

## Proposed Amendments to Division of Animal Behavior Bylaws

June 2021

**Rationale:** The proposed changes seek to update and clarify procedures for nominations and elections, to clarify procedures for Best Student Presentation competitions and calling special meetings, to refine the statement of purpose for the Division, and to use more inclusive language.

Current bylaws prohibit a Chair from serving an additional term. The proposed changes will allow a Chair to serve again, in a non-consecutive term

Current bylaws specify procedures for nominating Chair candidates that are separate and distinct from the procedures for nominating candidates for other Division officers, with the Animal Behavior Society involved in nominations for Chair. Proposed changes will simplify these procedures by placing the responsibility for nominating candidates for all Division offices in a Division Nominating Committee and by removing the stipulation that only Animal Behavior Society members are eligible to be nominated by petition for the office of Chair.

Current bylaws contain some redundancy in descriptions of the Best Student Presentation Competition procedures. Proposed changes will simplify and clarify this description.

Current bylaws allow nominations for Division office and calling special meetings by petition. Proposed changes will clarify these procedures.

Proposed changes also include updates to refine the statement of purpose for the Division, to reflect current SICB practice in providing information about candidates for Division office, to remove mention of mail ballots, to use more inclusive language, and to correct a typographical error.

Proposed changes to the Constitution are indicated as follows.

Additions = **bold underline**

Deletions = ~~strikethrough~~

### Article I. Name and Purpose

#### Section 2. Purpose

The study of animal behavior is **inherently integrative and is essential to understanding the structure, function, ecology, and evolution of animals** ~~basic to theoretical and empirical biology~~. The purpose of this Division shall be to advance, coordinate and assist research and publication of this subject **dissemination of knowledge related to animal behavior**, ~~and to act as a liaison between~~ **to facilitate communication among** workers in the various scientific fields involved, **and to promote the vitality of the field by supporting the training and mentorship of students and early career scientists engaged in the study of animal behavior.**

## **Article III. Administrative Organization**

### Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Secretary, and Program Officer and shall comprise a Divisional Executive Committee. The Chair, Secretary and Program Officer shall be elected for a term of three years, and, ~~except for the Chair, shall be eligible for re-election.~~ **The Chair shall not be eligible for election in consecutive terms. The Secretary and Program Officer shall be eligible for re-election.** Elections for each of these three offices shall occur individually and in consecutive years. 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 will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

### Section 2. Elections

Election of officers shall be held by ~~both paper and~~ appropriately secure electronic ballots. The names of candidates for offices shall be published in advance of ~~a mail ballot~~ **the election, and a brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot.** 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.

### Section 3. Nominations for Chair

~~Nominations for the office of Chair will be solicited in consultation with the Animal Behavior Society. At least two candidates for the position should be named, although one write-in candidate is acceptable. Candidates for Chair must be members in good standing of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology.~~

### Section 3-4. Nominations for Secretary and Program Officer

Nominations for ~~the~~**all** offices of Secretary and of Program Officer shall be prepared by a Nominating Committee appointed by the Chair in consultation with the Division Executive Committee. At least two candidates for each office should be named, although one write-in candidate is acceptable, and all candidates must be members in good standing of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. **Additional nominations for any office may be made in writing to the Executive Committee by any ten members of the Division.**

### Section 5. Nominations by petition

~~Candidates for elected offices may be nominated by petition. Candidates nominated by petition must be members in good standing of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, and those nominated for the office of Chair must also be members in good standing of the Animal Behavior Society.~~

#### Section 4-6. Executive Committee

The management of the Division shall be vested in the Divisional Executive Committee.

#### Section 5-7. Newsletter

Officers of the Division of Animal Behavior shall prepare materials regularly for SICB Newsletters.

#### Section 6-8. Committees

Special committees may be authorized by the Executive Committee and shall be appointed by the Chair for one year. The Executive Committee should review the need for such committees as appropriate.

#### Section 7-9. Finances

The necessary expenses of the Division shall be disbursed from the treasury of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, but in no year shall the total expenses of the Division exceed the amount specified by the SICB. The Division budget shall be prepared and committed by the Chair in consultation with the Executive Director of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology and the Division officers.

### **Article IV. Duties of the Officers**

#### Section 1. Chair

The Chair shall preside at the business meeting of the Division, shall be responsible for the program and meetings of the Division, and shall promote in every practical way the interests of the Division. The Chair shall represent the Division on the Executive ~~Committees of~~ **Committee of** the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. The Chair shall liaise with the Animal Behavior Society and consult with the Executive of the Animal Behavior Society to promote shared interests.

### **Article V. Meetings of the Division**

#### Section 2. Special Meetings

Division meetings may be held at other times and places on call of the Chair or when requested in writing by ~~petition~~ **at least ten members of the Division**. Notice shall be sent to each member of the Division sixty (60) days in advance of any such meeting.

### **Article VII. Best Student Presentation Awards**

#### Section 1. Awards

At each annual meeting there may be three student presentation awards. There may be two Division of Animal Behavior Best Student Presentation Awards presented, one for the student making the best oral presentation and one for the student making the best poster presentation. Additionally, there may be an Adrian M. Wenner Outstanding "Strong Inference" Award

presented for the best oral or poster presentation based upon the strong inference approach in experimental design and execution. **The rules governing participation in student presentation competitions and selection of awardees shall be determined by the Division Executive Committee.**

#### Section 2. Participation Rules

~~The rules governing participating in the Best Student Paper Award Competition and the Adrian M. Wenner Award Competition shall be determined by the Division Executive Committee.~~

#### Section 3. Selection Committee

~~The rules governing participating in the Best Student Presentation Award Competition and the Adrian M. Wenner Award Competition shall be determined by the Division Executive Committee.~~

### **Article VIII. Amendments to the Bylaws**

#### Section 1.

Proposed amendments to the Division Bylaws may be originated by the Executive Committee or by the members of the Division. Division Bylaws may be amended by at least two-thirds vote of the members of the Division present at any annual meeting of the Division or by at least two-thirds of the members responding to ~~a mail~~ **an electronic** ballot. Proposed amendments receiving at least two-thirds votes in the affirmative become effective 15 days after the ballots are counted.