

The Geosciences Committee of the Academy

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Aims of the Committee

- Advise the Academy on formulation of policy at national, European and international levels
- Contribute to areas of strategic importance, especially research priorities, at national, European and international levels
- Address, in a proactive manner, issues of public concern relevant to its expertise
- Foster excellence in the Geosciences throughout the island of Ireland
- Promote co-operation with other subject areas and be represented on the Board of Science
- Sustain and exploit linkages with relevant international unions
- Promote and support education in the Geosciences

2. Membership of the Committee

The Committee will be comprised of:

- (1) eight members elected through the process described in paragraph (4)
- (2) one member each from ICCC, and the Academy's committees of Geography and Astronomy
- (3) up to two members nominated by the Council of the Academy; and
- (4) such other members, up to a maximum of four, as may be co-opted by the Committee

3. Term of Office

Membership of the Committee will be for a four-year term.

4. Nomination and Election of Members

The Committee shall, before its term of office expires, appoint an Electoral Sub-Committee which shall oversee the process of election of the succeeding Committee. The Electoral Sub-Committee shall consist of five persons; a majority of this sub-committee shall be members of the outgoing Committee.

An election to appoint eight members of the Committee shall be held before the start of each term. Where a vacancy occurs at any other time it shall be filled by co-option.

The Electoral Sub-Committee shall initiate the election process by inviting nominations. All persons who are entered on the electoral register are eligible to nominate or be nominated for membership of the committee, provided that each nominee is willing to serve and is duly proposed and seconded. Nominations shall be submitted to the Electoral Sub-Committee which, having considered the list of nominees, may decide to place additional persons on it, provided each is willing to serve.

The nomination of candidates for membership, whether intended for appointment by election or co-option, shall be undertaken with the aim of ensuring broad representation on the Committee. In doing so, account should be taken of gender, regional, thematic, organisational and North-South balances as well as continuity between terms of office. An electoral register shall be developed before the first election and updated six months in advance of each subsequent election. The electoral register shall consist of persons who have an interest in areas covered by the Committee (including geology, meteorology, geophysics, geodesy, hydrogeology, volcanology, seismology,...), have an email address and make a valid reply to the invitation to register. An invitation to register shall be sent to all those listed in Footnote ^(a), requesting that it be brought to the attention of interested persons. Applications to register will be received and registered through the website of the Academy.

The electoral process shall be managed electronically. The webpage with the list of candidates shall be sent to each voter on the electoral roll. Voters shall be entitled to vote for up to eight persons and each vote will be of equal weighting. Voters shall have a period of not less than two weeks to cast their votes. It shall be the responsibility of voters to ensure their votes are received by the Academy no later than the closing date of the election.

The voting procedure shall be managed by the Electoral Sub-Committee with the assistance of an administrative officer of the Academy who shall act as Returning Officer. The eight candidates with the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected. Should two or more candidates tie for the final place or places, then it/they shall be filled by drawing lots. The administrative officer of the Academy shall inform all persons on the electoral roll of the outcome and shall convene the first meeting of the new Committee.

When the election has taken place and the result been announced by the Academy, the outgoing Electoral Sub-Committee may recommend the co-option of further persons to the Committee up to a maximum of four. Apart from this option to recommend co-options, the outgoing Electoral Sub-Committee has no function after the announcement of the election result.

5. Officers of the Committee

The Committee will be chaired by an Academy Officer for its first meeting as a newly constituted Committee. The Chairperson and Secretary shall be elected at the first meeting. A Vice-Chair may be elected.

Chairpersons and Secretaries will serve until the end of the term in which they are elected. Chairpersons and Secretaries may not succeed themselves in office.

6. Meetings of the Committee

Meetings will be held on a need-to-meet basis and no less than twice per year. Meetings will normally take place in Academy House, but may be held elsewhere.