

New Member Nominations and Elections Policy and Procedures

New Member Nomination and Election Policies

Nominations for new members must be submitted using the official WSAS nominations forms (primary and secondary) released at the opening of the nominations period.

The primary nominator must be a member, in good standing, with WSAS. Emeritus members may also nominate new members as a primary nominator.

The secondary nominator may be any person (member or not) who can evaluate the scientific, technical, and service contributions of the nominee and must be from a different institution than that of the primary nominator.

The membership committee chair and vice chair may not nominate new members. Section chairs may not nominate members into the sections that they lead.

The class size for each annual election cycle will have no established limit. This practice will be extended for one more year until the September 2022 Board Meeting. At that point, the WSAS Board Members will determine whether the practice will be made permanent or if a new practice will need to be established.

Membership Committee Procedure

Electing new members is essential to the growth and vitality of the Washington State Academy of Sciences (WSAS) and to ensure that it includes outstanding individuals who can provide leadership in meeting the Academy's goals and responsibilities. The guiding principle for the election procedures is to **identify individuals with outstanding scientific knowledge and a record of achievement who will commit to work on behalf of the Academy in bringing the best available science to bear on the diversity of challenges and opportunities within the State of Washington.** The Academy has a goal of representing the broadest possible range of scientific expertise in order to serve the needs of the State of Washington. All nominees will be evaluated on their scientific achievements, merits, and impact within their given field. Additional consideration will be given to excellence of voluntary service provided to professional societies and organizations within their community, and/or for exceptional service provided to one's own institution, that would align with the mission of WSAS.

Nominee Evaluation Tool: The Nominee Evaluation Tool is a scoring sheet that is used as part of the nominee vetting process. It is only part of the overall nominee evaluation process and provides a consistent framework for consideration of nominee contributions across all sections of WSAS. The evaluation tool is used by Section Committee members when evaluating nomination packets.

New Member Nominations and Elections Policy and Procedures

First Round Balloting: The Section Chair will work with their Section Committees to conduct the first-round selection of nominees for the ballot, as described by the procedures below. There is no limit to the number of slots available for the first round of balloting. The members of each Section Committee vote on the nominees during the First Round Balloting.

First Round Nominees: The nominees identified by the First Round Balloting are referred to as the First Round Nominees. These nominees are identified for the ballot by the vetting process led by the Section Chairs within each Section Membership Committee.

Second Round Evaluation: Each Section Chair will work with their Section Committee to discuss and evaluate nominees for a second round of consideration from the pool of nominees that were not selected via the First Round of Balloting. Members of the Section Committee will seek a final consensus on which, if any, nominees who were not selected in the first round will be added to the set of nominees that will be recommended for the WSAS Annual Membership Ballot

Final Annual Ballot: The nominees selected by the First Round Balloting and Second Round Evaluation will be presented to the Standing Membership Committee for evaluation and approval. The Standing Membership Committee will advance their recommendation for membership nominees to the Board of Directors for approval, who will in turn advance their approved list of membership candidates to the Final Annual Ballot. Once approved, the Final Annual Ballot is presented to the entire WSAS membership for voting, using the procedures defined below. The final vote is an endorsement by the entire WSAS membership on the balloting process defined by these procedures.

Election Procedures

To meet the Membership Goals of WSAS, the WSAS Board has adopted the following Procedures and Sections for election to WSAS Membership.

The WSAS Membership Committee is charged with presentation of the membership goals to the overall membership at the Annual Meeting, encouraging broad participation of the membership in identifying and nominating candidates, and coordinating the election procedure of each section to ensure a balanced representation of all relevant expertise in the Academy.

Candidates will be nominated for a specific primary section¹ and can be nominated by any current or Emeritus WSAS member, regardless of their section. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee may

¹ Each WSAS primary nominator will select a primary section and, if desired, a secondary section, with a rank order given to the preferred or equally weighted section fit.

New Member Nominations and Elections Policy and Procedures

not nominate candidates. Section chairs may not nominate candidates for their sections but may nominate candidates for other sections. The Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee along with the Section Chairs may re-assign candidates to another section if deemed appropriate. Consideration for the reassignment of a nominee will be initiated by Section Chairs, who will indicate that such reassignment consideration appears appropriate. All such candidates for reassignment will be considered in meetings between the appropriate Section Chairs, who will then make a recommendation to the Chair and Vice Chair of the Standing Committee regarding the reassignments. Once there is agreement on reassignments, membership nominees will be placed in the section deemed most appropriate by the process described.

Nominations must be led by a primary nominator, who must be an active or Emeritus WSAS member. Nominations must be supported by a secondary nominator, who must be from a different institution from the primary nominator, and who does not have to be a member of the WSAS. Nominations must be prepared using official WSAS nomination forms. The primary and secondary nominator must each complete the appropriate forms. No additional materials, aside from the nominee's vita, may be submitted with the nomination.

Section Membership Committee members who have nominated a candidate under discussion during the committee meetings shall refrain from participating in discussion of that candidate unless requested to do so by the presiding Section Chair of the committee. However, they may vote for any candidate he or she has nominated. The Chair and Vice Chair of each Section Membership Committee may vote for any candidate.

Nominee Evaluation Tool sheets will be used to screen all nominees in every section and will provide the basis for discussions and vetting of candidates prior to voting by the Section Committee. After discussion and vetting, Chairs of the Section Committees will conduct the voting on all candidates within their sections. The nominees having an appropriately high number of votes and evaluation scores within each section, as deemed by the committee, will be advanced directly to the Board from the First Round Ballot, unless a member(s) of the Standing Membership Committee have reservations or concerns about specific candidates. At the conclusion of the First Round Balloting, the Chair of each section will provide to the Chair of the Standing Membership Committee copies of the Nominee Evaluation Tool sheets and the voting results for that section.

After the First Round Balloting, a Section Committee discussion will ensue (i.e., the Second Round Evaluation process described above) regarding candidates who were deemed, after the First Round, to have received insufficient scores in the balloting. At the end of that discussion, the Section Committee will decide the final selection of candidates to be recommended to the Standing Membership Committee. The Standing Committee membership will review the recommended nominees and interact with Section Committees, as deemed appropriate, to determine a final set of candidates to present to the WSAS Board of Directors to stand for the general WSAS membership election.

New Member Nominations and Elections Policy and Procedures

The final ballot is presented by the Chair of the Standing Committee to the Board of Directors for approval during the May WSAS Board meeting. Once approved, it is presented to the entire WSAS membership for electronic voting at least four months prior to the next Annual Meeting. The voting on the final ballot is an endorsement of the elections conducted by the Membership Committee. Successful endorsement requires approval by $\geq 80\%$ of the voting members; abstentions for a specific candidate are not tallied.

The Secretary will offer membership to elected candidates with a deadline for acceptance within 30 days of notification. The letter will emphasize the role of WSAS as a working academy and that members are expected to actively participate as appropriate. This applies equally to those automatically elected to WSAS membership by virtue of them becoming a member of one of the three National Academies during the prior year. Elected candidates by either route will be considered full members upon acceptance and will be formally inducted at the first Annual Meeting following their acceptance. Those who do not accept membership can be considered for nomination and election in the future but do not have special priority. Nominees not elected are eligible for re-nomination; however, this requires a new nomination. Nominations are not carried over between years.

Approved at the WSAS Annual Meeting, September 24, 2009.

Ad Hoc Membership Committee: Guy Palmer (Chair), Anjan Bose, John Cahn, Ivan King, Estella Leopold, Earll Murman, and Subhash Singhal.

Amended at the WSAS Annual Meeting, September 20, 2012

Amended by the Board of Directors, January 9, 2014

Amended by the Board of Directors, January 8, 2015

Amended by the Board of Directors, November 30, 2021

Washington State Academy of Sciences Membership Sections

Collectively, WSAS member expertise can contribute to scientific and technical analysis of major issues that Washington State may face, for example: the Puget Sound and other critical ecosystems, impacts of climate change including ocean acidification, sustainable natural resource management (e.g., forests, fisheries, wildlife, soils, minerals, and water), transportation, health and wellness, food security and safety, energy, and STEM education.

WSAS members are grouped into the five Sections shown below. Each member may designate a primary discipline in their section, and also a secondary discipline that may be in another section.

Section 1: Physical and Mathematical Sciences

This section encompasses all fundamental physical and mathematical sciences: astronomy, astrophysics and cosmology; atmospheric and ocean science; chemistry; geoscience; materials science; pure and applied mathematics; physics; statistics.

New Member Nominations and Elections Policy and Procedures

Section 2: Engineering and Technology

This section encompasses all branches of engineering and technology, including: advanced manufacturing; aerospace; biological engineering and technology; chemical; civil and environmental; computer information and science; electrical; energy; industrial and systems engineering; materials; mechanical; nanotechnology; nuclear.

Section 3: Biological Sciences

This section encompasses basic and applied biological sciences from molecular to populations to ecosystems perspectives: agriculture; animal; aquatic and marine sciences; biochemistry; ecology; environmental sciences; evolutionary biology; genomics; microbial; plant; soil.

Section 4: Health Sciences

This section encompasses the full spectrum of health care, including: basic and clinical biomedical research; dentistry; health services and economics; healthcare education; medicine; mental health; nursing; nutritional sciences; pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences; public health; veterinary medicine.

Section 5: Social and Behavioral Sciences

This section encompasses basic and applied scientific studies in: anthropology; criminal justice; demography; economics; education; management science; political science; psychological and cognitive science; social work; sociology.

Approved at the WSAS Annual Meeting, September 24, 2009.

Amended by the WSAS Board, January 9, 2015