

# Bylaws

## Section Young Scientists of the International Association for Vegetation Science

*- Version of 14 October 2014 -*

### **Article 1. Name and status**

The name of this organization shall be “Young Scientists”. It shall be a Section of the International Association for Vegetation Science (IAVS).

### **Article 2. Purposes**

The main purposes of the Young Scientists include:

- (a) Promoting the connectivity between young scientists of the IAVS
- (b) Creating a network to improve personal and scientific communication between young scientists and to gain more experience in the current issues of ecology around the world
- (c) Encouraging young people to present their own data, exchanging experiences and initiatives
- (d) Facilitating international research collaborations between young scientists
- (e) Serving as a support network for young scientists in the vegetation science
- (f) Provide a more formal way for young scientists to communicate their needs to the Society

This Section loosely defines "Young Scientists" as those persons at an early stage in their career in Vegetation Science, regardless of age or enrolment status at a university. As a Section of IAVS, the Young Scientists share the IAVS goals and support its activities. The Young Scientists is subject to the Statutes and Bylaws of the IAVS.

### **Article 3. Membership**

Membership in the Young Scientists is open to all persons, although we especially encourage membership applications from students, graduates within a few years of graduation, and other early career scientists. The section also welcomes as members those who may not be early career scientists, but who wish to help achieve the purposes listed in Article 2 above, for

example in a mentorship role. Membership in the IAVS is optional. Membership in the Young Scientists is obtained by:

- (a) Written application to the Young Scientists Membership Administrator;
- (b) Specification when joining or renewing membership in IAVS;
- (c) Subscribing to the Young Scientists ListServ.

Membership is discontinued by a written statement (electronic or hardcopy) sent to the Young Scientists Membership Administrator stating that the member no longer wishes to be member of the Young Scientists.

It is the responsibility of members to provide the Membership Administrator with a functioning e-mail address. Membership is discontinued when no functioning e-mail address is available to either the Membership Administrator or the IAVS Secretary.

#### **Article 4. Business meeting**

A business meeting shall be held annually in conjunction with the annual IAVS Symposium. All members attending may vote in the business meeting. A member may assign a proxy vote for the business meeting to another member by notifying the holder of the proxy and the Membership Administrator. Any one participant may carry up to three proxy votes.

#### **Article 5. Steering Committee**

The Section shall have a Steering Committee (SC) with five elected members. All SC members shall be members of IAVS. In case of a tie for the fifth position, all candidates with the same number of votes are elected. Each SC member shall be elected for a period of two years, with the possibility of re-election. Elections shall take place at least two months prior to the business meeting at which the regular two-year term of the SC is ending, or following a vacancy. At least one month prior to the start of an election, it shall be announced to the members via e-mail by the Membership Administrator, who then shall receive nominations made by any member by e-mail or in person. Elections take place by means of an electronic ballot over a period of one month.

The SC shall elect a Chair from its members and a Membership Administrator (who need not be a member of the SC) for a period of two years. All decisions on behalf of the Young Scientists except those explicitly assigned otherwise are made by the SC with majority.

## **Article 6. Duties of the Steering Committee members**

- (a) The SC members promote the interests of the Young Scientists, and supervise Section operations and scientific activities;
- (b) The Chair presides at the SC and Young Scientists business meetings;
- (c) The SC may call upon members of the Section or appoint committees to assist with the Section affairs;
- (d) The Chair supplies an annual report to IAVS;
- (e) The Membership Administrator keeps records of the Young Scientists and its members and conducts elections and ballots.

## **Article 7. Finances**

The Young Scientists financial assets shall be held by and managed through the accounts of IAVS.

## **Article 8. Amendments**

These Bylaws may be amended by a 3/5 vote of the members participating in the business meeting of the Young Scientists. Proposed amendments must be circulated to the membership by e-mail at least two weeks in advance of the business meeting at which they are voted on.

Changes in the bylaws are contingent on approval by the IAVS Council.