professionally engaged in the study or promotion of biology as a scientific discipline, and is a postdoctoral fellow or associate, shall be eligible for Postdoctoral Membership. Postdoctoral Members shall receive announcements of meetings and all Society publications. Postdoctoral Members may vote ~~but may not~~ **and** hold office.