Proposed Changes in green    Explanations of proposed amendments

Article I (Officers)

Section 1: Only those who are members in good standing shall be eligible for elected or appointed office.

Section 2: The President shall appoint a member of NESTA to fill the vacancy of an elected or appointed office. These appointments will terminate at the end of the regular term of office for that position. All appointments are subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

Article II (Duties)

Section 1: The President, under the direction of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors shall have charge of the affairs of NESTA. The President presides at all meetings of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and at all business sessions of a planned conference. Upon taking office, the President appoints Committee Chairpersons, Committee Members, Editors, State Contacts, Coordinators and Advisors. In concert with the Executive Director, the President acts as Spokesperson and Representative for NESTA. (The EC is a sub-set of the full board—which is the appropriate governing body to reference.)

Section 2: The Executive Director shall provide advice to the Board of Directors regarding ways and means by which NESTA may more completely reach its goals. The Executive Director shall undertake special projects, including grant writing, approved by the Board of Directors, developing them until they are completed or until an organization is created within NESTA to carry them on. The Executive Director shall assist in the communication with individuals and organizations making inquiries about NESTA policies and practices, and report such communications to the President. The Executive Director shall assist other officers when appropriate upon request. With the assistance of the Board, the Executive Director shall prepare an annual Board book (in printed or digital format) with meeting agendas and the most recent version of the procedures manual. (Much of the Board Book information is now done online. The Procedures Manual will govern other specific duties of the Executive Director.)

Substitute Section 2: The Executive Director conducts the business of the association, manages the overall administrative functions of NESTA, and provides advice to the Board of Directors regarding ways and means that NESTA may more completely reach its goals. Based on knowledge, informed vision, experience and emerging trends in Science Education the Executive Director serves and promotes the interests of NESTA, overseeing, coordinating, and organizing efforts to realize the mission of NESTA.

The Executive Director:

A) Oversees production of print and web-based NESTA products, such as the peer-reviewed journal, *The Earth Scientist*, *E-News*, social media postings, and website features.

B) Promotes, coordinates, and facilitates professional development experiences

C) Works to maintain the financial integrity of NESTA

D) Communicates and collaborates with other professional education associations, scientific societies, and federal agencies to support NESTA programs and to advocate for Earth Science education.
E) Where appropriate, applies for external funding to support NESTA efforts.

F) In concert with the President, the Executive Director acts as Spokesperson and Representative for NESTA. (This is an updated list of duties.)

Section 3: The President-Elect shall preside at all meetings in the absence of the President. The President-Elect shall carry on the regular duties of the President in any instances where the President is incapacitated or unavailable to perform their duties.

Section 4: The role of Past President shall be to advise in the governance of the organization. (Previously undefined.)

Section 5: The Secretary shall keep an official record of the proceedings of NESTA, and send communications as directed by the President and Executive Director.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall have charge of all NESTA monies and shall submit to the Executive Committee an annual report. (The EC is a sub-set of the full board—which is the appropriate governing body to reference.)

Section 7: The Executive Committee shall have power to act for the Board of Directors and shall ratify all presidential appointments.

Section 8: The Board of Directors shall set policy, approve budgets, plan the overall program for the year, make recommendations regarding proposed amendments to the Bylaws, and devise and carry out measures for the growth and welfare of the organization. They shall establish annual dues and authorize additional publications and productions.

Section 9: Appointed Directors shall number no more than a figure that is equal to one half the number of Regional Directors, plus 2.

Substitute Section 9: The number of Appointed Directors allowed shall be equal to the combined total number of the elected Regional Directors plus the Directors-at-Large. (This reflects the Board approved proposal to reduce the number of Director Regions from 12 to 8 to achieve a better balance in representation numbers by region.)

Section 10: One or more State Contact Persons shall be appointed from each state. Their duties shall be to support and increase membership in the organization, to report on Earth Science activities in the area they represent. State Contact Persons are encouraged to attend NESTA General Membership Meetings, and may designate an alternate if unable to attend. (Not necessary -- NESTA General Membership Meetings are already open to all members.)

Section 11: Coordinators shall be appointed by the President to assist in the affairs of NESTA, and shall report to the Board of Directors.

Section 12: Advisors shall be appointed at the discretion of the President to advise and assist in the affairs of NESTA, and shall report to the President.
Article III (Committees)

Section 1: The President shall appoint the members of Standing Committees. The President shall establish other committees as needed, and appoint the members required to populate them.

Added Section 2: Committee membership is open to all members in good standing. (A clarification that Board membership is not a requirement.)

Article IV (Nominations and Elections)

Section 1: The Nominations and Elections Committee shall be appointed by the President to prepare and present a slate of nominees to the membership by mail and/or electronic means prior to the date when officers are to be elected. Any member in good standing may submit nominations to the committee. The Committee shall also conduct the election in accordance with established guidelines.

Added Section 2: A Teller Committee will oversee the election results. (An update to reflect current Board policy and procedures.)

Section 3: The election of officers shall be by mail ballot and/or electronically by voting on a secure online platform. (A needed clarification.)

Section 4: Balloting for regional directors shall be limited to the membership in the designated region.

Section 5: The election of officers shall be held prior to the annual NSTA National Conference on Science Education. Installation of elected and appointed officers shall be at the close of the NESTA Board Meeting held during the annual NSTA National Conference on Science Education. The official term of office for newly installed officers shall be two years, with the exception of the Board Member Representative to the Executive Committee which shall be one year, with all terms beginning on May 1st. The Board is authorized to temporarily set the term of office for a newly created Board position to one or three years to achieve balance in the election cycle.

Substitute Section 5: NESTA elections shall be conducted by Board approved election procedures. The official term of office for newly selected leaders shall be two years, with the exception of the Board Member Representative to the Executive Committee which shall be one year. All terms begin on May 1st. The Board is authorized to temporarily set the term of office for a newly created Board position at one or two years which ever is needed, to achieve balance in the election cycle. (Eliminates a confusion between actual terms of office and “installation” of officers.)

Section 6: Appointed Directors will be selected from those Appointed Officers (Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution) applying for the office by a vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 7: The period allotted for voting shall be not less than 15 days.

Section 8: Re-election to any office shall not be limited in any way.

Section 9: The President shall become immediate Past President of NESTA upon completion of his/her term of office.

Substitute Section 9: The President shall be offered the role Past President of NESTA upon completion of his/her term of office. If they decline, the role of Past President will be filled by a past president of NESTA.
as selected by the Executive Committee. (Recently the Board moved to reduce the commitment of the presidential cycle to be effectively 4 years—making the past-presidency role fully optional. This language codifies that decision moving forward.)

Article V (Meetings)

Section 1: At least one Board of Directors Meeting and one General Membership Meeting shall be held annually at NSTA National Conference on Science Education. (Removes the mandated tie to NSTA and allows for the possibility of virtual meetings.)

Section 2: Additional meetings may be called as needed by any member of the Executive Committee.

Section 3: Except for meetings mentioned in Section 1 above, other Meetings of the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and committees may be conducted electronically as long as all participants can be heard by all other participants. (A needed clarification in keeping with the proposed changes above in Section 1)

Article VI (Dues and Publications)

Section 1: Membership dues shall be established annually by the Board of Directors. Changes in the membership dues shall be effective on May 1st. Annual membership shall expire 12 months from the date of joining.

Substitute Section 1: Membership dues, and dues categories, shall be established by the Board of Directors. Changes in the membership dues shall be effective one month after established. Annual membership shall expire 12 months from the date of joining. (less restrictive language—while still allowing for “beat the increase” in membership dues period.)

Section 2: The Earth Scientist shall be the official journal of NESTA, and shall be made available to all members in good standing in a timely manner by mail or electronic delivery.

Section 3: The Editor of the journal shall be appointed by the President, shall bear responsibility for publication of The Earth Scientist, and shall be a member the Publications Committee.

Section 4: The Board of Directors may authorize additional publications and productions.

Article VII (Amendments)

Section 1: Proposed amendments to the Bylaws shall be presented to the Board of Directors by any NESTA member in good standing. Proposed amendments to the Bylaws, if approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, shall be submitted to the membership by mail and/or electronic means for ratification.

Section 2: These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those members responding to the mail or electronic ballot, providing a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be available to every member before it is to be voted upon.

Section 3: The Bylaws may be amended at any planned General Membership Meeting by a two-thirds vote of the membership present, provided a copy of the proposed amendments have been made available to all members 5 days prior to the planned meeting.
Added Section 4: The Bylaws may be edited for grammar, spelling, or numbering without membership approval as long as meanings are not altered. (A logical house keeping rule.)

Article VIII (Parliamentary Authority)

Section 1: In all questions of parliamentary law not covered by the Constitution and Bylaws, *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall prevail.

Article IX (Establishment of Official Associated Groups of NESTA)

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall establish policies, criteria and operational procedures for groups wishing to affiliate with NESTA. These affiliation policies, criteria and operational procedures shall be subject to review and modification by the Board of Directors at any time.

Article X (NESTA Membership in Associated Organizations)

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall establish policies, criteria and operational procedures for NESTA to enter into membership or affiliation with other associated organizations. These memberships and affiliations shall be subject to review by the Board of Directors at any time.

Article XI (Governance Policies)

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain an Employee Protection (Whistleblower) Policy.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall establish and maintain a Conflict of Interest Policy governing all NESTA Elected Officers (Constitution Article IV, Section 1), Appointed Officers (Constitution Article IV, Section 3), the Executive Director, and committee members.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall establish, maintain, and enforce a Record Retention and Document Destruction Policy governing NESTA documents and information.

9-01-88 Original Constitution
6-01-02 Revision approved by Membership Vote
1-29-07 Revision approved by Membership Vote
3-27-08 Revision approved by Membership Vote
3-21-09 Revision approved at General Membership Meeting
2-20-10 Revision approved by Membership Vote
2-15-14 Revisions approved by Membership Vote