

Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors By-Laws

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION DIRECTORS

Experiment Station Section
Board on Agriculture Assembly
Association of Public and Land Grant Universities
Adopted August 8, 1975
Amended August 9, 1982
Amended June 26, 1990
Amended March 24, 1992
Amended September 30, 1999
Amended March 26, 2003
Amended February 15, 2007
Amended September 14, 2009

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Western Association of Agricultural Experiment Station Directors, hereinafter called the Western Directors Association (WDA), as is stated above and established in conformity with the constitution of the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (hereinafter called the National Association).

Article II - Purpose

The Western Directors Association, one of five such Regional Associations, shall represent the administrators of the State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES) in the Western Region in their collective dealings. On matters to be ratified by, reported to, or recommended to the National Association the consensus of WDA shall be conveyed to the Chair, Experiment Station Section of the Board on Agriculture Assembly of the National Association by the Chair of the WDA. WDA shall conduct its affairs in conformance with the stated objectives and procedures of the By-laws of the Section and the Board on Agriculture Assembly of the National Association.

The WDA, with the other such Regional Associations, is an integral part of the Experiment Station Section. It provides through its business meetings a means by which the views of the WDA may be determined formally and transmitted to the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy (ESCOP) and the Experiment Station Section on matters either of its own origin or on matters referred to it by ESCOP or the Section. The WDA also provides a forum for the

exchange of information and for discussion and debate among members and guests on matters of common concern that may not require formal action. And, it provides the means by which the WDA may take action that is limited to the Western Region.

These and other functions of the WDA are spelled out more completely, as follows:

1. Arranges for and conducts its own affairs, elects members to ESCOP, makes recommendations to ESCOP and to the Section, reacts to proposals of ESCOP and the Section and participates in the handling of interim business of the Section;
2. Participates with NIFA and other Regional Associations in the programming and conducting of cooperative multistate research supported by the Multistate Research Fund (MRF) authorized by section 3(c)3 of the Hatch Act, Public Law 84-352 and the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998;
3. Facilitates cooperation among its member State Agricultural Experiment Stations (SAES), with federal and other state agencies, with industry and others in the planning, programming, financing, implementing and performing of agricultural and related research;
4. Employs, and pays the salaries and/or benefits of, the Executive Director and other staff as well as other expenses related to the functions of the Executive Director;
5. Facilitates cooperative joint efforts with the Western Extension Directors and Western Academic Program Directors to meet AREERA legislation requirements and the pressing needs of the region;
6. Collects and disburses dues, enters into contracts with cooperators and/or granting agencies to cover the costs of the programs agreed upon within the WDA.

Article III - Membership

The voting members of the Western Directors Association shall be eighteen (18) in number consisting of the Directors (or duly authorized representatives) of its member institutions (Alaska, American Samoa, Arizona, California, Colorado, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Micronesia, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming) and the Western Executive Director. Associate and Assistant Directors of the member SAES of the WDA and the Administrative Heads of Agriculture of the member institutions also shall be members; however, the voting privilege shall be limited to one vote for each institution. The Administrator of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA); USDA, and the Vice President for Food and Agriculture of the National Association shall be ex officio, non-voting members of the WDA.

Article IV -Meetings

There will be an annual meeting and other meetings as determined by the WDA and/or its Executive Committee.

Article V - Officers

A. The Officers of the WDA shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer, each for a one (1) year term that begins at the close of the Association meeting held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Experiment Station Section. Officers may succeed themselves (be re-elected) for one additional term, except for the Treasurer who may serve successive terms.

B. Elections. The Officers, members of the Executive Committee and other designees of the WDA shall be elected by the membership at the WDA meeting immediately preceding the annual meeting of the Experiment Station Section. Nominations shall be submitted by a nominating committee named by the Chair. A simple majority vote is required for election. In the event the Chair-Elect, Secretary or Treasurer resign or are otherwise unable to serve, the remaining members of the Executive Committee shall appoint a member of WDA to complete the term.

C. Executive Director. There shall be an Executive Director chosen and employed by the WDA under the terms of the Memorandum of Agreement among the states, 1967, with duties as specified therein and as up-dated from time to time as recorded in the Minutes. The Office of the Executive Director shall provide staff support to the WDA.

A position of Recording Secretary is established within the Office of and responsible to the Executive Director. The Recording Secretary shall assist the Secretary and the Executive Director in the keeping of the official records of the WDA including Minutes of meetings. The Recording Secretary also shall assist the Regional Coordination and Implementation Committee in the performance of its responsibilities and perform other duties as assigned.

Other staff may be appointed at the discretion of the WDA.

D. Duties. The Chair shall preside at business meetings of the WDA, at meetings of its Executive Committee and on all other occasions where the head of the organization is to be recognized. He/She is the chief executive officer of the WDA.

The Chair-Elect shall serve as Vice-Chair and undertake such duties as the Chair prescribes. He/She shall become Chair for the remainder of the term should the Chair resign or otherwise be unable to serve. He/She shall preside in the absence of the Chair.

The Secretary shall see to it that the secretarial duties of the WDA are fulfilled; he/she also serves as the official Secretary of the Executive Committee. He/She presides in the

absence of the Chair and Chair-Elect. The Secretary of the WDA shall bear the official responsibility on behalf of the WDA for approving all actions and communications emanating from the Recording Secretary.

The Treasurer shall bill each member institution for its share of the budget for the Office of the Executive Director, and transmits the funds to the institution at which the Office of the Executive Director is located. He/She administers the Western Directors Special Fund and performs such other duties involving finances and the transfer of funds as may be required.

Officers and other designees of WDA are expected to exercise their own judgments in the execution of their roles and duties subject to prior policy guidance and/or policy review by the WDA.

All officers and other designees of the WDA are responsible for maintaining and then passing on to their successors complete sets of official documents of a continuing directive nature.

Article VI -Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Past Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Senior Member of ESCOP, and two members at-large. The terms of the two at-large members shall be one (1) year. They may succeed themselves for one additional one-year term. The Executive Director shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee through the Chair executes the program of the WDA and supervises the Executive Director and any other staff. The Executive Committee also is empowered to handle the interim affairs of the WDA between business meetings.

Article VII - Committees and Designees

Committees may be established and Administrative Advisors and other designees named at the will of the WDA. Administrative Advisors shall be named from among the membership of the WDA and such other administrators as the WDA may designate from time to time. A list of committees and designees for the coming year is to be prepared by the Recording Secretary, as approved by the Secretary, and circulated to the membership annually.

Regional Coordination and Implementation Committee (RCIC). The RCIC is comprised of members of the WDA, the Western Extension Directors, and the Western Academic Program Directors and other partner agencies and groups. The RCIC is responsible for the review and on-going evaluation of the region's portfolio of multistate activities that are funded in part by the multistate research fund. The RCIC approves multistate activities on behalf of the WDA, the Western Extension Directors, and the Western Academic Program Directors and designates

Administrative Advisors for projects from among the WDA, and other such administrators within the region consistent with the policies of USDA-NIFA governing the multistate research program. The RCIC provides regular reports of its actions to the WDA, the Western Extension Directors, and the Western Academic Program Directors.

Article VIII - Quorum

For purposes of doing business of the WDA, a quorum shall consist of a minimum of ten (10) members or their officially designated representatives present and voting at any duly called meeting where written notice and agenda are sent out a month in advance of the meeting. A simple majority resolves all issues except amendment of the By-Laws.

Article IX - Parliamentary Authority

The emphasis in all meetings shall be on orderly process to achieve an objective decision by those present and voting. Should there be a parliamentary challenge, however, it shall be answered by reference to Robert's Rules of Order.

Article X - Amendment of By-Laws

These By-Laws may be amended at any business meeting of the WDA, provided the proposed amendment has been submitted to all members one month in advance of the meeting and is passed by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present at the meeting.