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SASES 

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The Students of Agronomy, Soils, and Environmental Sciences (SASES) is the undergraduate student program of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and Soil Science Society of America (SSSA). It is composed of membership of chapters and their student members at various colleges and universities that provide a curriculum in agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental sciences.

SASES benefits students by:

- Providing national unity among members and chapters
- Gaining exposure to agronomy, crop, soil, and environmental sciences
- Interacting with professionals and activities of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA
- Promoting careers in agronomy, crops, soils, and environmental sciences
- Encouraging professionalism, cooperation, and an exchange of ideas among students
- Developing leadership skills and training

Membership

Active chapters pay membership dues to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA national office and these dues enable students to become undergraduate student members of ASA, CSSA, and/or SSSA. Chapter dues are \$10.00 per student per calendar year and are due by December 31.

Chapter Membership

1. Chapters are composed of undergraduate students who are actively interested in agronomy, crop, soil and environmental sciences and closely related areas and are enrolled in these curriculums.
2. It is recommended that chapters hold at least semi-monthly meetings during the school year.
3. The chapter shall identify a liaison or contact person to the National Executive Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA national office.
4. Elections, term of office, and other qualifications of active membership will be left to the discretion of the chapter.
5. An active member shall be entitled to all privileges of the local chapter.
6. Each chapter shall have at least one faculty advisor that is a member of ASA, CSSA or SSSA.
7. Postgraduates who have qualified for national office and national contests while in the course of the undergraduate studies can continue their chapter membership for the sole purpose of discharging their duties and participating in the national contests except when in conflict with national contest rules.
8. Each active chapter will be presented by two delegates at the national meeting for the purpose of voting for executive committee officers and to transact business. A chapter represented by one delegate will have their vote count as two votes.
9. Delegates must be present at all business meeting to vote. If they leave the national meeting early, a replacement must be identified and the student president must be notified.

How to Become an Affiliated Chapter

1. Organizations wishing to affiliate with SASES as a student chapter will submit a petition to the National Advisor of SASES via the national office. The petition can be obtained by contacting the ASA, CSSA, and SSSA national office in Madison, Wisconsin.
2. A petition received during the year will be reviewed by the SASES Executive Committee and will be sent to SASES chapters 30 days before the start of the next annual meeting.
3. The petition will be approved or denied by vote of the student delegates at the last business meeting of the annual meeting
4. A chapter will immediately become an active member of SASES upon receiving a majority vote of the student delegates at the annual meeting.
5. The new chapter will begin paying dues starting with the next calendar year.

How to Reinstate an Inactive Chapter

An inactive chapter may be reinstated as follows:

1. Chapters that have been inactive or have not paid dues for less than five years pay the normal rate of dues for the current year.
2. Chapters that have been inactive or have not paid dues for more than five years will need to petition as a new chapter.

Programs and Activities

Contests

Individual members, teams, and clubs compete for cash prizes, certificates, complimentary society membership, or journal subscriptions. Contests are supported by the Societies and private organizations:

Club Poster Presentation Contest—showcases undergraduate work through chapter activities

Collegiate Crops Judging Contest—provides students with experience in identifying crops

Darrel S. Metcalfe Student Manuscript Contest—provides students with experience in researching, organizing and writing papers for publication

Research Symposium Contest—allows students to conduct research and present findings at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meetings.

Soil Judging Contest—provides students with experience in identifying soils

Speech Contest—provides opportunities for students to improve their public speaking abilities

Visual Presentation Contest—allows students to present an idea visually using electronic presentations

National Student Recognition Program

Outstanding seniors in four- and two-year institutions are recognized by their departments. Students are recognized in the CSA News and receive a plaque.

Scholarships

Hank Beachell Future Leader Scholarship—offered to a student participating in activities that enhance their university studies, \$3500

J. Fielding Reed Scholarship—offered to a senior pursuing a career in soil or plant sciences, \$1000

Cross-Cultural Experience Program—offered to a student participating in a study-abroad program, \$2500

Frank D. Keim Graduate Fellowship—offered to a student recipient of the National Student Recognition Program and is pursuing a graduate degree, \$2500

Internships

Science Policy Internship—provides students with hands-on learning experience in the science policy arena and works with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Director of Science Policy in Washington, DC, \$1000 per month stipend and up to \$500 per month for living expenses

Annual Meeting Internship—students have the opportunity to earn money and help the Societies' staff with annual meeting functions, \$50 for four hours, or \$100 for eight hours of service

National Meetings

SASES holds their annual meeting in conjunction with the international annual meetings of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. The meeting provides students with an opportunity to participate in professional development programs and meet with professionals in ASA, CSSA, and SSSA. Highlights include workshops, tours, quiz bowl, contest judging, job and graduate school interviews, and social events. Three business meetings are held for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports, and conducting other business.

Regional Meetings

Weekend regional meetings are held at a university campus in spring. The local SASES chapter is responsible for planning and coordinating the event that includes tours, speakers and social events. The North Central Region and Southern Region currently host regional meetings.

National SASES Executive Committee

The SASES five-member Executive Committee is elected each year during the annual meetings. The committee and national advisor plans and coordinates program activities for the annual meeting, makes recommendations for contests and promotes SASES programs and activities. The Executive Committee consists of a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary.

The SASES Executive Committee acts on behalf of SASES chapters and their members and works in cooperation with ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.

SASES Executive Committee Responsibilities

SASES President

1. Presides at the national convention and oversees the duties of the Executive Committee.
2. Works with the Executive Committee to appoint standing committees and any necessary temporary committees.
3. Submits to the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters the names, addresses, telephone numbers and e-mails of all current SASES officers and committee chairs.
4. Works with the National Student Advisory Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters Staff in planning the program and other details for the national convention.
5. Welcomes new and reactivated clubs into the SASES and follows up any requests for information from potential clubs.
6. Coordinates four or more teleconferences among the Executive Committee, SASES Faculty Advisors, and ASA-CSSA-SSSA staff.
7. Corresponds regularly with officers to coordinate activities and provide leadership for the various activities of SASES.
8. Corresponds regularly with ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters to keep staff informed of the various activities of SASES.

SASES Vice President

1. Works with the committee chairs to coordinate activities of all standing committees appointed by the Executive Committee.
2. Serves as program chair at the national convention
3. Serves on the National Student Advisory Committee, and works with the National Officers, committee chairs, and local chapters to coordinate annual meeting plans.
4. Corresponds regularly with all appointed committees and committee chairs to keep updated on activities.

SASES Corresponding Secretary

1. Publishes monthly electronic *News Flashes*
2. Handles correspondence between SASES officers and committee chairpersons.
3. Handles correspondence between the SASES and local chapters including letters of welcome to new chapters.
4. Obtains reports of committee activities, news articles from to be published in the Newsletter of the SASES.

SASES Treasurer

1. Contacts chapters in January about submitting membership dues.
2. Sends follow-up notices to chapters about submitting membership dues.
3. Contacts inactive chapters about reinstating their SASES chapter affiliation.
4. Gives a financial report at the annual meetings.

SASES Recording Secretary

1. Records minutes of the national convention.
2. Prepares and distributes corrected minutes of the SASES national convention approximately one month after the convention to all active chapters, national officers, national faculty advisors, and the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters Staff.
3. Obtains an accurate listing of convention delegates.
4. Records and prepares minutes of the SASES Executive Committee telephone conferences and distributes a copy of them to national officers, national advisors, national committee chair, and the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Headquarters Staff.

How to Get Elected as a SASES Executive Officer

Students wishing to be elected as president, vice president, treasurer, corresponding secretary and recording secretary are asked to complete an officer profile before the national convention. Officer profiles will be circulated by the national office with a specific due date.

All students wishing to be elected as a student officer or committee chair must be present and submit their names at the first business meeting of the annual meetings.

Election Process

1. Both voting and nonvoting delegates are eligible for national office, providing they will attend the next national convention. Officers cannot succeed themselves in the same office.
2. Nominations shall be made from the floor. Election of officers shall occur by a secret ballot of appointed delegates. A majority of the valid ballots cast shall be necessary to elect each officer. In the event a majority is not achieved on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be involved in a runoff until a clear majority is attained.
3. The voting delegates at the national convention shall have the power to elect all officers.
4. Candidates running for executive committee positions will be asked to give a two minute presentation during the last business meeting. Up to two (2) people can give supporting speeches on the candidate's behalf for no more than one (1) minute.
5. Second candidate speeches are limited to one (1) minute. Second speeches are given by the top two candidates for an office (via a runoff). No supporting speeches can be given.
6. Candidates have the opportunity to slide down to one other office if they are not elected. Candidates who slide as a nominee to another office can speak for two (2) minutes. No supporting speeches can be given.

Term of Office

1. The national officers and committee chairs shall serve for approximately one year with their terms of office ending at the close of the last business session of the next annual meetings.
2. If the president cannot serve or resigns for any reason, the vice president shall assume the office for the remainder of the term. If any other officer cannot serve or resigns for any reason during their term, the Executive Committee in consultation with the National Student Advisory Committee shall appoint a successor either from the nominees at the previous election or an individual selected from the resigning officer's local chapter.

Committees

These committees are responsible for specific meeting functions and contests. Students interested in serving are required to complete a form at the annual meetings indicating their committee preference. Position descriptions will be circulated at the annual meetings during the first business meeting. Committee appointments are made by the outgoing and incoming executive student officers and advisors at the annual meetings.

One or more students may be appointed to serve on a committee depending on the responsibilities. Students are appointed as chair or co-chairs.

Responsibilities

- Cooperates and works with the corresponding ASA-CSSA-SSSA Committee and ASA-CSSA-SSSA national office.
- Fulfills all duties as stated in the position description.
- Promotes and help implement contests and activities.
- Presides over contest sessions and activities if required at the next annual meetings.
- Presents a report of activities including recommendations to the delegates at the next annual meetings.
- Maintains a file of duties, activities, and correspondence which can be passed on to appointees at the next annual meetings.

Committee Chairs

Committee descriptions can be viewed at:

agronomy.org/students • crops.org/students • soils.org/students

Positions include Membership, Manuscript Contest, Collegiate Crops Judging Contest, Soils Judging Contest, Speech Contest, Student Activities, Visual Presentation Contest, Research Symposium Contest, Placement, Parliamentarian-Historian, Quiz Bowl, and Club Poster Presentation Contest.

National Student Advisory Committee

The National Student Advisory Committee works closely with SASES and is made up of one representative from each society, current SASES vice president, past SASES student officer, graduate student, and early career professional.

The society representatives are appointed by the Executive Committees of ASA, CSSA, and SSSA for a three year term. The society representative that is serving their final and third year will be appointed as chair of the committee and serves as the SASES national advisor. The remaining committee members will be appointed for up to three years, except for the SASES vice president who will serve for one year.

The committee functions to:

1. encourage cooperation between SASES and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA
2. provide guidance and support to SASES, national officers and committee chairs
3. evaluate programs and activities of SASES and make appropriate recommendations to SASES and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA
4. serve as the liaison between SASES and ASA, CSSA, and SSSA.
5. cooperate with the ASA-CSSA-SSSA committees responsible for student contests and National Student Recognition Program of the ASA-CSSA-SSSA.

The committee meets via teleconference, student regional and annual meetings as needed.

HISTORY OF THE SASES

(revised 2003)

At the 1921 meeting of the American Society of Agronomy (ASA), the president was authorized to appoint a committee to consider the advisability of promoting a national organization for agronomy students. On March 8, 1922, a questionnaire was sent to the agronomy departments of 24 institutions. On April 14, the committee met at Kansas City to examine the questionnaire.

At the 1922 annual meeting, their report was accepted as a progress report, and a new committee was appointed.

At the fall meeting of the Society in 1932, a temporary organization was approved and accepted as a subsidiary organization of the American Society of Agronomy. By 1941, charters in the Student Activities Section had been granted to 23 institutions.

During World War II from 1942 to 1946, the organization became inactive. In 1947, steps were taken to revive the agronomy clubs. The committee of the ASA drew student names from a hat to set up a slate of national officers. By 1953, there were 39 chapters. In 1980, there were 73 active chapters.

Before 1950, the Student Activities Section held its annual meetings in Chicago at the International Livestock and Grain Show. Since 1950, annual meetings have been held with the parent society.

At the SAS convention in 1950, the name of the student organization was changed from the Student Activities Section to the Student Activities Subdivision of the Resident Education Division.

In 2003, the organization name was changed to the Students of Agronomy, Soils and Environmental Sciences, serving undergraduate students in agronomy, crop soil and environmental sciences. It is now affiliated with the American Society of Agronomy, Crop Science Society of America and Soil Science Society of America. The organization continues to meet during the ASA-CSSA-SSSA annual meetings and has expanded to include annual regional meetings.

SASES

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