

2026 ASCE Central Ohio Section Constitution and By-Laws Update

Narrative Summary of Update

The current ASCE Central Ohio Section Constitution and By-Laws were originally enacted in 1961 and have been updated 5 times in the years since, with the most recent update coming in 2004. During a review of these documents, the Board noted that there were some items that were mandatory parts of the Constitution and By-Laws that were no longer being consistently followed, in large part due to the evolving nature of participation in the Society. Section President Nicholas Mill commissioned a Constitution and By-Laws Update Committee to review the existing documents and propose updates to them. The updated documents will be uploaded alongside the current documents and an electronic vote will be held Section-wide to determine if the new documents will be adopted.

The proposed Constitution and By-Laws have been updated to follow the format recommended by ASCE National, consolidate required committees, explicitly allow Board members to remain in certain roles for multiple years, modernize operations with electronic voting and virtual meetings, and align governance processes with ASCE national standards. The updated documents simplify amendment procedures for the By-Laws, introduce a formal Conflict of Interest policy, and improve flexibility for dues setting. Awards and certain operational details previously spelled out in the governing documents will now be handled separately through the Board.

Major Themes of the Changes

- **Modernization:** Embraces electronic ballots, virtual meetings, and flexible governance.
- **Governance Strengthening:** Adds formal Conflict of Interest policies and clarifies Board roles.
- **Streamlining and Flexibility:** Fewer required meetings and standing committees, simpler amendment processes.
- **Alignment with National Standards:** Closely mirrors ASCE national template documents, ensuring long-term consistency.

Summary of Changes Between 2004 and 2026 Constitution and By-Laws for ASCE Central Ohio Section

Functional Changes

#	Topic	2004 Version	2026 Version	Functional Change
1	Geographic Area	Columbus “and surrounding areas”	Central and Southeast Ohio Counties, mirroring National	Defined service area
2	Dues Setting	\$16 + max \$2/year increase	Board sets dues by 2/3 vote	Flexible dues authority
3	Past President Voting	Full Board Member	Only votes to break ties	Past President voting power limited
4	Officer Terms	1 year for all	1 year, with term limits (Treasurer max 5 years, Secretary max 2 years)	Introduced term limits
5	Elections	Letter ballots	Electronic ballots	Electronic voting explicitly allowed
6	Meetings	Annual + at least 2 other meetings	Only Annual Meeting required	Fewer required meetings
7	Committees	10+ named committees	Only 3 named committees (Nominating, Program, Technical); others optional	Committees consolidated
8	Awards	OSU, OU student awards, and member awards defined	Awards language eliminated	Awards eliminated from governing document
9	Conflict of Interest	Not addressed	Formal Conflict of Interest policy added	New ethical standard
10	Meeting Participation	In-person only	Allows teleconferencing	Modernized meeting methods
11	Amendment Procedures	Full member letter ballot for By-Laws changes	Board can amend By-Laws after Society approval and member notice	Simplified amendment process
