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## Association Affairs

### Constitution for the Academy Conference

THERE are 38 academies of science affiliated with the AAAS. Most of them engage in statewide activities, but a few—like the Colorado-Wyoming Academy—cross state boundaries; and others—like the New Orleans Academy—limit their sphere of influence to specific metropolitan districts. Some are large—for example, in Illinois and Pennsylvania—others small, like the new but growing Oregon Academy. Some are pursuing energetic programs at high-school, college, and post-graduate levels, and in this class Virginia and Texas have outstanding organizations. Survival has proved difficult for such groups as the Missouri Academy, which has suffered from the competition of the St. Louis Academy in the eastern part of the state, as well as from the thriving Kansas Academy to the west.

As organizations established to advance science, the academies have, within their more restricted geographic confines, objectives akin to those of the AAAS; and for this reason the late Otis W. Caldwell, for many years General Secretary of the Association, created the Academy Conference as a forum for the discussion of the mutual problems. Composed of delegates from each of the affiliated academies, it has met annually with the AAAS, and it has functioned more or less informally with an elected president, who holds office for one year, and a secretary, who has usually been continued in office for several years.

At the 1950 meeting in Cleveland the President of the Conference, Boyd Harshbarger, appointed a committee to draft a Constitution, and at the same meeting a preliminary draft was approved in principle. The final draft, which is presented here, has been approved by the committee (C. L. Baker, Boyd Harshbarger, Morris Meister, Percival Robertson, and Leland H. Taylor, *chairman*) and will be submitted for action at the 1951 meeting in Philadelphia, December 29.

**Article 1. PURPOSES.** The purposes of the Academy Conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science are (1) to provide an organization for the promotion through mutual cooperation of the common aims and purposes of the several state and municipal academies and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and (2), specifically, to provide

appropriate means for consultation on and investigation of the problems of academies with a view to aiding all in their common purposes and their accomplishments.

**Article 2. MEETING.** The meeting of the Academy Conference shall be held annually and shall be open to members as described herein and to interested guests.

**Article 3. MEMBERSHIP.** Membership shall be composed of two representatives from each affiliated academy. One of these shall be the officially designated delegate to the Council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; the other shall be an officer of the affiliated academy. In the event either or both of the above shall be unable to attend a meeting of the Academy Conference, the officers of the academy concerned may appoint duly accredited alternates.

**Article 4. OFFICERS.** The officers of the Academy Conference shall be (1) a president-elect, who shall serve for one year, following which he shall become president; (2) a president, who shall have served one year as president-elect, and whose term of office shall be one year; (3) a retiring president, whose term of office shall be one year following his retirement as president; and (4) a secretary, who may be continued in office by re-election not more than three years. The president-elect and the secretary shall be elected by vote of a majority at the annual meeting.

#### **Article 5. COMMITTEES.**

*Section 1.* Committee membership shall, as far as possible, be representative of the wide geographical distribution of the affiliated academies.

*Section 2.* There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the officers of the Academy Conference.

*Section 3.* A Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the President at a reasonable time before the annual meeting.

*Section 4.* A Committee to sponsor the Junior Scientists Assembly shall be appointed by the President.

*Section 5.* Special Committees shall be appointed by the President as the occasion may demand.

#### **Article 6. AMENDMENT.**

*Section 1.* Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by majority vote of the Executive Committee or by majority vote of the members present at an annual meeting.

*Section 2.* The Constitution may be amended when the following requirements shall have been met: (1) the proposed amendment has been submitted to an annual meeting one year prior to the date on which action may be taken; and (2) the proposed amendment has been approved by a two-thirds vote of members voting at the time action is taken.

# Science

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