

**Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws, Division of Phylogenetic and Comparative
Biology
June 2021**

Rationale: Earlier versions of the DPCB Bylaws identify the division's purpose to include "comparative biology" broadly-defined. This revision explicitly incorporates phylogenetic comparative methods as a key facet of the division.

Article I. Name and Purpose

Section 2. Purpose

The field of systematic biology (nomenclature, taxonomy, phylogenetics) provides the fundamental scaffolding for all other areas of biological inquiry, whether the goal is to understand the origin and extent of biological diversity or to generate hypotheses of evolutionary relationships among organisms or genes. Moreover, its constituent parts are essential for all comparative approaches in evolutionary biology. The purpose of the Division shall be to advance, encourage, and coordinate research and publication in systematic ~~and comparative biology~~ **and phylogenetic comparative methods**, and to act as a liaison between workers in various scientific fields interested in the application of these approaches.

Rationale: This bylaw reflected membership policies enacted prior to online registration. The revision indicates that members can join the division during annual renewal.

Article II. Membership

Section 1.

Any member of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology may become a member of the Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology **during annual membership renewal and/or** by registering with the SICB business office.

Rationale: The following proposal streamlines the term limit guidelines.

Article III. Administrative Organization

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Past Chair, Chair-Elect, Secretary, Secretary-Elect, Program Officer, and Program Officer-Elect. The Chair-Elect shall be

elected before one annual meeting and serve for a term of one year, and shall then successively and automatically become Chair for a term of three years and then successively and automatically become Past Chair for two years. The Secretary-Elect shall be elected triennially, and shall hold office for a term of one year, and then successively and automatically become Secretary for three years. The Program Officer-Elect shall be elected to serve for one year and shall then successively and automatically become Program Officer for three years. ~~The Chair may be re-elected to serve another term following the two-year term as Past Chair; the Secretary and Program Officer may be re-elected to successive terms.~~ **All executive committee members may serve a maximum of two terms in the same position (consecutive or non-consecutive).**

Rationale: The following fixes an error (referring to DPCB by its former name, DSEB). Furthermore, The following more accurately describes the current role and responsibilities of the Student/Postdoc rep

Section 2. Student/Postdoctoral Representative

The Division Chair shall appoint a Student/Postdoctoral Representative for a term concurrent with the Division Chair. The Student/Postdoctoral Representative will contribute to the biannual Division newsletter and ~~represent DSEB at the graduate student/postdoc lunch~~ **will serve as the Division's representative on the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee (SPDAC) in all of the committee's activities.** The Student/Postdoctoral Representative will serve on the Division Executive Committee as a non-voting member.

Rationale: All references to "his/her" have been changed to "their" to increase gender inclusivity.

Article IV. Duties of the Officers

Section 3. Chair-Elect

The Chair-Elect shall attend meetings at which the Chair officially represents the Division whenever possible, in order to prepare for ~~his/her~~ **their** term of office. Should the Chair have reason to resign, or for other reason be unable to continue, the Chair-Elect shall be prepared to assume the office of Chair.

Rationale: The current bylaws restrict recent participation in the Wake Awards for Best Student Presentations to SICB members who have received a Ph.D. within 12 months

of the competition. The proposed revisions allow all degrees to be eligible for the 12-month rule. In addition, a fourth section is proposed, clarifying award procedures. "Student-in-Training members" replaced with "Undergraduate/High School Student Members" as the former category no longer exists in the Society.

Article VII. David and Marvalee Wake Award for Best Student Presentations

Section 2. Participation

~~Student-in-Training Members~~**Undergraduate/High School Student Members,** Graduate Student Members and those SICB members who have received a ~~Ph.D.~~ **degree** within 12 months of the competition are eligible to compete for awards. The work should be original and principally the work of the student presenter. A student who wins best oral presentation may not compete in best oral presentation contest in this division in the future. A student who wins best poster presentation may not compete in best poster presentation contest in this division in the future.

Section 4. Award Procedures

The Secretary shall collect and tally BSP scores from all judges. Awards will be issued accounting for numerical score and qualitative ranking outlined in the evaluation criteria, and in conference with the selection committee.

Rationale: Below, all references to "Web Page" are restyled as "website" in order to be consistent with contemporary usage. Similarly, mail-in ballots and proposed bylaw changes are no longer supported and these references have been removed. The reference to "fall or spring" newsletters has been removed as we may not continue to have two newsletters, providing flexibility in the future.

Article VIII. Amendments to the Bylaws

Proposed amendments to the Divisional Bylaws may be originated by the Executive Committee or by the members of the Division. Divisional 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 members responding to a ~~mail or~~ electronic ballot. Proposed changes in the Bylaws must be ~~mailed to the membership or~~ posted on the Society's ~~Web Page~~ **website** by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to any vote being taken. Proposed amendments receiving at least two-thirds votes in the affirmative become effective 15 days after the ballots are counted. The Secretary will notify the Executive Committee and post the results on the Society's ~~Web Page~~ **website** as well as in the appropriate ~~fall or spring~~ Newsletter.

Rationale: Below, “zoologists” is changed to “biologists,” reflecting the expanding membership of SICB which now includes a Division of Botany.

Article IX. Cooperation

The Division of Phylogenetics and Comparative Biology shall make every effort to coordinate its programs and activities with those of the Society of Systematic Biologists and other organizations presenting material of interest to systematic ~~zoologists~~**biologists**, whenever such coordination and cooperation is in the best interests of the field of systematic biology.