



2021 SCST Constitution and Bylaws Proposed Changes

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Bylaws chair



Proposed Changes for 2020-2021

- Addition of a provision for business to be conducted virtually in the event of a disaster.
- Change requirement for a genetic member on the board of directors.
- Continuing education points for college course instructors.
- Clarification of SCST voting procedure during business meetings, and in the event an in-person meeting is not able to be held.
- Addition of term limits for Board of Directors members
- Addition of a Lab Report Audit Committee – For discussion only at this time.

Additional provision for a virtual meeting

Background:

For the safety of the membership, the 2020 AOSA/SCST annual meeting was cancelled. There is currently no other option in the AOSA or SCST constitution and bylaws to conduct a business meeting without meeting in person.

While necessary for the safety of the membership, the cancellation of the annual meeting in 2020 also delayed voting on the AOSA Rules for an additional year, as well as putting off the opportunity to conduct a business meeting.

The AOSA and SCST Executive boards agreed that there should be an option in the Constitution and Bylaws to allow for essential business matter to be conducted with the membership at large through means of a virtual meeting.

Current Text:

“Article VII. Meetings

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Society for the purpose of transacting business and for the general welfare of the Society. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members ninety (90) days prior thereto. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board or at the request of one-fifth (1/5) of the Registered and Certified Members. Notice of special meetings shall be sent to all members not less than fourteen (14) days prior thereto.”

Proposed Amended Text:

“Article VII. Meetings

There shall be an Annual Meeting of the Society for the purpose of transacting business and for the general welfare of the Society. Notice of the Annual Meeting shall be sent to all members ninety (90) days prior thereto. Special meetings may be called by the Executive Board or at the request of one-fifth (1/5) of the Registered and Certified Members. Notice of special meetings shall be sent to all members not less than fourteen (14) days prior thereto.

In the event an emergency has been declared by the USA or Canadian government the SCST shall handle business via a virtual meeting. All SCST members in good standing should try to attend such a meeting. The Executive board will be responsible for declaring the date and time of such a meeting. The business of the organization shall be voted on at this time such as; Budget, AOSA Rules, and other issues brought forth by the President and deemed important to the organization. All other organization business shall be tabled until the next fully operational annual meeting. The board along with the management office shall determine the agenda for and what type of virtual format shall be used.”

Change requirement for a genetic member on the board of directors

Background:

The current Constitution and Bylaws specifies that there must be four members elected from the general membership and one from Registered and/or Certified genetics members.

In the most recent election, there were not any genetics members nominated for the position of director at large. There has also been concern expressed about regional representation on the executive board and the requirement for genetics members on the board may further limit regional representation on the executive board.

Current Text

“The elected officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists shall include: President, Vice President, and five (5) Directors-at-Large; four (4) elected from the general membership and one (1) elected from the Registered and Certified Genetic Technologist members. There shall be an Executive Board comprised of the above officers and the Executive Director. Elected officers shall serve without compensation except for personal expense in performance of official duties authorized by a majority of the Executive Board.”

Proposed Amended Text – Option 1

“The elected officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists shall include: President, Vice President, and five (5) Directors-at-Large; four (4) elected from the general membership and one (1) elected from the Registered and Certified Genetic Technologist members. **If a Registered or Certified Genetic Technologist member is not nominated, the fifth position on the board may be filled by a nominee from the general membership.** There shall be an Executive Board comprised of the above officers and the Executive Director. Elected officers shall serve without compensation except for personal expense in performance of official duties authorized by a majority of the Executive Board.”

This option keeps the requirement in place to have a genetic technologist on the board of directors, provided one is nominated. If a genetic technologist is not nominated for the position of Director at Large the position may be filled by another nominee, provided they meet the qualifications to hold office and serve on the executive board. In this case, the board may not have a genetic technologist present on some years if one is not nominated.

Proposed Amended Text – Option 2

The elected officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists shall include: President, Vice President, and five (5) Directors-at-Large; four (4) elected from the general membership and one (1) elected from the Registered and Certified Genetic Technologist members. **If a Registered or Certified Genetic Technologist member is not nominated, the fifth position on the board may be filled by a Registered or Certified Genetic Technologist member appointed by the President.** There shall be an Executive Board comprised of the above officers and the Executive Director. Elected officers shall serve without compensation except for personal expense in performance of official duties authorized by a majority of the Executive Board.

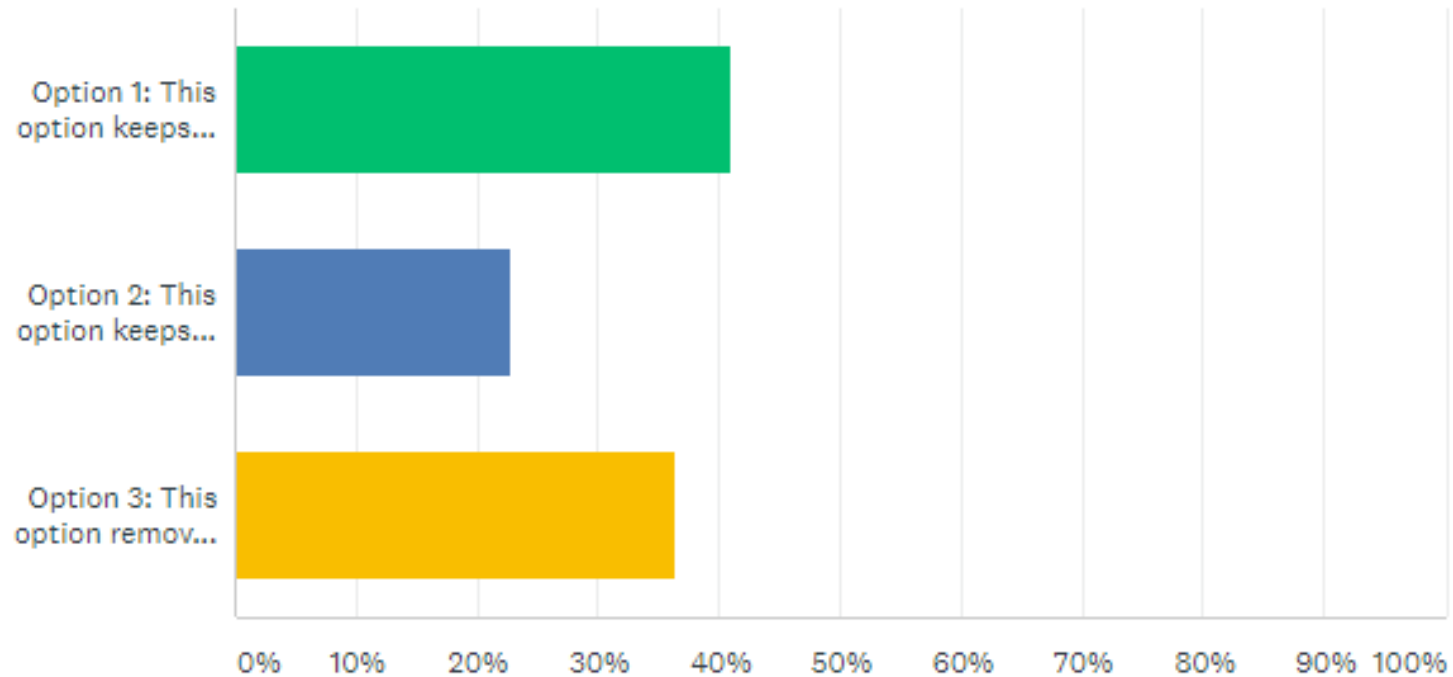
This option keeps the requirement of having a genetic technologist on the Executive Board and adds a provision for the President to appoint a genetic technologist to serve if one is not nominated. In this case there would always be a genetic technologist on the Executive Board. The appointee would still have to meet the requirements to serve and hold office.

Proposed Amended Text – Option 3

The elected officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists shall include: President, Vice President, and five (5) Directors-at-Large; **to be** elected from the general membership. There shall be an Executive Board comprised of the above officers and the Executive Director. Elected officers shall serve without compensation except for personal expense in performance of official duties authorized by a majority of the Executive Board.

This option removes the requirement to have a genetic technologist member on the board entirely. RGTs and CGTs, and Professional members who were previously RGTs or CGTs would still be eligible and encouraged to serve on the board if nominated. However, the board would not be required to include a genetic technologist member.

Survey Results



22 Members participated in the survey. A narrow majority prefer option 1, this option will keep the requirement to have a genetic technologist on the Board of Directors and allow for a non-genetic technologist to serve if one is not elected.

Survey Results

After the survey results were submitted to the SCST Board for Review, it was decided that the wording for the change to the constitution and bylaws should be as follows:

“The elected officers of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists shall include: President, Vice President, and five (5) Directors-at-Large; four (4) elected from the general membership and one (1) elected from the Registered and Certified Genetic Technologist members. **If a Registered or Certified Genetic Technologist member is not ~~nominated~~ elected, the fifth position on the board may be filled by a nominee from the general membership.** There shall be an Executive Board comprised of the above officers and the Executive Director. Elected officers shall serve without compensation except for personal expense in performance of official duties authorized by a majority of the Executive Board.”

This change was made to ensure that the importance of Genetic Technologists is still recognized while accounting for the will of the voting membership.

Points for College Course instructors

Background:

This change was presented last minute at the business meeting in Sparks and missed being voted on. This update is just to include a change that was already approved for voting by the membership previously and has not been included in the Constitution and Bylaws yet.

Current Text:

SECTION 3. 2.h. Point(s) for each workshop/webinar instructor, speaker, or trainer.

Proposed Amended Text:

SECTION 3. 2.h. Point(s) for each workshop/webinar/**college course** instructor, speaker, or trainer.

Revision of Business Meeting Procedure

Background:

The format for the annual business meeting is dictated by Appendix D of the Constitution and Bylaws. The format for who may vote on business matters, as well as the method of voting on the AOSA Rules and other business matters is also dictated by this appendix.

In more recent years, voting by SCST members has taken place by printed ballot for voting on the AOSA Rule proposals, or verbally regarding business matters brought up during Long Range planning. This process is not reflected in the current Constitution and Bylaws, which states that voting is to be done by red and green cards, similar to how AOSA voted previously before the addition of a digital public voting system.

In order to more accurately reflect updated voting procedures, the SCST board proposes an amendment to state that voting is done verbally, electronically, or by paper ballot during the annual business meeting. It is also stated at the business meeting that the paper ballots must be signed in order to be counted. This item has also been added to the voting procedure.

Current Text (from Appendix D)

B. Who Can Vote

1. Voting members of the SCST include: Research Members, Professional Members, RSTs, CVTs, CPTs, RGTs, and CGTs. Voting members will be recognized as they enter the annual business meeting, and each will receive voting cards for use in the Business Meeting. A green card will be used to indicate a yes vote; a red card will be used to indicate a no vote.

Proposed Text:

B. Who Can Vote

1. Voting members of the SCST include: Research Members, Professional Members, RSTs, CVTs, CPTs, RGTs, and CGTs. Voting members will be recognized as they enter the annual business meeting. Voting during the business meeting may take place verbally, electronically, or by paper ballot. For voting by paper ballot voting members will each receive ballots as they enter for use in the Business Meeting. Members voting by paper ballot must sign their ballot in order for it to be counted. In the event an in-person meeting can not be held, SCST shall conduct the business meeting virtually.

These changes are made to reflect the voting process as it currently takes place at the business meeting and to clarify that SCST does not vote using red and green cards anymore.

Background:

This proposal was brought to the Board of Directors to encourage new members, or members who have never served on the Board of Directors to run for office in the organization.

Current Text:

The President shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Vice President shall serve for a term of two (2) years and then ascend to the office of President. Directors-at-Large shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

Proposed Text:

The President shall serve for a term of two (2) years. The Vice President shall serve for a term of two (2) years and then ascend to the office of President. Directors-at-Large shall serve for a term of three (3) years. **Director at Large positions are limited to two (2) consecutive terms. Any one individual is allowed to serve as a Director-at-Large for a maximum of three (3) terms.**

Addition of a Lab Report Audit Committee

Background:

The purpose of this new committee would be to review and audit lab reports on a rotating basis to improve uniformity in reporting test results among AOSA and SCST labs. The proposed changes would be the same in both the AOSA By-Laws and the SCST Constitution and By-Laws.

- Every 6 months 25 labs will be audited, on a rotating cycle of 2 years.
- The labs to be audited will receive an audit survey.
- The committee will use the information supplied to request 10 random lab reports by number.
- If the report number is not available, the lab must explain why. The committee can determine if the reason is appropriate.
- Chair of the committee will compile the reports together and send to the rest of the committee for review.
- The Committee will hold conference calls to review the lab reports for required items, as detailed in section 15 of the AOSA Rules for Testing seeds, and any other items that may cause issues.
- A report will be submitted back to the lab with findings.

Survey Feedback:

Members who participated in the survey seem general in favor of this committee being created. A few areas of concern expressed were:

- Any cost associated with the audit.
- Customer/crop confidentiality. Labs may be reluctant to provide reports of analysis to possible competitors and having customers visible on the reports approached by those reviewing the reports for testing.
- A uniform report would be better than policing labs.
- Caution should be taken when requiring any changes to the Report of Analysis, because labs have different customers and requirements.

Points of Discussion

- Virtual Meetings
 - Current proposed provision is only in case of disasters, such as the 2020 covid-19 pandemic, which prohibit meetings in person from taking place without risking the health and safety of our membership.
 - A survey will be conducted by the Executive Director for members to submit their feedback on the virtual format for the meeting.
- Lab Report Audit Committee