

Revision of Corresponding Member Award and Consideration of Award/Nomination Adjustments – November 2021

Background:

After two complaints were received on the recent BSA appointment of Dr. Samain as Corresponding member (due to some ethical concerns), the Corresponding Member Committee and several Exec Committee members have discussed the need to revise the description and requirements for this award. In addition, the Board should consider adding an attestation or professional conduct disclosure form as part of our procedure for awards and nominations. This is a practice being implemented by other scientific societies.

In order to change the Corresponding Member Award description, a few slight revisions are necessary to the following parts of our BSA Policies Document. Suggested revisions in red.

Corresponding Member Description in BSA Bylaws:

Article III, Section 1. Class of members

Corresponding – Honorary members working as professional botanists in foreign posts, who by virtue of their contributions, are elected by the membership of the Society.

If we would want to adjust this in any way, a vote of BSA members is required to change the Bylaws. We may want to discuss if this should be adjusted to state we are looking for non-US citizens, working outside of the US.

Corresponding Member Proposed Policy Revisions:

Policy III. Members

Part 2. Application –

(b) Class (f) Corresponding Members are elected by Society members ~~as~~ **for** an honorary **BSA** membership. Members or Sections submit nominations supported by ~~the~~ **the** credentials of ~~the~~ **the** proposed Corresponding Members to the Committee on Corresponding Members. ~~Packages are which reviewed these credentials and forwards its~~ **are reviewed by the Committee and** recommendations **are presented** to the Council. **As part of the nomination package, there must be at least one letter of support from a relevant colleague in the country of the nominee. In addition, the primary nominator must complete a Professional Conduct Disclosure Form, which serves to disclose any knowledge of allegations of unethical behavior on the part of the nominee, including fabrication, falsification, plagiarism of scientific results, harassment of colleagues and subordinates, undisclosed conflicts of interest, conflicts of commitment and improper use of funds. The Council evaluates these proposals and the recommendations of the Committee and presents its selected nominees to the Society for election at an annual business meeting.**

Policy XII. Committees

Part 21. Committee Membership:

Corresponding Members – The committee consists of the immediate Past President as chair ~~and~~ **and** the two preceding Past Presidents, ~~and two other members including the Chair of the International Affairs Committee and a Corresponding member who is appointed by the Corresponding member Committee Chair for a three-year term.~~

Corresponding Member Revised Description:

Corresponding members are distinguished scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the plant sciences and who live and work outside of the United States of America. The committee seeks nominees who have had a significant impact to the plant sciences throughout their career as demonstrated by excellence in research and scholarship. Additional criteria may include meaningful contributions in education, public policy and/or exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or a combination of these qualities. Recipients will also have demonstrated leadership and engagement in relevant scientific organizations within their own country and/or internationally.

Depending on the type of award, this disclosure form is either completed by the primary nominator or by the potential awardee themselves. ***For this case of the Corresponding Member Nomination, the primary nominator would complete this form.***

DRAFT Professional Conduct Disclosure Form

The Botanical Society of America confers positions and awards based on qualifications and significant contributions to the botanical sciences, and these positions and awards are at the discretion of the Society. The BSA has the right to refuse granting a position or award if the individual has been unethical. Unethical behavior includes fabrication, falsification, plagiarism of scientific results, harassment of colleagues and subordinates, undisclosed conflicts of interest, conflicts of commitment and improper use of funds. All awardees should meet and adhere to the Botanical Society of America Guidelines for Professional Ethics (<https://botany.org/home/governance/guidelines-for-professional-ethics.html>), including the Code of Conduct for Meetings. If you have questions, you can direct them to hcacanindin@botany.org.

WILLINGNESS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR POSITION OR AWARD

_____ has been nominated for the _____ Award.

As primary nominator, do **you have any knowledge** that the nominee has been the subject of a filed allegation, complaint, investigation, sanction or other legal, civil or institutional proceeding where there was a finding of misconduct or, are they currently the subject of such an allegation, complaint, or investigation in which their professional conduct or integrity is at issue? Please circle below.

No

Yes

(If yes, you will be contacted by the BSA President for a confidential discussion of the details of the complaint.) This is not automatically disqualifying for the award or position.

CERTIFICATION

I affirm that I have read, understand, and agree to abide by the BSA Guidelines on Professional Ethics and other policies and procedures established by BSA, as amended from time to time. By signing this document, I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the above response and all information provided by me related to this Professional Conduct Disclosure Form are truthful, accurate, and complete, and I agree to notify BSA promptly of any material changes required in my responses to the above question. I acknowledge that failure to comply with BSA's Guidelines on Ethics, including its Code of Conduct for Meetings, may result in ineligibility to receive, or in revocation of, any BSA award, honor, other type of BSA recognition, or governance position, and is grounds for potential sanctions against me.

Nominator's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Nominator's Phone and Email: _____

