

DIVISION OF VERTEBRATE MORPHOLOGY BYLAWS

Proposed Amendments, March 2023

Rationale: This proposed amendment aligns with the proposal for a shift of officer terms across SICB. Officer terms now end at the end of the Annual Meeting, but substantial work often remains for officers after the Annual Meeting (for example, selecting and communicating with Best Student Presentation winners, compiling minutes of Members Meetings, resolving expenditures from the Annual Meeting). In practice, officers whose terms have just ended often continue to work to complete these tasks, or new officers must step in to complete tasks they were not previously involved in. By shifting officer terms to begin and end 4 weeks after the annual meeting, terms will better align with the work expected of officers. In practice, we will aim for this transition to occur around February 1 each year.

Article V. Officers

The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Program Officer, Program Officer-Elect, Secretary and Secretary-Elect. Elections of officers shall be by plurality vote of Division members conducted by a ballot prior to the annual meeting, following a procedure consonant with the Bylaws of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology. A brief biography of each candidate shall be made available on the ballot. The outcome of the election will be announced at the annual meeting and in the first Newsletter following the election. The term of office of all elected officers and appointed representatives shall begin **four weeks after** ~~at the end of~~ the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to begin and will end **four weeks after** ~~at the adjournment of~~ the second SICB Executive Committee meeting at the Annual Meeting in the year the term is to expire. The outcome of tied elections of divisional officers shall be resolved by majority vote of the officers of the Division of Vertebrate Morphology. In the event of a tie vote by the officers of the division, the division Chair shall cast the deciding vote. In the circumstance where an elected officer is unable to complete their term of office, the following provisions are made: If the office of Secretary or Program Officer is vacated early, the Chair, in consultation with the Divisional Executive Committee, will appoint someone to serve until elections can be held to fill the position. If the office of Divisional Chair is vacant, the Divisional Executive Committee, in consultation with the SICB President, will appoint someone to be the interim Chair until an election is held.

The elected officers of the Division listed above, plus the Divisional representative to the Student/Postdoctoral Affairs Committee, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Division. Members of the Executive Committee shall confer informally on all matters of policy and shall conduct the affairs of the Division.