



5 August 2019

MBL Society Proposal

I. Vision and Mission of the MBL Society

Vision

The MBL Society is a community of scientists who support and advance the mission of the MBL, to provide world-class science and transformational education. It is also a reservoir of experience and institutional knowledge of both scientists and others who share a decades-long commitment to MBL.

Mission

The MBL Society works together with the MBL Director and Senior Leadership to advance the MBL and its scientific and educational mission. Our members carry out immersive, inspiring, and transformative research and education at the MBL currently or in the past and/or have supported the MBL in other active engagement. We gather information that will enable informed decision-making, we seek to be proactive in identifying and communicating needs and opportunities, and we provide ideas, advice, and counsel when requested by the Director. Through our representatives on the Science Council and Community Council, we meet with the Director and Senior Leadership to discuss strategic and administrative matters important to the success of science and education at the MBL.

Members serve as ambassadors of the MBL through outreach to local and worldwide sister institutions, organizations, and individuals. As part of our commitment to the success of the MBL and its mission, we provide generous financial support to the Annual Fund to the best of our ability, and we encourage our friends and colleagues to do the same.

II. Membership of MBL Society

Membership is open to scientists with a history at or demonstrated interest in the MBL. This includes resident and staff scientists, Whitman Center scientists, MBL and Early Career Fellows, course faculty, postdoctoral researchers, graduate students, and emeritus scientists. Membership is also open to individuals who have served the Laboratory in some significant capacity.

Enrollment

- Individuals seeking membership may be nominated for consideration by Society members or by self-nomination.
Application includes a completed application form, curriculum vitae, and two (2) endorsements by Society Members.
- Science and Community Council members review applications for approval at their meetings.

Terms

Members in good standing shall serve until their death or resignation. A member may be reviewed at the request of any other member and removed by Science and Community Councils, if grounds are found for such removal, by the affirmative vote of the majority of both members of both Councils.

III. Dues of the MBL Society. [see separate document on Dues]

It has been proposed to eliminate dues for membership in the MBL Society and this has been a major topic of discussion over the development of the MBL Society proposals.

The two options are: 1. eliminating dues, thus eliminating barriers to membership and increasing representations of the diversity of the MBL community; or 2. requiring dues, as is the current practice.

To remain a member in good standing, under:

Option 1 (eliminating dues) - members must opt-in yearly via an annual Society membership email, or

Option 2 (requiring dues) - members must pay annual dues.

The issues related to dues are discussed in the second document and will be voted on separately from the proposal.

IV. MBL Society Councils

In recognition of the value provided by an advisory body, the Society shall continue to assemble the MBL Society Science Council and, by the approval of this proposal, create the MBL Society Community Council as described below.

Science Council (as it currently exists)

To advise on science and education matters at the MBL.

- Advisory to MBL Director, Director of the Division of Research, and Director of Education.
- MBL Director and Directors of the Division of Research and Education will communicate with Science Council regularly on relevant matters.

Community Council (*newly proposed*)

To advise on general aspects of MBL community life connected to and essential for the MBL research and education missions, but not the research or education missions themselves. This includes, for example, housing, childcare, facilities, campus life, and Woods Hole/Falmouth community relations.

- Advisory to MBL Director and Chief Operating Officer (COO).
- MBL Director and COO will communicate with Community Council regularly on relevant matters.

Composition of Councils

- Both Society councils will be comprised of no more than thirteen (13) members, each with up to four (4) Resident scientists, three (3) Whitman Center scientists, three (3) Education faculty, one (1) Emeritus Society member, one (1) postdoc/graduate student, and one (1) at-large member.
- The Director and/or his or her designee and the Speaker of the MBL Society will serve as *ex officio*, non-voting members.

Members eligible for nomination to MBL Society Councils

Society members in good standing.

Council Elections

- MBL Society members shall elect members of Science and Community Councils annually.
- MBL Society members may be nominated for consideration as Council members by other Society members or by self-nomination.
- Both Nomination Committees will be composed of six (6) members appointed by respective Council Chairs in consultation with the Councils.
- Each Nomination Committee will prepare slates from the nominations for elections by MBL Society members

Council Terms

- Council member terms will begin on July 1, continue for three years, and end on June 30.
- Council members may serve two (2) consecutive three-year terms, and then must stand down for at least two (2) years before being eligible again.
- Chair and Vice Chair positions will be elected from and by members of respective Councils at the first Council meeting following the elections.

Council Meetings

- Each Council shall meet three times per year.
- The MBL Director and the MBL Society Speaker will be invited (*as ex officio and non-voting members*) to the MBL Society Science and Community Council meetings.

- Directors of the Division of Research and Division of Education, the Chief Operating Officer (COO), the Chief Advancement Officer (CAO), the Chair of the Whitman Steering Committee, other future MBL Committees, and relevant staff representatives will be invited to provide status reports at the Council meetings.
- All Council members vote during MBL Society Council meetings, but postdoc/student member(s) may be asked to step out if there is a sensitive item to be discussed, e.g., regarding an MBL faculty member or a faculty visitor who works/conducts research at the MBL. This will be at the discretion of the Director and Council Chair.

Communication

- The Speaker of the MBL Society will regularly receive advice and input from Society members and representatives of the broader MBL community on matters to be addressed at the meetings of the Councils.
- The Chairs of the Councils will prepare a written report addressing the issues raised by the Speaker and other matters following each Council meeting. The Speaker will share these reports with the Society and the MBL Administration.
- The Director will report to the Board of Trustees on the activities of the Science and Community Councils.
- A member of Senior Leadership at the University of Chicago will meet once per year with the Chairs of the Science and Community Councils and Speaker.

Advisory Committees

In consultation with the Director, the Councils may create and disband advisory committees, which shall consist of Society members and other persons as the Director shall appoint, to provide scientific and educational advice to the Director and the Science Council and/or the Community Council as relevant, and to otherwise serve the interests of the Laboratory. Formation is at the discretion of the Director.

V. Leadership of MBL Society

Duties of the Speaker of the MBL Society

- The Speaker of the MBL Society serves as a facilitator of communication between the Society at large, the Science and Community Councils, and the MBL Director.
- The Speaker shall sit *ex officio* and non-voting on the MBL Society Science Council and Community Council and ensure communication between Society Councils and the Society.
- The Speaker will regularly receive advice and input from Society members and representatives of the broader MBL community to address at the meetings of the Councils.

- The Speaker will deliver a report of activity from the Society Councils to the Society, as prepared by the Chair of each respective Council, following each Council meeting.
- The Speaker may call for votes by Society members on proposals to the Society.
- The Speaker shall preside over the Annual Meeting of the MBL Society.

Members eligible for nomination as Speaker

Society members in good standing except for postdoctoral fellows and graduate students.

Election of the Speaker

- The Speaker shall be elected by MBL Society members
- MBL Society members may be nominated for consideration as Speaker by other members or by self-nomination
- The current Speaker and Chairs and Vice Chairs of the two Society Councils will prepare a slate from the nominations for Speaker in consultation with the MBL Director to be voted on by MBL Society members.

Speaker Term

- The Speaker will be appointed for a term not to exceed four (4) years.
- The incoming Speaker (Speaker-Elect) will be elected at the beginning of the fourth year of the current Speaker's tenure to provide overlap, serving one year as Speaker-Elect and four years as Speaker.
- Should the Speaker resign from the position before the end of four years, a new Speaker will be elected.

Annual Meeting Duties

- Preside over the meeting.
- Prepare and present a report on behalf of the Society.
- Request reports and presentations from:
 - Science Council Chair
 - Community Council Chair
 - Director
 - Director of the Division of Research (optional)
 - Director of Education (optional)
 - Chief Operating Officer (optional)
 - Chief Advancement Officer (optional)
- Provide a written summary of the main topics covered during the Annual Meeting to members of the MBL Society and MBL Administration following the meeting.

VI. Membership Benefits

- Join a thriving, active, and life-long network of fellow MBL scientists and affiliates.
- Eligible to serve in advisory role to the Director on the MBL Society Councils.

- Eligible for nomination and election to the MBL Society Science Council and the MBL Society Community Council.
- Eligible for nomination of and election as Speaker of the MBL Society.
- Regular communication from the Science Council and Community Council Chairs following Council meetings
- Invitation to the MBL Society Annual Meeting and reception.
- Invitation to select MBL events.
- Year-round access to the MBL Lillie Library on weekdays, 9am – 5pm, access to online journals while in the library, and ability to check out books. Eligibility to apply for extended hours across seven days per week, 7am – 11pm.
- Online subscription to the *Biological Bulletin*; a hex-annually produced, peer reviewed, scientific journal covering the field of biology established in 1897.
- Discount (10%) at the MBL Gift Shop.

PROPOSAL



5 August 2019

MBL Society Proposal

III. Dues of the MBL Society

It has been proposed to eliminate dues requirement for membership in the MBL Society and this has been a major topic of discussion over the development of the MBL Society proposal.

The recommendation is no membership dues under this new model. This was made with the primary aim of eliminating barriers to membership in the Society, and secondly to encourage tax-deductible donations, thus providing flexible funds supporting the MBL. Membership nominations and approval will be as described in the proposal for both models – with or without dues.

Growing membership and expanding the Society to reflect the broad diversity of the MBL community ranging from students to Emeritus members will reinvigorate the sharing of ideas and solutions, mesh fresh perspectives with institutional knowledge, increase external recognition of the MBL both locally and worldwide, and create a robust network of ambassadors of the MBL who work to forge new connections that help sustain and increase both public and private support for the laboratory.

Current dues cover only a portion of the costs of activities of the MBL Society. The expenses of the MBL Society generally exceed the income from dues by a significant margin with costs for the annual meeting, the meetings of the Science Council and the newly envisioned Community Council, and administrative costs associated with mailings, communications, and collection of dues. MBL underwrites these administrative expenses by providing administrative support to the MBL Society, which lacks its own staff or mechanism for collection and administration of dues.

In lieu of dues, Society members are encouraged to donate to the MBL Annual Fund (suggested amounts below). Such donations to the Annual Fund are tax-deductible and will support all activities of the MBL, including those of the MBL Society.

The two options regarding dues are:

Proposed – No dues charged for membership

Annual donations to the MBL Annual Fund are encouraged and are tax-deductible to the Society member.

To remain a Society member in good standing, members must opt-in yearly via annual MBL Society email sent to members.

Minimum suggested level of donation:

Regular Investigators	\$100
Beginning Investigators	\$ 50
Postdoctoral Researchers and Graduate Students	\$ 25
Emeritus Members	\$100

Current Practice - Dues are required for membership

To remain a Society member in good standing, members must pay annual dues.

Dues:

Regular Investigators	\$100
Beginning Investigators	\$ 50
Postdoctoral Researchers and Graduate Students	\$ 25
Emeritus Members	\$ 0

NOTE: The MBL Society voted, and it was accepted by majority vote, to eliminate membership dues. In lieu of dues, members are encouraged to make annual donations to the MBL Annual Fund.