

Call for Nominations to the ISE Board (2016-2018/20)

Every two years, members of the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) are invited to nominate candidates for the Board of the ISE. Members may nominate themselves or another member, as long as that person accepts the nomination in writing. Nominations will be open for the 2016-2018 or 2016-2020 term (depending on the position) as of 1 April 2016 and will close on 1 July 2016.

Ideally, the ISE Board is comprised of individuals who span a wide age range, are from a diversity of backgrounds, and have varied personal and professional experiences. Board members need to be genuinely interested in the well-being of the ISE community, have a demonstrated commitment and responsibility in their personal and/or professional lives commensurate with being a Board member of an organization with charitable tax status, embrace a consensus approach to decision-making, and make themselves available for regular communication by telephone or internet with other Board members and ISE staff (estimated 2-8 hours per month, depending on position). Specialized skills in the areas of leadership, communications, fundraising and financial management are an asset. We encourage nominations from all parts of the world and from women and men associated with ethnobiology and biocultural diversity in diverse ways.

All members of the Board commit, as volunteers and without remuneration, to a strong consultative role in shaping the direction and continued success of the ISE in its commitment to achieving a greater understanding of the complex relationships that exist within and between human societies and their environments and its support of Indigenous, local and traditional communities.

Open positions

In 2016, we invite nominations for (i) President-elect (vice president; a 2-year term followed by a 2-year term as President); (ii) Treasurer (a 4-year term); (iii) 6 Regional Representatives, one from each ISE region (Africa, Central and South America and the Caribbean, North America, Asia, Europe, and Oceania and Pacific Islands), and (iv) two student representative(s). Note that while nominations are open for the Student Representative positions, they are appointed by the outgoing Board and not open to vote by membership.

Qualifications

To qualify for nomination, all candidates must be [members in good standing](#). For the positions of President-elect and Treasurer, candidates must have attended either two prior ISE congresses or one prior congress and have demonstrated recent involvement with the Society¹; candidates for Regional Representatives and Student Representatives must have attended one prior ISE Congress.

¹ Please note that the current requirement for being an Executive Board member is to have attended at least two previous congresses (ISE Constitution Article 9.2). However, the ISE Board is recommending an amendment to this Article to allow for a wider and more active pool of nominees for the Executive board positions.

Expectations of ISE Board Members

The Board maintains a collegial rapport with business carried out through respectful dialogue and where decisions are made by consensus when possible. While all Board members are copied on ISE business, and given the opportunity to participate and contribute where their interests lie, it is the **Executive Board** (President, President-elect, Secretary, and Treasurer) who are expected to work more closely with Staff and be available for consultation as needed on the daily operations of the Society. The Executive Board is also responsible for ensuring that Society business items be adequately addressed both prior to and during the congresses.

Regional Representatives are often best poised to take leading roles in networking and outreach, acting as liaisons between ethnobiological organizations and/or practitioners in their region and the ISE. The primary role of the **Student Representatives** is to keep the Board in touch with a student's perspective on topics under discussion, materials under development or issues being decided and to support and promote the development of emerging ethnobiologists.

Board meetings are convened on a quarterly basis; Executive Board members are expected to attend at least three of these meetings per year, while Regional Representatives, Student Representatives and ISE Program leaders are expected to participate in a minimum of two meetings per year. It is expected that any activities that individual Board Members engage in on behalf of the ISE will be reported on to both Staff and Board at regular intervals, either via email or during Board meetings.

Prospective candidates should familiarize themselves with the detailed [duties of each position](#) and assess whether or not they have the time and skills to carry them out. Incoming Board members are expected to learn about [ISE business and core initiatives](#) and to respect and build on the direction and decisions of Boards that came before them. In addition to their specific duties, Board members will have both the privilege and the commitment of guiding the ISE through an ongoing process of institutional self-assessment and development, and will need to be in regular contact with one another and the ISE staff.

Nominations

The nomination should include **approximately 300 words** outlining specifically how the candidate fulfills the requirements for the Board position, his/her intentions and vision for ISE development over the next term, and any other information that the voting membership should know about the candidate. A photograph and a short biography or *curriculum vitae* are not required but may be included as supporting materials if you wish. These materials will be vetted by the ISE Board and Council of Elders, and then published on the ISE website no later than 8 July 2016 so that members may familiarize themselves with the candidates; these materials will also be linked to the electronic ballot so that members may review them while voting.

Send email nominations to Jessica Miller (admin@ethnobiology.net).

Online voting process

Electronic voting will begin on 8 July 2016 and will remain open through 5 August 2016, the day before the 2nd General Assembly. The results will be announced during 2nd General Assembly and subsequently posted on the ISE website and member forum. A presentation from the winning congress bid will also be invited during this General Assembly.

As required by the Article 9.8.2 of the [ISE Constitution](#), if there are fewer than two nominees for a given Regional Representative position, we will seek additional qualified nominees from the floor of the General Assemblies. For these cases, a vote will be taken by ISE members present at the 2nd General Assembly and these decisions will stand. If there are unfilled positions following the 2nd General Assembly, appointments will be made by the incoming Board and members will be notified. Similarly, any motions raised from the floor of the General Assemblies will be decided by vote of the ISE members present. Note that this [process](#) was announced in August 2011.

We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Jessica

On behalf of the ISE Board