



## **2023-24 WSSA Standing Committee Report January 2024**

**Committee Name and Code:** Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee (W10)

**Committee Chair:** John Lindquist (2023, 2026)

**Committee Members** (includes sub-committee members): Peter Porpiglia (NE/W; 2023), Luis Avila (S), Bill Curran (W), Mark Bernards (NC; past chair).

**Board of Directors Liaison:** None

**Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements:** The entire committee was appointed or re-appointed in 2023, which means the entire committee will turn over in 2026. This is less than ideal, given that some institutional memory is important on the committee.

### **Summary of past year's activities including:**

- Committee goals
  - Keep up with changes to MOP as recommended by members of the BOD or any other member of the WSSA
  
- Committee accomplishments
  - Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc. All accomplishments involve changes to the MOP throughout 2023, including:
  - Clarification in 1.5 and 1.5.1, responsibilities of the past president. It was proposed and approved to clarify that the past president is responsible for ensuring that all new BOD members receive a copy of the Constitution and MOP.
  - The “Noxious and Invasive Weeds and Biocontrol Committee” (section 4.4) moved to change their name and the language describing their role in the MOP. The board approved.

- The Finance Committee (section 4.13.4) moved to add and modify some language regarding their deadlines and approach for approving fund requests. The board approved those changes.
  - Section 5.3.6 was proposed by a member of the board and the board subsequently voted to approve the language. Essentially, it says that a member who publishes at least four papers in WSSA journals as senior or corresponding author will have their membership fee waived for one year.
  - A number of language changes were made to section 5.7 “Code of Ethics” to clarify who is a Safe WSSA member who shall receive complaints about ethics violations.
  - Associated with the previous note, section 5.9.4 “Whistle-Blower Policy” was modified also to clarify who shall receive reports of illegal or dishonest activities.
  - A number of changes were made to the WSSA Graduate Student Organization section of the MOP. Those changes are the sole responsibility of the GSO.
- **WSSA funds requested if any?**

It seems important that the chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee or their representative be physically present at the board meetings during the WSSA annual meeting. In the case that the chair does not have the resources to travel to this meeting, we request that funds be made available to attend the annual meeting. Given that there are BOD meetings both prior to and following the annual meeting, this would require 6 nights at the venue and airfare, the cost of which would depend on the location of the meeting.

- Current state of the committee’s projects or activities? Ongoing
- Any new information posted on the WSSA website? Latest MOP was posted in Fall 2023.

**Summary of plans for next year** (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.):  
Ongoing MOP work.

**Recommendations for Board or Membership action** (funds or other requests): See above note about funds. Be sure that there is only one copy of the MOP on the WSSA website. In the past, there were copies of the most current MOP, but also older versions elsewhere on the website.