

**Botanical Society of America**  
**Student Representatives on Committees**  
**2025 - 2027**

**General Information**

**Application:** Short application (200 words or less) that includes a statement of interest highlighting your expertise, experience, and interest in serving on this particular committee, as well as a CV. Applications are accepted November 20, 2024 – February 15, 2025 and can be submitted at: <http://committees.botany.org/>

**Eligibility:** BSA graduate student members of any level are eligible to apply for these positions.

**Appointments:** These applications will be reviewed by the Committee on Committees. Appointments will be announced in May to the beginning of July. The term length of each position is 2 years. The student should be a student at the start of the term, but does not need to remain a student for the length of the term.

**Committee for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI)**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate student.*

The DEI Committee usually meets one or two times per year (plus ad hoc meetings), to discuss policies and plan activities that can help address the needs of diverse groups within BSA and that can help to build a more diverse and welcoming society. Committee members are expected to attend DEI meetings (in person or virtually), and some committee members volunteer additional time to further develop some of these activities. Programs and events that initially began with planning by members of the DEI committee include the PLANTS program, workshops for development of professional skills (e.g., applying to grad school), helping to choose the Enhancing Scientist Diversity speakers, and special symposia on diversity and inclusion. The committee values the input of members at all stages of their careers. The student representatives will be full voting members and will be expected to provide a student or early-career researcher's perspective on how best to improve the diversity, equity and inclusion efforts of the BSA. [See more.](#)

**Education Committee**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate student.*

The Education Committee meets two to three times per year, as well as during the Botany meeting. The education committee focuses on all matters relating to teaching, training, and professional education in the plant sciences, including informal, K-12, undergraduate, and graduate biology education. The goal of a student representative on this committee is to provide a student or early-career researcher's perspective on how best to keep evolving the education efforts of the BSA. For example, a recent focus of this committee has been on how to revise the educational outreach portion of the BSA website. [See more.](#)

**Investment Committee**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate student.*

The Investment Committee meets three to four times per year to oversee investments of the Society and to determine the long-term investment strategy for the Society. Committee members will also be involved in reviewing performance of the investment management company and periodically reviewing and adjusting the investment policy guidelines for Board approval. The student representative on this committee actively learns about the BSA investment strategy and gains a lot of insight into how the society manages their investments. A student on this committee may have previous knowledge on investment portfolios and thinking about the market, however this is not required. The ideal student representative for this committee should be willing to learn about investments to be able to participate in the discussions and decisions of the committee. [See more.](#)

### **Public Policy Committee**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate student.*

The Public Policy Committee meets at least quarterly (ideally every other month), as well as during the annual Botany conference. This committee provides input from the BSA perspective on public policy documents, strategic plan documents from federal agencies, and reports requesting input from plant biologists. They work closely with numerous societies including the [American Society of Plant Taxonomy \(ASPT\)](#) and [American Institute of Biological Sciences \(AIBS\)](#). A student representative on this committee would attend committee meetings, vote on candidates for awards (BSA Public Policy Award, Botany Advocacy Leadership Grant), respond to information related to sign-on letters, and provide feedback on policy documents in development. [See more.](#)

### **Publications committee**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate student.*

The Publications Committee meets two to three times per year and provides input on issues relating to BSA's publications (including the [American Journal of Botany](#), [Plant Science Bulletin](#), and [Applications in Plant Sciences](#)). The committee seeks to elevate the BSA to be one of the most influential publishers of scientific content in plant biology. The committee coordinates with the editors and associate editors on issues regarding their publications and considers and provides advice on new activities and initiatives, addresses issues impacting the publications, such as open access, subjects to be covered, and other matters arising from the publications. For example, the committee provided input on how to solicit articles for and advertise the new AJB review article category. The student representative on this committee is expected to provide general feedback about BSA's publications, or specific issues as the need arises. [See more.](#)