

2020 ASA By-Law Changes

Background

The ASA Council periodically changes and adds By-Laws to the ASA Constitution to reflect current procedures and operations of the Society. The Council must notify the membership of such changes within 6 months of their adoption. These By-Laws were adopted by the Council at or since its 3 July 2020 meeting.

In the changes and additions included below the following matters were addressed:

The definition of Cognate Societies and addition of overseas residency in membership discounts and updating of the membership annual subscription rates. Updated By-Law A2.

The creation by the Council of a membership status of Alumni for former members who wish to maintain a communication link with the Society. New By-Law A3.

Inclusion of the Student Representative observer for ASA Council meetings and their election, role and responsibilities. The By-Laws describe what has been the practice for many years but has never appeared formally within the Constitution or its By-Laws. Updated By-Law B1 and new By-Laws B7, B8 and B9.

The update of the Bok prize with more precise eligibility conditions. Updated By-Law K1.

The addition of a section describing the establishment and operation of Joint Groups with Cognate Societies. This addition paves the way for the new Group for Astroparticle Physics (GAP) between the Society and the AIP and for other such groups in future. New By-Laws Q1-7.

The formalisation within the By-Laws of the *Code of Conduct* and *Statement of Ethics* developed over the past few years by the Council. This new section of the By-Laws also outlines dealing with breaches of these policies and handling disputes, related to Society matters, between members that do not involve breaches of these policies or between one or more members and the Society. New By-Laws R1-7.

Changed By-Laws

A. Membership

A2 (2017) The annual subscription including GST shall be \$203 for a Fellow, \$170 for a Full Member, \$113 for an Associate Society Member, \$81 for a Student Member or Associate Member, and \$593 for a Corporate Member, or such other amounts as shall be determined from time to time in accord with Article 9 of the Constitution. Retired Members and retired Fellows shall pay the same subscription as Student Members. The Council may choose to offer a discount on some or all of these rates for factors such as prompt payment or membership of cognate societies.

A2 (2020) The annual subscription including GST shall be **\$213** for a Fellow, **\$178** for a Full Member, **\$119** for an Associate Society Member, **\$85** for a Student Member or Associate Member, and **\$618** for a Corporate Member, or such other amounts as shall be determined from time to time in accord with Article 9 of the Constitution. Retired Members and retired Fellows shall pay the same subscription as Student Members. The Council may choose to offer a discount on some **or all** these rates for factors such as **overseas residency**, prompt payment or membership of cognate societies. **Cognate societies under this clause must be professional scientific societies with similar aims to that of the Society and must have a constitution compatible with this constitution.**

B. Council of the Society

B1 (2013) Notice of each meeting of the Council shall be sent by a Secretary to the usual postal or electronic address of every Councillor.

B1 (2020) Notice of each meeting of the Council shall be sent by a Secretary to the usual postal or electronic address of every Councillor **and the Student Representative.**

K. Bok Prize

- K1 (2013) There shall be a prize, called the Bok prize, awarded at the discretion of the Council annually for a thesis in astronomy or a closely related field, produced by an honours or eligible masters student who is studying in Australia. Eligible masters students are those who have entered their Masters degree from an undergraduate degree without completing an Honours year.
- K1 (2020) There shall be a prize, called the Bok prize, awarded at the discretion of the Council annually. It shall be for **the best thesis accepted by an Australian university in the previous calendar year**, in astronomy or a closely related field, produced by an honours or eligible masters student who is studying in Australia. Eligible masters students are those who have entered their Masters degree from an undergraduate degree without completing an Honours year. **Accepted is understood to mean all requirements for the degree have been completed and that the candidate has been admitted to the degree by the appropriate university authority. It is not necessary for the degree to have been conferred. There is no restriction on the nationality of candidates.**

New By-Laws

A. Membership

- A3 (2020) The Council will maintain the records of members who have resigned from the Society but wish to maintain contact. These former members will have the status of Alumni and will receive periodic contact from the Society such as annual President's reports to the AGM.

B. Council of the Society

- B7 (2020) There shall be a Student Representative elected by the Student Members from their number who shall attend Council meetings as an observer and represent student interests.
- B8 (2020) Any expenses incurred by the Student representative in attending Council meetings shall be refunded by the Society if not met by the student's home institution.
- B9 (2020) The Student Representative will report to Students Members matters of interest or importance to them and seek feedback from them for the Council as appropriate.

Q. Joint Groups with Cognate Societies

- Q1 (2020) The Council may approve the joint formation with cognate societies, as defined in By-Law A2, of topical astrophysical interest groups to be known within the Society as Joint Groups.
- Q2 (2020) Membership of a Joint Group of the Society will be restricted to members of the Society as defined under article 8 of this constitution or membership of the cognate society as defined in its constitution.
- Q3 (2020) A Joint Group of the Society must have a constitution or set of guiding principles which must be approved by the Council of the Society and by the governing body of the cognate society. Such a constitution or guiding principles must be consistent with the constitution and by-laws of both societies.
- Q4 (2020) A Joint Group of the Society will be managed by a committee comprising equal numbers of members from each society and jointly chaired by one person from each society. Where a committee member is from both societies, they must nominate which society has elected or appointed them. Each committee co-chair will be elected annually from the respective society's membership within the Joint Group. The governing body of each society may nominate one of its own number as an ex-officio member of the Group committee.
- Q5 (2020) The governing bodies of each society may allocate funds, at an amount to be determined jointly by them from time to time, to a Joint Group for the purposes of it carrying on its activities.
- Q6 (2020) Joint Groups of the Society may be disbanded in accordance with its constitution or guiding principles or, with a minimum of 6 months written notice, by either society's governing body.
- Q7 (2020) The Society has established the following Joint Groups with the cognate societies listed.
(i) Group for Astroparticle Physics (GAP), with the Australian Institute of Physics.

R. Conduct, Disputes and Disciplining of Members

- R1 (2020) The Council shall maintain a *Code of Conduct* and *Statement of Ethics* that members must adhere to.
- R2 (2020) The Council shall appoint an Ethics and Code of Conduct Committee (ECC) to deal with breaches of either the Society *Code of Conduct* or *Statement of Ethics* and with conflicts between members.
- R3 (2020) Disputes between members and the Society shall be dealt with by a sub-committee of the ECC known as the Internal Disputes Committee (IDC) which will not include any Council members in its number.
- R4 (2020) The ECC will operate under rules set out in the *ASA ECC and IDC Procedures* document.
- R5 (2020) The ECC has the power to discipline members as outlined in the *ASA ECC and IDC Procedures* document. The ECC does not have the power to expel a member but may recommend expulsion to the Council which would then decide in accordance with Clause 13 of the Constitution.
- R6 (2020) The IDC will evaluate any dispute between members and the Society and determine a resolution of the dispute, in compliance with this constitution, that shall be binding on all parties.
- R7 (2020) The IDC will not act on any matter whilst there are any legal proceedings between the parties.