



SCST CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Proposed Changes 2023
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List of proposed changes

- Examination requirements for the reinstatement of Registered and Certified Members Inactive
- Reduced time requirement for Associate members before taking the exam
- Specification for determining candidate's time as an associate member
- Passing requirements for accredited courses used for points toward exam eligibility
- ~~Board of Examiners requirements~~ Withdrawn by submitter
- Constitution and Bylaws Amendment Procedure
- Voting on AOSA Rules
- Distribution of representation



REINSTATEMENT OF INACTIVE MEMBERS

Changes would only apply to Registered and Certified Members, no changes proposed for reinstatement of Professional or Research Members. This change would require Registered and/or Certified members to take and pass the exam in their original area of certification in order to be reinstated if they have been inactive for five years or more.

Examination requirements for reinstatement of inactive members

Change would apply to Section 6: Reinstatement to Active Membership

Current Text

- Applications by a Registered or Certified Member Inactive for reinstatement to Registered or Certified Membership shall be submitted to the Executive Director in writing, and shall become effective only upon verification of re-employment status, not less than the minimum prescribed equipment and current reference material (Appendix C) as determined by the Executive Board, inspection if applicable, proof of compliance for the continuing education requirement, payment of all unpaid dues and assessments during any fiscal year while a Registered or Certified Member, receipt of signed “Privilege of Use” Contract, and unanimous approval by the Examination Committee. The Executive Board will act as a Board of Review if the Examination Committee cannot reach unanimous approval. Approved applicants are responsible for dues for the fiscal year for which they are reinstated.

Proposed Text

- Applications by a Registered or Certified Member Inactive for reinstatement to Registered or Certified Membership shall be submitted to the Executive Director in writing, and shall become effective only upon verification of re-employment status, not less than the minimum prescribed equipment and current reference material (Appendix C) as determined by the Executive Board, inspection if applicable, proof of compliance for the continuing education requirement, payment of all unpaid dues and assessments during any fiscal year while a Registered or Certified Member, receipt of signed “Privilege of Use” Contract, and unanimous approval by the Examination Committee. The Executive Board will act as a Board of Review if the Examination Committee cannot reach unanimous approval. Approved applicants are responsible for dues for the fiscal year for which they are reinstated. **Registered and Certified Members inactive for five (5) years or more must retake the examination(s) for the field(s) in which they were previously certified and *achieve passing scores in order to be fully reinstated.***



PASSING REQUIREMENT FOR ACCREDITED COURSES

Changes apply to all classes of examinations, including the exam for Registered Seed Technologist, Certified Viability Technologist, Certified Purity Technologist, Registered Genetic Technologist, and Certified Genetic Technologist. This change would require that applicants to the exam who want to use accredited courses for points toward exam eligibility must have passed the course with a C (70% or equivalent) or higher.

Passing requirements for Accredited Course Eligibility.

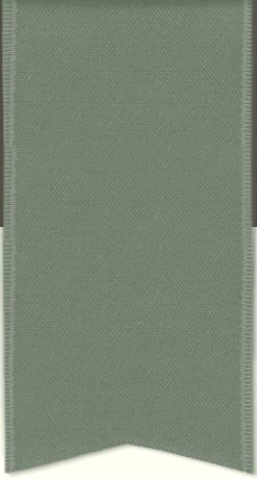
Changes would apply to Qualifications: 2.b.i for *each* examination category.

Current Text

- Accepted accredited courses in Botanical Science or Seed Technology - 2 points for each earned quarter credit hour, 3 points for each earned semester credit hour. Maximum of 50 points allowed.

Proposed Text

- Accepted accredited courses in Botanical Science or Seed Technology **with a passing grade of 70% (or equivalent) or higher** - 2 points for each earned quarter credit hour, 3 points for each earned semester credit hour. Maximum of 50 points allowed. **Accredited courses taken but not passed are not eligible for points.**



REDUCED TIME REQUIREMENT FOR ASSOCIATE MEMBERS BEFORE TAKING THE EXAM

Changes would reduce the amount of time an analyst is required to be an associate member before being eligible for the exam from two years to one year.

Reduced time requirement for Associate members

Changes would apply to Article 1. Section 2. for each membership category

Current Text

- Registered members:
2.a. An applicant for Registered Membership must be an Associate Member for 2 years prior to taking the examination.
- Certified members:
2.a. An applicant for Certified Membership must be an Associate Member for 2 years prior to taking the examination.

Proposed Text

- Registered members:
2.a. An applicant for Registered Membership must be an Associate Member for 1 year prior to taking the examination.
- Certified members:
2.a. An applicant for Certified Membership must be an Associate Member for 1 year prior to taking the examination.



SPECIFICATION FOR HOW TIME AS AN ASSOCIATE MEMBER IS CALCULATED

Change would specify that time as an associate member is calculated from the initial date of application, or at least the corresponding complete dues' cycles.

Reduced time requirement for Associate members*

Changes would apply to Article 1. Section 2. for each membership category

Current Text

- Registered members:
2.a. An applicant for Registered Membership must be an Associate Member for 2 years prior to taking the examination.
- Certified members:
2.a. An applicant for Certified Membership must be an Associate Member for 2 years prior to taking the examination.

Proposed Text

- Registered members:
2.a. An applicant for Registered Membership must be an Associate Member for **at least 2 years as calculated from their initial date of application** prior to taking the examination.
- Certified members:
2.a. An applicant for Certified Membership must be an Associate Member for **at least 2 years as calculated from their initial date of application** prior to taking the examination.

* This change could be applied independently of the change in duration from two years to one year.



BOARD OF EXAMINER REQUIREMENTS

Changes would require that all members of the board of examiners, for both the RST and RGT exams must be registered members. Members of the board of examiners cannot be certified members who may still be studying for the exam.

Information included as presented during Long Range Planning at the Annual Meeting. This proposal has been withdrawn by the original submitter and will not be presented for a vote in 2023.

Board of Examiner Requirements – Withdrawn

Changes would apply to Article IV. Section 6. Duties of Standing Committees, Examination

Current Text

- Section 6, Examination
This committee shall consist of the Vice President as Chair, and the RST Board of Examiners, and the RGT Board of Examiners. Each Board of Examiners will consist of a Chair as appointed by the President, and seven (7) members selected by the Chair, including a Vice-Chair, by and with the consent of the President.
The duties of this committee shall be:
 1. To review and evaluate all applications for membership as provided by the executive director;
 2. To recommend such courses or study for each RST, RGT, CGT, CVT or CPT applicant;
 3. To maintain the highest level of security with examination materials;
 4. To maintain and update a library of examination questions and sample materials;
 5. To arrange places and times of examinations;
 6. To proctor and grade examinations in a professional manner;
 7. To report the outcome of examinations to the Executive Board and membership;
 8. To determine equivalency of examinations conducted by other seed testing organizations, as described in Article II of By-Laws hereof.

Proposed Text

- Section 6, Examination
This committee shall consist of the Vice President as Chair, and the RST Board of Examiners, and the RGT Board of Examiners. Each Board of Examiners will consist of a Chair as appointed by the President, and seven (7) members selected by the Chair, including a Vice-Chair, by and with the consent of the President. **All committee members must be Registered members.**
The duties of this committee shall be:
 1. To review and evaluate all applications for membership as provided by the executive director;
 2. To recommend such courses or study for each RST, RGT, CGT, CVT or CPT applicant;
 3. To maintain the highest level of security with examination materials;
 4. To maintain and update a library of examination questions and sample materials;
 5. To arrange places and times of examinations;
 6. To proctor and grade examinations in a professional manner;
 7. To report the outcome of examinations to the Executive Board and membership;
 8. To determine equivalency of examinations conducted by other seed testing organizations, as described in Article II of By-Laws hereof.

Information included as presented during Long Range Planning at the Annual Meeting. This proposal has been withdrawn by the original submitter and will not be presented for a vote in 2023.



CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

Changes would clarify the procedure for presenting proposed amendments to the SCST Constitution and Bylaws during Long Range Planning, for voting on at the Business meeting before sending a final ballot to all voting members. These changes would only be putting in writing the process that is already followed.

Constitution and Bylaws Amendment Procedure

Changes would apply to Section 4. Amendments & Appendix D, II. Business Meeting

Current Text

- Section 4, Amendments
Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws or repeal thereof, shall be made by two-thirds (2/3) majority of affirmative electronic message, facsimile or mail ballots received by the Executive Director within thirty (30) days after submission to all voting Members
- Appendix D, II. Business Meeting
E. Motions that amend the Constitution or By-laws will be sent to the membership for a ballot vote after the annual meeting.

Proposed Text

- Section 4, Amendments
Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws must be presented to the membership during the Long Range Planning Session at the Annual meeting. During the business meeting the membership must vote by a two-thirds (2/3) majority to present the proposed changes to all voting Members. Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws or repeal thereof, shall be made by two-thirds (2/3) majority of affirmative electronic message, facsimile or mail ballots received by the Executive Director within thirty (30) days after submission to all voting Members.
- Appendix D II. Business Meeting
E. Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws must be presented to the membership during the Long Range Planning Session at the Annual meeting. The membership must vote by a two-thirds (2/3) majority to present the proposed changes to all voting Members. Motions that amend the Constitution or By-laws will be sent to the membership for a ballot vote after the annual meeting. Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws or repeal thereof, shall be made by two-thirds (2/3) majority of affirmative electronic message, facsimile or mail ballots received by the Executive Director within thirty (30) days after submission to all voting Members.



VOTING ON AOSA RULES

Proposed change to harmonize with the new process detailed in the AOSA Bylaws for voting on the AOSA Rules. New Process requires all passing rule proposals to have 50.00% or more in-favor votes from both organizations. If SCST does not submit a vote the final decision to be based on 2/3 majority of submitted AOSA votes.

Voting on AOSA Rules

Current Text

Proposed changes and additions shall be approved by the Rules Committee and posted on the website or otherwise submitted to the joint membership of the Association of Official Seed Analysts and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists at least 90 days prior to an Annual meeting at which such rules shall be adopted or rejected. Rules are voted on by one affiliate member from each Official Laboratory of the Association (AOSA) and by individual voting members of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) in attendance at the joint business meeting. Votes in favor and those opposed are converted to percentages based on the total number of votes cast within each respective organization. The percentage designation is then dropped and the tally from each organization is added together for a cumulative total based on 200 (two hundred). A two-thirds majority of the cumulative tally is required to adopt a Rule proposal. To pass with a two-thirds majority vote, a cumulative tally of 134 (one hundred thirty-four) in favor out of 200 (two hundred) total combined points would be required. Those individuals with dual membership may vote as individual members with the Society of Commercial seed Technologists and if designated as voting representative by their Official Laboratory, cast a vote for their laboratory. Rule(s) changes or additions approved by the joint membership at the Annual meeting shall have an effective date of October 1 in the year they are approved, unless otherwise specified. The Rules Committee is responsible for preparing the final version of the approved rule(s) changes for publication.

Proposed Text

Proposed changes and additions shall be approved **for consideration** by the Rules Committee and posted on the website or otherwise submitted to the joint membership of the Association of Official Seed Analysts and the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists at least 90 days prior to an Annual meeting at which **time** such rules shall be adopted or rejected. Rules are voted on by one affiliate member from each Official Laboratory of the Association (AOSA) and by individual voting members of the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists (SCST) in attendance at the joint business meeting. Votes in favor and those opposed are converted to percentages based on the total number of votes cast within each respective organization. The percentage designation is then dropped and the tally from each organization is added together for a cumulative total based on 200 (two hundred). A two-thirds majority of the cumulative tally is required to adopt a Rule proposal. To pass with a two-thirds majority vote, a cumulative tally of 134 (one hundred thirty-four) in favor out of 200 (two hundred) total combined points would be required. **Exceptions to the method: Any proposed changes and additions receiving 50.00% or less in-favor votes from either the Association of Official Seed Analysts or the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists, regardless of the cumulative tally, shall not be adopted. In any case in which the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists does not report a percentage of in-favor votes for the said proposed changes and additions cast at their annual business meeting, the adoption of the proposed changes and additions shall be considered based on two-thirds (67.00%) in-favor votes from the affiliate members from Official Laboratories of the Association of Official Seed Analysts (AOSA).** Those individuals with dual membership may vote as individual members with the Society of Commercial seed Technologists and if designated as voting representative by their Official Laboratory, cast a vote for their laboratory. Rule(s) changes or additions approved by the joint membership at the Annual meeting shall have an effective date of October 1 in the year they are approved, unless otherwise specified. The Rules Committee is responsible for preparing the final version of the approved rule(s) changes for publication.



DISTRIBUTION OF REPRESENTATION ON THE BOARD

Changes only apply in situations where the nominations committee does not have adequate willing candidates to ensure that candidates are not from the same lab or company. When there are a limited number of willing candidates, and two are elected from the same lab, company, or different locations in the same company the board will have the final say in who is appointed to office.

Distribution of representation on the board.

Changes would apply to Distribution of Representation under Article III, Section 1. Elections.

Current Text

Distribution of Representation

- To ensure a wide representation of the SCST membership on the Executive Board, no more than one (1) Executive Board Member shall be from the same laboratory_or different locations within the same company as defined in C and D above.

Proposed Text

Distribution of Representation

- To ensure a wide representation of the SCST membership on the Executive Board, no more than one (1) Executive Board Member shall be from the same laboratory_or different locations within the same company as defined in C and D above. **When the nominations committee does not have sufficient willing nominees for elected office the Executive Board will make the final decision regarding who is appointed to office to ensure distribution of representation.**