

## **REGULATION/STANDING ORDER 1**

### **ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

- 1.1 There is only one category of Member of the Academy. In the year that a Member turns 70 years of age, the Member will be given Emeritus status. Once a Member reaches Emeritus status, the Member will be exempted from paying the prescribed membership fees. A Member who has been given Emeritus status will continue to qualify for and receive all the benefits associated with ASSAf Membership, inclusive of being eligible to serve on the ASSAf Council, if elected.
- 1.2 A Member of the Academy is a person who can be expected by the Academy significantly to assist the Academy in achieving its objectives.
- 1.3 The other criterion for election to Membership of the Academy is significant achievement in the pursuit, advancement or application of science.
- 1.4 To be considered for membership, nominated candidates do not need to be resident in South Africa, but must be working and/or contributing to scientific/scholarly activities in the country to a significant extent.
- 1.5 A call for nominations of candidates for Membership of the Academy shall be issued by email (or in writing where a Member has no working email address) by the General Secretary to all ASSAf Members, including emeritus Members, no later than 30 April of each year. The call may include Council-mandated information on the Academy's composition, and requests to consider this information in making nominations, in the interests of the Academy. Nominations are confidential, but the candidates will be aware of their nomination (see 1.6 below). The closing date for submission of nominations shall be no later than 31 July in any year.
- 1.6 Candidates for Membership of the Academy are proposed and recommended by means of a prescribed online nomination form and certificate (no hard copy versions will be accepted); section A is completed by the nominee, section B by the primary nominator, and section C is a nomination certificate, a hard copy of which must be signed by the primary nominator and no fewer than three other Members of the Academy, and posted or faxed to the Academy's offices. An online copy of the nomination certificate must, however, also be included with the rest of the online nomination papers, with typed names and details. At least two of the nominators must certify that they have personal knowledge and understanding of the scientific work and significant contribution to science of the candidate. The nomination must specify in which of the broad discipline areas recognised by ASSAf the candidate's expertise and knowledge is best placed (See Regulation 14).
- 1.7 Section A of the nomination form must conclude with a statement from the candidate indicating the candidate's willingness to be considered for election to Membership of the Academy; an electronic version of up-to-date full curriculum vitae must be attached to the section.
- 1.8 Section B of the nomination form must contain a draft citation explaining why election of the candidate to Membership of the Academy would further the objectives of the Academy.
- 1.9 Nominators of unsuccessful candidates in the immediately preceding election cycle shall each be requested to indicate whether they wish to have their

nominations again included in the current election, and if so, to submit revised versions of the documentation required.

- 1.10 The Sub-Committee for the broad discipline area in which a nominated candidate has been placed shall evaluate that candidacy together with those of all the other candidates in that area, in a thorough consultation managed by the appointed chairperson of the Sub-Committee concerned; the criteria mentioned above under 1.2 and 1.3 shall be dominant amongst all other criteria considered contextually appropriate by the Sub-Committee. The candidates in each area shall be presented to Council in ranked order. The Council of the Academy shall then constitute a consolidated ballot paper listing, in alphabetical order, the names of all candidates (including those brought forward from a previous year), who are deemed suitable for inclusion in the election process. In doing this, the Council shall be mindful of the needs of the Academy for special expertise and perspective, as well as of the influence of prior disadvantage affecting meritorious individuals.
- 1.11 All existing Members of the Academy, including emeritus Members, will then be sent online ballot papers listing the candidates in alphabetical order, and providing online versions of Sections A, B and C of each nomination. They will be requested, in a secret online ballot, to cast votes either for, against or indicate a neutral position for every candidate, before a due date which shall be no later than 30 September in any year.  
Members of the Academy who do not vote are regarded as having recorded neutral votes.
- 1.12 The Council shall appoint at least two tellers of the votes cast in the election of new Members, none of whom shall be nominators of candidates or office-bearers of the Academy. A candidate having at least three times as many votes for him or her as against him or her shall be considered elected to membership of the Academy provided at least one half of the votes cast is in his or her favour.
- 1.13 The results of the election, without mention of votes cast and in alphabetical order, shall first be made known to the President and General Secretary of the Academy, and then to the full Membership and the public.
- 1.14 The nominator of an unsuccessful candidate, or the candidate him-or herself, may appeal to the Council within 30 days of the publication of the election outcome, such appeal being based solely on procedural grounds. The appeal shall be made in writing, and in the case of a candidate appealing may be supported in writing by the Members who signed the nomination certificate. Council may at its discretion invite the appellant(s) to present the appeal in person. The decision of the Council shall be final.
- 1.15 Every person who has been elected to Membership of the Academy shall attend an Annual General Meeting of the Academy within five years of election, to sign the Register of Members and to subscribe to the following obligation:
  - (a) I.....(full names) hereby promise to promote the well-being of South Africa through scientific thought and generally to further the objectives of the Academy of Science of South Africa as far as this lies in my power; and
  - (b) I shall also observe the prescribed constitution and prescribed standing orders/regulations of the Academy as long as I remain a Member thereof

- 1.16 A Member shall be obliged to communicate any change in his or her postal and email addresses to the General Secretary, who shall keep a register of Members and their addresses. In the event of a Member not providing the General Secretary with his or her current postal and email addresses, a communication to such Member at his or her last known postal and email addresses shall be deemed sufficient notice. Accidental failure or omission to transmit any voting paper or other document to any particular Member or Members shall not invalidate any proceedings.
- 1.17 Membership shall be subjected to the following requirements:
- (a) that any annual subscription fee set by Council for any year has been paid not later than the end of the following two financial years;
  - (b) A Member whose Membership is due to expire under section (a) above shall be informed by the General Secretary by registered post that a motion to deprive him or her of his or her Membership will appear on the agenda of the next Annual General Meeting of the Academy. A person who has thus been deprived of his or her Membership may appeal to Council for reinstatement of Membership of the Academy, but payment of all subscriptions in arrears must be done before the appeal shall be heard.
  - (c) A Member who in the opinion of the Council has failed to meet the obligations of sub-section 5 (11) (a) of the Act or clause 1.14 of these Regulations, or whose conduct has in the opinion of Council, brought the Academy into disrepute, may be required by Council to appear before it to show why Council should not recommend to the next Annual General Meeting of the Academy that the Membership of that Member be terminated. The reasonable personal expenses of the Member in attending that meeting shall be borne by Council. The Member may, at his or her own expenses, bring a legal representative. The public expression by a Member of personal scientific views which are contrary to those generally held to be established, or to those publicly stated by Council to be established, shall not in itself be held to tend to bring the Academy into disrepute, if the views of the Member are expressed in a manner which is scientifically acceptable.
  - (d) A Member of the Academy may resign from the Academy by written notice addressed to the President; all outstanding subscriptions shall remain due to the Academy