

Synopsis of Changes to the ANREP Bylaws

Many changes were made to correct typos, improve consistency throughout the document, and remove redundancies. The changes noted below constitute the substantive changes to the Bylaws.

Article III: Membership, Chapters and Dues

- (Section 1, 1) Text was added to explicitly allow active membership by employees of USDA-National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA, formerly CSREES). All references to CSREES were updated to the current name, NIFA. These members are considered to reside in the District of Columbia in the Northeast Region for purposes of representation.
- (Section 1, 2) Life Member dues (a one-time fee) were changed by Board action in November, 2008 to be set at an amount equal to five times the current annual rate for dues for Active Members. The Board felt this more appropriately covers the costs associated with life members.
- (Section 1, 3) Changes were made to clarify the role of Student Members to reflect that they may hold appointed positions, but not elected office at the national level.
- (Section 1, 4) The role of Affiliate Members was made consistent throughout the document. They may participate in activities, but may not vote or hold elected office.
- The third paragraph under Section 2, Chapter Incorporation/Affiliation, was moved to Article 3, Section 2 with the rest of the information on Chapters.
- (Section 3) Text was added to clarify that the Executive Committee (Board) reviews dues structure during the budget planning process.

Article IV: Officers and Executive Committee

- (Section 1) Regional Representatives are elected to 2-year terms. Text referring to one year service was removed for consistency.
- (Section 2) The 3-year time commitment of the President was clarified. Incumbents serve one year each as President-Elect, then President, then Past-President.
- (Sections 5, 6 and 8) Additional text was added to clarify the duties of the Treasurer, Secretary and Executive Secretary. The Executive Secretary collects the annual dues, deposits them, and provides records to the Treasurer. The Executive Secretary also maintains the list of members and tallies the election results (electronically).
- (Section 7) The territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia were not assigned to any region. They were added to the Western Region due to geographic proximity.
- (Section 7) The specific meeting schedule of the Biennial Conference Planning Committee changes to meet the needs of each conference. This information was deleted from the Bylaws and can be found in the Policies and Procedures Handbook.
- (Section 8) Since the Executive Secretary is a paid position serving at the pleasure of the Executive Committee, it is not appropriate for the incumbent to have voting privileges. Flexibility is needed to allow the Executive Secretary to send out dues notices at appropriate times.

Language was added to require at least 3 dues notices prior to removing a member from the database.

Article V: Meetings and Attendance

- (Section 1) The Bylaws now specify that Membership Meetings may be conducted via electronic methods (vs. old language of “media”) when feasible and applicable. This allows a savings on travel costs and keeps options as broad as possible as new meeting technologies emerge.
- (Section 3) Language was revised to indicate explicitly that all members may attend and participate in meetings, but voting is limited to Active Members, Life Members and Students.

Article VI: Quorum (no sections)

- Clarification of what constitutes a quorum of the Executive Committee was needed.
- Language was changed to reflect that the membership present at any Association Membership or Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum (vs. one-fourth of the membership). This allows us to conduct business face-to-face with the membership present at the Biennial Conference business meetings.
- A committee meeting quorum was defined as the membership present at any meeting of a standing or select committee. As the Executive Committee can hear, accept or reject any given report, there is sufficient oversight to prevent problems from occurring.

Article VII: Voting

- (Section 1) Language was revised to indicate explicitly that voting is limited to Active, Life and Student Members in good standing (i.e., their dues have been paid).
- (Section 3) Language was edited to allow voting by electronic means (not fax). Flexibility is needed to allow voting to occur by the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Currently, voting is conducted using Web survey sites such as Survey Monkey that protect the identity of the voter but provide ease of use and low cost. See also change to Article IX, Elections.
- (Section 3) Language specifying the voting period was confusing. The new language clarifies that questions must be voted upon within thirty days.

Article VIII: Policy Statements

- (Section 1) Language was broadened to allow the Association to make policy statements on pertinent issues on external matters not limited to political activities and legislation. Revised language allows the Association to issue statements that “express the attitude and wishes of the Association.”
- (Section 1) Association operating policies and procedures are found in the Policies and Procedures Handbook. Language in Section 1, Definition referring to “conducting the affairs” of the Association was deleted to clarify the definition of a policy statement for this Article. This

language can now be found in Article IV, Section 9. The Secretary maintains and updates the Handbook (Article IV, Section 6).

Article IX: Elections

- (Section 1) The Treasurer plays a highly essential role in budget and finance during the biennial conference, which is held in even-numbered years. By electing the Treasurer in even-numbered years (to assume office in the odd-numbered year), consistency in the role of Treasurer will be maintained for the entire 2-year planning and execution cycle for each biennial conference. The current Treasurer will retire at the end of 2010 and an election will be held so that the next term will begin Jan. 1, 2011. The Board will extend the term of the current Secretary for an additional year (or appoint a member to a one-year term) to allow election of a new Secretary in 2011 (to assume office on Jan. 1, 2012).
- (Section 2) Flexibility is needed to allow voting to occur by the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. Currently, elections are conducted using Web survey sites such as Survey Monkey that protect the identity of the voter but provide ease of use and low cost. Language was revised to allow electronic voting. The paragraph in Section 2 that details the procedures for voting was moved to Section 1, Procedures.
- (Sections 1 & 2) Language was clarified to show that it is the duty of the Past-President to oversee the election committee and chair the nomination committee, while the Executive Secretary conducts the election.

Article XI: Committees

- (Section 1) The list of “Types of Committees” was updated to reflect reorganization of the committee structure by the Board in March 2009. The revised structure provides more efficiency and allows committees to coordinate and communicate more effectively. Changes were requested during the 2008 Membership Meeting.
- (Section 3) Language was revised to better reflect the current process for determining committee membership. Members may volunteer to serve on committees.
- (Section 4) References to Committee Charters were deleted to more accurately reflect how committees work. When the membership requests creation of a new committee, a list of proposed duties must be submitted with the request. The Executive Committee then assigns duties and charges for Committees and reviews all reports and decisions made by committees. Results of committee meetings are advisory to the Executive Committee.

Article XII: Chapter Visitation

- This article was moved to the section on Chapters in Article III, Section 2 to group all the information on chapters. Article XIII (Amendments) was then renamed as Article XII.