

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN LAW SCHOOLS
BYLAWS OF THE SECTION ON BALANCE IN LEGAL EDUCATION

Article I. Name

This Administrative Section, as defined by AALS Executive Regulation 1.5, shall be known as the Section on Balance in Legal Education.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this Section is to promote the communication and development of ideas among its members and the general membership of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) concerning methods for improving legal education and the legal profession in ways that will promote personal well-being, optimal performance, and professional values among law students and lawyers.

Article III. Membership and Privileges

Section 1. Regular Membership. Regular membership is open to faculty and professional staff of law school members of AALS. “Faculty and professional staff of member law schools” excludes adjunct faculty, visiting faculty or temporary professional staff who do not have a continuing professional relationship with a member law school as their principal employment.

Section 2. Associate Membership. Associate membership is open to any other person interested in the purposes of the Section, consistent with AALS Executive Committee Regulations, including faculty and professional staff at non-member law schools, and adjuncts, visiting faculty (without a regular appointment at an AALS member law school), and short-term contract faculty or temporary professional staff at member or non-member paid law schools.

Section 3. Privileges of Members.

- (a) Unless otherwise permitted by applicable AALS Executive Committee Regulations, only regular members may be officers of the Section, vote in Section elections, or serve on the Section’s Executive Committee (“EC”).
- (b) Associate members will have rights and privileges as determined by the AALS Executive Committee.

Article IV. Officers

Section 1. Officers.

- (a) The elected officers of the Section shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, and Secretary. All officers must be regular members of the Section.
- (b) If the Section determines to collect dues, a Treasurer shall be appointed by the incoming Chair for a one-year term. The Treasurer, if any, shall serve as provided in these bylaws and may be reappointed.
- (c) The Immediate Past Chair shall serve a non-renewable term of one year, with full voting privileges as a member of the EC.

Section 2. Duties of Officers.

- (a) The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Section and of the EC; shall be responsible for the annual meeting program of the Section; shall appoint members of special and ad hoc committees established in accordance with these bylaws; shall submit periodic reports as required by AALS; and shall report on the Section activities of the prior year at the AALS annual meeting.
- (b) The Chair-Elect shall assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair during the Chair's absence or disability.
- (c) The Secretary shall record minutes of all EC meetings and, except as otherwise provided in the last sentence of this paragraph, distribute the same to the EC; when requested, shall assist the Chair in conducting elections, including counting and recording votes, and shall otherwise perform such other duties as the Chair or Chair-Elect may assign.

Section 3. Officer Vacancies.

- (a) Vacancies in officer positions shall be promptly filled.
- (b) In the event that the position of Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-Elect shall fill the position and the EC by majority vote shall appoint a new Chair-Elect. At the next annual meeting, the membership shall elect a Chair and Chair-Elect.
- (c) In the event that an officer position other than Chair becomes vacant, it may be filled on an interim basis by the Chair, subject to confirmation by a majority of those participating in a meeting of the EC called for that purpose or at the next EC meeting, whichever is earlier.

Article V. Executive Committee

Section 1. Executive Committee.

- (a) The EC of the Section shall include the Officers and a minimum of five and a maximum of 16 other members.
- (b) EC members shall have full voting rights in EC formal actions, including but not limited to election matters, amendment of bylaws, forming collaborations with other AALS Sections, forming non-AALS affiliations, and determination of Annual Meeting programming.
- (c) With the exception of a partial term filling a vacancy, as indicated in Article V(4), the terms of all EC members shall be for three years, with each year's annual election limited to replacing those whose term has expired or who have left the EC prior to the completion of their scheduled term during the preceding year without being otherwise replaced in accordance with these bylaws. Except as provided in Article V(2), absent extraordinary circumstances, no person shall serve longer than six consecutive years as a member of the EC.

Section 2. Special Provisions for Past Chairs.

- (a) After a year serving as Immediate Past Chair, each Past Chair of the Section shall have the right to continue to serve indefinitely as an ex officio member of the EC, but will not have voting rights nor count towards a quorum while serving in such capacity.
- (b) After one year of either serving as an ex officio member of the EC or of not serving on the EC in any capacity, Past Chairs may seek to be re-elected to the EC in the same manner as any other member of the Section.

Section 3. Quorum and Other Voting Requirements.

- (a) The EC shall act on behalf of the Section in the interval between annual meetings. It shall discharge any duties imposed upon it by these bylaws, as well as any duties requiring formal action on the part of the Section by the AALS.
- (b) It may act through face-to-face meetings or through telephonic or other electronic or digital conferencing methods.
- (c) To be valid, unless otherwise stated in these bylaws, any formal actions of the EC require the participation of a quorum of its members then serving. For that purpose, a quorum consists of a minimum of one-half of such members.

Section 4. Vacancies. Vacancies in EC positions may be filled by appointment between annual meetings, if deemed desirable, by a 60% majority of a quorum of EC members, except that the Chair shall be authorized to fill the minimum number of vacancies necessary to maintain the minimum EC membership specified in these bylaws without first obtaining such a 60% vote. No vacancy may be filled without 10 days' prior notice to the EC. A person appointed to a vacant EC position shall have a term of office identical to the person whom he or she replaces.

Article VI. Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees. Standing committees of the EC are hereby established as the: Annual AALS Program, General Programming, Communications and Outreach, Nominations, and Scholarship Committees.

- (a) Annual AALS Program Committee. The Program Committee shall be responsible, along with the Section Chair, for determining the topic of the Section programs at the AALS Annual Meeting each year and to solicit and select speakers for it, subject to the approval of the EC. The committee shall discharge its duties in a timely manner, in order to ensure that the steps required by the AALS in order to have the Section's program listed in various AALS publications and scheduled as part of the AALS's annual meeting are completed by their various deadlines.
- (b) General Programming Committee. The General Programming Committee shall be responsible for soliciting speakers and coordinating programs and events periodically throughout the year relevant to the purpose of the Section, with the exception of the AALS Annual Meeting programs pursuant to Section VI(1)(a). The Committee shall seek to expand services and opportunities for networking and resource sharing among Section members throughout the year. The programs and events proposed by the Committee, or by a Section member for consideration by the committee, shall require advance notice to the EC, but no formal action unless a vote is called for by a member of the EC, in which case a majority of a quorum of EC members is required for approval.
- (c) Communications and Outreach Committee. The Communications and Outreach Committee shall be responsible for monitoring the Section's communications, publishing its annual newsletter, and engaging in other efforts to increase section membership and awareness of and participation in section events. The Committee shall also discharge such other duties as are assigned to it by the Chair or the EC.
- (d) Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee shall include at least one ex officio member or immediate past chair, and at least three other EC members eligible to vote pursuant to Article V(1)(a) above. The Committee and EC shall solicit nominations for Chair-Elect from the EC, as well as nominations for vacant EC positions from the section membership. If there is no objection from members of the EC and the candidates are still willing and eligible to serve, it shall be

presumed that the Chair-Elect shall be nominated for Chair on the next year's slate and that EC members whose first term is expiring will be placed on the slate for a second term. The members of the Nominations Committee with voting privileges shall select a slate of nominees, considering input by the ex officio members of the EC on the committee. Upon finalization of a slate of nominees for Chair, Chair-Elect and open EC positions, the Nominations Committee will arrange for that slate to be forwarded to the EC for approval at least 30 days before the AALS annual meeting and to the section's membership at least 21 days prior to that meeting, for election at that meeting pursuant to Article VII(1).

- (d) Scholarship Committee. The Scholarship Committee shall be responsible for generating and promoting scholarship related to the Section's activities and interests, whether authored by law school faculty, administration, or students, or members of the bar. The Committee shall also discharge such other duties as are assigned to it by the Chair or the EC.

Section 2. Special or Ad Hoc Committees. Special or ad hoc committees may be established or re-authorized by the Chair, by a majority vote of a quorum of the EC, or at an annual business meeting of the Section by a majority vote of the Section membership then in attendance. Special or ad hoc committees shall have the powers and duties provided by the EC or Section membership vote creating them or re-authorizing them, as long as they comport with the AALS Executive Committee Regulations. In the absence of a specific provision to the contrary in the Section bylaws or in the instrument creating a special committee, the committee shall cease to exist at the end of the year in which it was created, but may be re-authorized by either the EC or Section membership pursuant to Article VI(1).

Article VII. Elections

Section 1. Election Process. Officers and EC members shall be elected, by voice vote, secret ballot, or electronic means, as determined by the Chair, at a designated time either before or during each annual business meeting of the Section. For that purpose, the final slate of persons for such positions as prepared by the Nominations Committee and approved by the EC shall be presented to the membership, without the need for a motion or a second, at least 30 days before the election is held. A simple majority of those regular members actually voting during the annual meeting is sufficient to elect either the Nominating Committee's slate as a whole, any individual member of it, or any other person duly nominated for an elected position as an Officer or EC member of the Section. In the event that a person listed on the slate does not receive a majority vote, that position shall become vacant and filled, if deemed desirable, by the EC pursuant to Article V(4), with a person other than the person listed on the slate.

Article VIII. Policy Statements

The Section may take a position on a matter related either to the subject matter of the Section or concerning legal education when the EC, after giving Section members an adequate opportunity to review and submit comments on a proposed position, reasonably believes that the position reflects the views of a majority of the Section's membership, and upon including the disclaimer required by AALS Executive Committee Regulations 1.5(c).

Article IX. Amendments to the Bylaws

Section 1. Proposing Amendments. Any regular member of the Section may propose to the EC an amendment to these bylaws at any time, preferably in writing.

Section 2. Notice. Notice of the proposed amendment, together with a concise statement of its intended purpose and effect, shall be provided to the Chair at least 45 days prior to a vote to amend these bylaws and by the EC to the membership of the Section at least 30 days prior to such vote.

Section 3. Voting to Amend. These bylaws may be amended in person at the Section's business meeting during the AALS Annual Meeting by a 60% majority of the regular members of the section present and voting, or at any other time of the year by electronic vote of a 60% majority of the regular members who have voted.

Section 4. AALS Approval. Section officers should file proposed amendments to these bylaws with the Executive Director of AALS for review for conformity with the Bylaws and Regulations of AALS. An amendment approved by the Section membership takes effect when it is approved by the AALS.

Approved by the AALS Executive Committee in January 2012.

Approved as amended by the AALS Executive Committee on October 15, 2019.

Approved as amended by the AALS Executive Committee on April 12, 2021.