

BSG: A Creation Biology Study Group

By-Laws

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- I. Principles and Values
 - A. We begin our research with a belief in the Creator, from which we seek to understand creation and the Creator, to the Glory of the Creator.
 - B. The Creator and Designer of life desires to be known by His creation (Ps. 19, John 1, Rom. 1). That desire is manifested in His revelations to human beings, including creation itself. Correct interpretation of creation depends on recognition of life as a revelation of God.
 - C. Biology is a valuable activity and vocation for Christians.
 1. As a discipline that studies the creation, biology is a means of coming to know the Creator.
 2. As a discipline that interprets the creation, biology is a means of worshiping the Creator.
 - D. Community is an important component of all Christian activity.
 1. Community provides an environment of encouragement.
 2. Community provides opportunities for personal and collective growth.
 3. Community promotes agreement and unity.
- II. Mission. The mission of the BSG is to develop and nurture a community of dedicated researchers committed to understanding the life sciences from a young-age creationist perspective through meetings and publications.
- III. Doctrinal Statement. The BSG has been organized by Christians and shall be directed and led by Christians. In particular, the Executive Council of the BSG affirms by signature the following doctrinal points:
 - A. God exists in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.
 - B. God is eternal, omniscient, omnipotent, omnipresent, perfect in mercy, love, and righteousness.
 - C. God the Son, Jesus Christ, was incarnated as a human, born of the Virgin Mary, lived a sinless life, died on the cross in payment for our sins, was buried, rose again the third day, was received into heaven, and will return to reclaim believers in Christ.
 - D. Salvation is available to all who will accept by faith the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Those who accept Christ's substitutionary death by faith will live forever

with God in heaven; those who reject Christ will experience everlasting punishment.

- E. The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The Bible is verbally inerrant in its original autographs and absolutely authoritative in all areas on which it speaks.
- F. God created everything in six days and rested on the seventh. According to biblical chronology, Creation occurred less than ten thousand years ago.
- G. The original creation was perfect, lacking predation, disease, and biblical death. After Adam and Eve sinned, moral and natural evil entered creation.
- H. The Flood of Genesis 6-9 was an historical event, at least global in scope, sent to punish the sin of mankind.
- I. The diversity of human language was miraculously introduced at the Tower of Babel.

IV. Goals

- A. To motivate and encourage researchers and specialists interested in creation biology.
- B. To promote Christian excellence, especially as it pertains to the pursuit of advanced training, the practice of biological research and education, and the publication of research results.
- C. To develop and communicate a unified and compelling scientific interpretation of life based on Divine Creation.

V. Functions

- A. Conferences. Personal fellowship is essential to establishing community and therefore directly relevant to the values of the BSG. To promote personal fellowship, the BSG shall organize and sponsor annual conferences. To make attendance easiest for all members, the annual conference should be scheduled in the summer when college professors can attend, and the location of the conference should be varied from year to year. These conferences shall minimally consist of the following:
 - 1. Invited plenary sessions presenting research results of interest to the creation biology model. These sessions shall conform to a central theme.
 - 2. Short research talks selected from submitted abstracts.
 - 3. Research posters selected from submitted abstracts.
 - 4. The BSG business meeting.
- B. Publications. The BSG shall produce publications to promote the goals of the BSG.
 - 1. Informal. The BSG shall regularly publish an informal and informational publication in the style of a newsletter and distribute it to all its members. This newsletter will specifically contribute to the BSG's purpose to motivate and encourage researchers.
 - 2. Formal. The BSG shall also publish a formal, peer-reviewed publication that presents the results of original research in creation biology and related subjects.

VI. Organization

- A. Membership. Conditional only on receipt of dues at a rate set by the Executive Council, membership in the BSG shall be open to any interested party, and shall not be limited by agreement to the BSG's doctrinal statement. The membership shall be organized according to the following categories:
1. Voting members: Voting members shall have an earned graduate degree (masters or doctorate) in a relevant discipline. Voting members will receive BSG publications, may vote at the business meeting, and may hold office on the Executive Council pending agreement by signature to the doctrinal statement.
 - a. Relevant disciplines include biology in all its forms (e.g. molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, mycology, limnology, zoology, botany, ecology, biogeography, paleontology, etc.) and pertinent support disciplines (e.g. statistics, mathematics, theology, biblical studies, etc.).
 - b. The BSG recognizes that important contributions can be made by those without graduate degrees or without graduate degrees in relevant disciplines. A person that does not meet the requirements for voting membership may petition the Executive Council to become a voting member. Such petition must include a curriculum vita, a statement explaining the candidate's contribution to creation biology, and a written endorsement by a voting member of the BSG. The Executive Council shall assess petitions and present suitable candidates at the business meeting. Upon approval by vote of the voting members at the business meeting, the candidate shall thereafter be eligible for voting membership with all its attendant privileges.
 - c. A voting member becomes inactive if dues are in arrears by at least six months or if the business meeting has not been attended for five consecutive years. An inactive member cannot vote or hold office.
 2. Student Members: The Executive Council will set a discount rate on membership dues for high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. Upon payment of such dues, student members will receive all BSG publications but will not be eligible to vote at the business meeting or to hold office.
 3. Associate Members: Upon payment of dues set by the Executive Council, Associates shall receive BSG publications and may participate in the annual conference but shall be ineligible to vote at the business meeting or to hold office.
 4. Institutional Associates: Institutional Associates shall contribute no less than \$1000 annually to the operating budget of the BSG or as in kind donations to the operation of the annual conference. Institutional Associates shall receive BSG publications and shall be listed and acknowledged in BSG publications and conferences, pending the institution's approval of such acknowledgement.
 5. Institutional Subscribers: Upon payment of dues set by the Executive

Council, Institutional Subscribers shall receive BSG publications.

- B. Executive Council. The BSG shall be governed and guided by an Executive Council of eight members that shall be elected by the voting members at the business meeting. All Council members will have voting privileges in Council business. The Executive Council will do business as less than eight only until open positions are filled at the next business meeting. All elected officers of the Council shall be voting members and shall be required to affirm by their signature the BSG doctrinal statement at each annual business meeting. The following officers shall be elected by the membership of the Executive Council, and no Council member may hold more than two offices:
1. President
 - a. Acts as official public representative of the BSG
 - b. Acts as moderator for the annual business meeting
 2. Treasurer
 - a. Maintains BSG bank account(s)
 - b. Oversees dispersal of BSG funds
 - c. Prepares annual financial report for submission at the business meeting
 - d. Prepares annual financial report to be submitted to the IRS
 3. Secretary
 - a. Maintains membership and mailing list(s)
 - b. Handles all incoming correspondence
 - c. Sends out call for business before the business meeting and receives written business items
 - d. Handles all outgoing BSG mailings
 - e. Takes minutes at business meeting and Executive Council meeting
 - f. Submits minutes for approval at the following meeting
 4. Executive Editor
 - a. Oversees all BSG publications
 - b. Coordinates peer review for the annual conference
 - c. Selects an appropriate editorial board to assist in editorial responsibilities
 - d. Supervises publication and distribution of publications
 5. Conference Chair
 - a. Supervises organization and scheduling of the annual conference
 - b. Works with local conference coordinator to prepare facilities
 - c. Works with Executive Editor and President to create theme and content
 6. Council members not holding office are Councillors
 - a. Councillors shall primarily participate by assisting the elected officers, to ensure continuity of the BSG in case of emergency (death, debilitating illness, etc.) that might prevent an elected officer from carrying out his duty.
 - b. Councillors may perform miscellaneous duties determined by the Council

VII. Business Procedures

- A. BSG business shall be conducted in person at the business meeting held at the annual conference or at an otherwise designated venue. Because the BSG meets only annually, special procedures must be followed to ensure that the meeting is conducted “decently and in order.” Any voting or student member may introduce new business to be discussed at the meeting, but all such business must be submitted in writing prior to the meeting. There will be no accommodation for introducing new business at the meeting itself. To facilitate this plan, the Secretary shall issue a “Call for Business” to the voting and student members at least ninety days prior to the meeting. The Call for Business shall include the requirement that all items to be considered for the business meeting agenda must be received by the Secretary at least two weeks before the start of the conference. When the Secretary receives a proposed item of business, he must share that item with the Executive Council. All items of business must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council in order to go before the BSG for vote. The member who submitted the business item will be notified by the Secretary of the outcome of the Executive Council’s vote. During the business meeting, items of business will be presented for discussion by the members of the BSG and for vote by the voting members. A quorum is defined as at least 10% of the active voting members at the time of the annual meeting. Normal items of business must receive a simple majority vote to pass (exceptions are noted below).
- B. Elections. In addition to the business of the BSG, election of necessary Executive Council members shall also take place at the annual meeting. There shall be no term limits for any Council member. At each annual meeting, however, an election may be held for any office if a nomination is made. As with business items, all nominations for office must be called for in the “Call for Business” and received by the Secretary at least two weeks prior to the conference. Nominees must accept their nominations before the business meeting. All nominees must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council. The member who submitted the nomination will be notified by the Secretary of the outcome of the Executive Council’s vote and/or the acceptance of the nomination by the nominee. All nominees’ qualifications shall be presented to the membership at the business meeting prior to the vote, but a nominee need not be present to win. Council positions for which no nominees are received prior to the business meeting will be subjected to automatic renewal of the person presently holding the office. If new council members are elected, the Executive Council shall hold a brief meeting, if necessary, to elect new officers.
- C. Business meeting. The Secretary shall create the business meeting agenda, and the President shall moderate the meeting. Attendance of voting members shall be taken. The meeting shall be conducted in accordance with Robert’s rules of order. The Conference Chair shall confer with the Secretary and President to schedule an appropriate amount of time at the annual conference for the business meeting, not less than one hour.
- D. Amending the By-Laws. Suggestions for modification of the By-Laws will be considered by the Executive Council from any member of the BSG at any time. If a majority of the Council deems the modification necessary, the Council will draft

the amendment by agreement of 75% of its members. The amendment will then be presented for discussion and vote at the business meeting. Amendments must be approved by 67% of the voting members at the meeting.