

## Revision of Corresponding Member Award – Feb 2023 (Michael Donoghue, Chair – Cindi Jones – Linda Watson)

### Background:

After two complaints were received on the appointment of a recent Corresponding member, the Corresponding Member Committee and the Board discussed the need to revise the description and requirements for this award. In addition, BSA has recently approved a policy for ethical guidelines for Nominated Awards which includes the completion of a professional conduct disclosure form and will be incorporated into the award description.

In order to change the Corresponding Member Award description, we need to consider a few slight revisions. Any BSA bylaws revisions must be approved by a vote of the membership. BSA Policy revisions can be approved by the Board and then forwarded to membership for a vote.

### Corresponding Member Description in BSA Bylaws:

#### Article III, Section 1. Class of members

**Corresponding** – Honorary members working as professional botanists in foreign posts, who by virtue of their contributions, are elected by the membership of the Society.

*The Corresponding Member Committee agreed that eligibility should include US citizens outside of the US, who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to their foreign institution.*

*We propose adjusting the Bylaws language to remove “foreign posts” which sounds colonialist and replace it with “Honorary members living and working as professional botanists outside of the United States of America”*

*A vote of BSA members is required to change the Bylaws and this could be done later in the year if any other Bylaws changes come up so they can be bundled together. Not changing the bylaws immediately does not preclude us from accepting nominations this spring.*

### Corresponding Member Proposed Policy Revisions:

#### Policy III. Members

##### Part 2. Application –

**(b) Class** (f) Corresponding Members are elected by Society members as for an honorary BSA membership. Members or Sections submit nominations supported by the credentials of the proposed Corresponding Members to the Committee on Corresponding Members. Packages are which reviewed these credentials and forwards its by the Committee and recommendations are presented to the Council. As part of the nomination package, there must be three letters of support (including one nomination letter), and at least one letter from a relevant colleague in the country of the nominee. In addition, the primary nominator and all letter writers must complete a Professional Conduct Disclosure Form. The Council evaluates these proposals and the recommendations of the Committee and presents its selected nominees to the Society for election at an annual business meeting.

#### Policy XII. Committees

##### Part 21. Committee Membership:

**Corresponding Members** – The committee consists of the immediate Past President as chair and the two preceding Past Presidents, as well as the Chair of the International Affairs Committee.

## **Corresponding Member Revised Description for the Award Page:**

Corresponding members are distinguished scientists who have made outstanding contributions to the plant sciences and who live and work outside of the United States of America. The committee seeks nominees who have had a significant impact to the plant sciences throughout their career as demonstrated by excellence in research and scholarship. Additional criteria may include meaningful contributions in education, public policy and/or exceptional service to the professional botanical community, or a combination of these qualities. Recipients will also have demonstrated leadership and engagement in relevant scientific organizations within their own country and/or internationally.

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Current award page - <https://botany.org/home/awards/awards-for-established-scientists/correspondingmembers.html>

