

**Botanical Society of America**  
**Student Representatives on Committees**  
**2021 - 2023**

**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 and a CV. Applications are accepted December 18– February 1. Applications can be submitted at:

<http://committees.botany.org/>

**Eligibility:** BSA student members (undergraduate and graduate) of any level are eligible to apply for these positions, unless stated otherwise.

**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)**

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 develop further 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. [See more.](#)

**Development Committee**

The Development Committee meets one to two times per year. This committee works with the Director-At-Large for Development and the Board of Directors to develop and enhance resources for the Society to support its programs like PlantingScience. This committee works to foster membership support, coordinate with retired members and the Legacy Society, and works to increase the BSA Endowment Fund. The goal of student representatives on this committee is to provide a student or early-career researcher's perspective on fundraising ideas or leads. [See more.](#)

**Education Committee**

*This committee will be appointing 1 graduate (Masters or PhD) and 1 undergraduate 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.](#)

### **Financial Advisory Committee**

The Financial Advisory Committee meets one to two times per year. This committee works with the Treasurer on society finances and reporting of finances to the Society. The committee reviews the annual budget and ensures that the budget accurately reflects the goals of BSA. The student representative on this committee will be expected to learn about BSA budget and finances. Previous experience is not necessary, but the position requires an interest in financial management and issues of a scientific society. [See more.](#)

### **Investment Committee**

The Investment Committee meets three to four times a year and has oversight for the investments of the Society. The committee is responsible for determining long-term investment strategy for the Society. 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**

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**

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](#) and [Applications in Plant Sciences](#)). 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.](#)