

Constitution Revisions Notes

Article II. Section 2.

As many of you are aware, the University of Chicago Press (UCP) owns the *American Naturalist*. The American Society of Naturalists (ASN) is affiliated with the journal and generously sponsored by the UCP. The UCP collects dues for the ASN and each year returns them to the society. This revision simply updates the constitution to our current practices.

Article II. Section 3.

The ASN no longer has a membership category of emeritus. Also, because the membership categories are periodically revised, the description has been simplified to simply reflect “active” members, and the specific categories (e.g., currently Regular, PostDoc, Student, Retired, Life) are not enumerated.

Article II. Section 4.

Current practice is to have those wishing to receive student rates on membership supply a letter from their supervisor, and so a time limit is unnecessary. We wanted to encourage student membership, and so some people are now student ASN members through part of their undergraduate and graduate careers. We want to encourage those people and not limit their time in this rank.

Article II. Section 5.

This section is deleted because we do not have a joint membership category anymore.

Article III. Section 1.

This revision states in plain language the terms of the four officers of the ASN, and moves these descriptions from Section 2 to Section 1.

Article III. Section 2.

This revision removed the language of the terms of offices (which was moved to Section 1), and focuses specifically on the definition of the executive committee and the terms of service for each officer on the executive committee.

Article III. Section 3.

This revision changes the number of people on the ballot for secretary and treasurer from 2 to 1. This change has long been discussed because we have sometimes struggled to find qualified and enthusiastic people to run for secretary and treasurer, which are critical for the functioning of the society.

Article III. Section 6.

This is a new section that defines the membership and terms of the graduate student council to the executive committee. This council is only a few years old, and we feel it is important to formalize its existence in the constitution.

Article III. Section 6.

Through work on other non-profits and comparing their governance rules to ours, a number of us realized that the ASN constitution had no way to remove an officer if the necessity for such an unfortunate circumstance arose.

Article IV. Section 3.

This revision simply clarifies who can attend the business meeting at the annual meeting of the society. This has often been ambiguous to people, and so clarification seemed in order here.

Bylaws

2. This brings this bylaw in line with the revision made to Article III. Section 3.
3. This revision simplifies the membership category and makes it easier to revise categories without running afoul of the constitutions language.
5. This revision brings the mechanism of appointing editors and associate editors for *The American Naturalist* and the term they serve in line with current practices.
6. This revision brings the mechanism for determining dues for the various categories of membership and the subscription charges for each category in line with current practices.
7. The constitution, by-laws and records of the ASN are now made publically available on the society's website. This revision makes this new method of availability possible, and is open to new methods that may arise in the future.
8. This revision clarifies who is eligible for reimbursement of part of the expenses of attending the executive committee meeting at the annual meeting, and how amount of the reimbursement is determined.