

CONSTITUTION AMERICAN PHYTOPATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, AFRICAN DIVISION

Adopted June 14, 2021
Amended August 16, 2024
Amended July 9, 2025

ARTICLE I

This Division shall be known as the American Phytopathological Society, African Division.

ARTICLE II **Membership and Dues**

Section 1. The Division shall consist of members of the American Phytopathological Society.

Section 2. All persons not members of the American Phytopathological Society but interested in the study of plant diseases, shall be eligible for associate membership.

Section 3. All graduate or undergraduate students interested in the study of plant pathology shall be eligible for student membership.

Section 4. Each member, associate member or student member shall pay annually such dues as the Division shall determine and shall have a vote in all matters pertaining to the Division.

ARTICLE III **Officers**

The officers of the Division shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Social Media Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Divisional Forum Representative, up to two Student/Postdoctoral Representatives, up to two Regional Representatives (North/West/Central and East/South). Their duties shall be those usually performed by such officers. The officers shall serve the following terms: President, President-Elect, and Vice-President - one year; Social Media Manager – three years, Divisional Forum Representative – three years or until his/her successor is selected, Secretary and Treasurer - three years or until his/her successor is appointed; Regional Representative – two years, and Student/Postdoctoral Representative – two years. The Executive Committee shall fill any vacancies occurring in the interim between elections.

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Vice-President, Social Media Manager, Secretary, Treasurer, Divisional Forum Representative, up to two Student/Postdoctoral Representatives, Regional Representative – two years, and the Immediate Past President. All actions of the Executive Committee or officers will conform with the Constitution, By-Laws, and Manual of Operations.

ARTICLE IV **Election of Officers**

The Vice-President, Divisional Forum Representative, Social Media Manager, the Student/Postdoctoral Representative(s), and the Regional Representative(s), shall be elected by ballot. The Secretary shall send out a call for nominations to all members of the African Division, in time to allow nominations to be returned not less than two months before the date of the annual meeting (Vice-President and Divisional Forum Representative) and not less than one month before the date of the annual meeting (Student/Postdoctoral Representative). The Executive Committee shall review the nominations and designate the nominees for any office when such nominations are wanting or are tied.

The names of the top two nominees (for each position) shall be placed on a final ballot. If only one nomination is finalized, a write-in option will be presented. Each nominee must accept the nomination before being placed on the ballot, and a person may only accept nomination for one position within an election cycle.

Ballots for election of Vice-President, Divisional Forum Representative, will be sent electronically to each African Division member not less than one month before the annual meeting. All current African Division members are eligible to vote.

The Student/Postdoctoral Representative and Regional Representatives nominees can be nominated by ANY African Division member. Ballots for election of Student/Postdoctoral Representative will be distributed and voted upon during the annual division meeting by African Division student/postdoctoral membership.

A plurality vote shall elect. In the event of a tie on the election ballot, all members attending the annual business meeting shall vote, and a plurality vote shall elect.

The President-Elect shall become President and the Vice-President shall become President-Elect upon completion of their terms of office as President-Elect and Vice-President, respectively. The Secretary, Treasurer, and Social Media Manager shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a term of three years. The Division Forum Representative of the African Division may be elected or appointed, and will assume office at the first meeting of the American Phytopathological Society following the election, at the time the new officers of APS assume office. Prior to appointment, at least 6-12 months of training and grandfathering in is required upon selection of a Division Forum Representative candidate. Student/Postdoctoral Representatives and the Regional Representatives shall serve a term of two years. Incoming Student/Postdoctoral Representative(s) and the Regional Representatives of the African Division will assume office at the end of the first meeting of the Division following their election or appointment. In the event of a mid-year vacancy, the Executive Committee shall appoint a replacement Student/Postdoctoral Representative and the Regional Representatives.

ARTICLE V Committees

Temporary and standing committees may be appointed by the President and deliver their reports to the Division in the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VI Meetings

Meetings shall be held annually unless prevented by an emergency. The annual meetings will normally be held virtually at a date and time selected by the Executive Committee. The annual meetings may be held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the American Phytopathological Society. However, the annual meetings of the African Division may be held with other organizations and additional special meetings may be held, provided that the time and place of such meetings are recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority of members voting at the annual business meeting.

The program for all meetings will be arranged by a Committee chaired by the President-Elect and will consist of scientific and business sessions.

ARTICLE VII

The provisions of the By-Laws of the American Phytopathological Society pertaining to the organization and regulation of Divisions of the Society shall be followed in the operation of the African Division.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments

This Constitution may be amended at any African Division Annual Meeting or by mail and/or electronic ballot with the following provisions: any proposed amendment must be approved by the Executive Committee or be petitioned by at least 10% of the Regular Members; must be communicated in writing to all members eligible to vote at least one month before the African Division Annual Meeting or one month before the date for tallying the ballots; and must receive the affirmative votes of three-fourths of the members voting for approval.