



## **2025-26 WSSA Committee Report January 2026**

**Committee Name and Code:** Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee (I5)

**Committee Chair:** John Lindquist (2023, 2026)

**Committee Members** (includes sub-committee members): Peter Porpiglia (NE/W; 2026), Luis Avila (S; 2026), Bill Curran (W; 2026), Mark Bernards (NC; past chair; 2026).

**Board of Directors Liaison:** Chair

**Committee members rotating off and recommended replacements:** The entire committee was appointed or re-appointed in 2023, which means the entire committee will turn over in 2026. This is less than ideal, given that some institutional memory is important on the committee. Traditionally, the past chair remains on the committee.

### **Summary of past year's activities including:**

- Committee goals
  - Keep up with changes to MOP as recommended by members of the BOD or any other member of the WSSA
  
- Committee accomplishments
  - Impact of committee activities/accomplishments on membership, publications, policy, education, other, etc. All accomplishments involve changes to the MOP throughout 2025, including:
  - Early in the year, a number of changes were made based on recommendations by committees and members of the board at the annual meeting in February. Most of those were changes to language within committee responsibilities.
  - A new committee was formed, ultimately titled Sensing, Automation, and Precision Technologies Committee (I9).
  - In summer and into the fall, Dawn Refsell and others on the board undertook a major overhaul of the MOP. Committees were re-classified and re-arranged.

Significant modifications were made to the responsibilities of the President and Executive Director of Science Policy. Substantial sections of the MOP were modified to improve clarity and formatting consistency. Language of several committees were updated based on those committee recommendations.

- Appendices B and C were added to the MOP.

- **WSSA funds requested if any?**

It seems important that the chair of the Constitution and Operating Procedures Committee or their representative be physically present at the board meetings during the WSSA annual meeting.

- Current state of the committee's projects or activities? Ongoing
- Any new information posted on the WSSA website? Latest MOP was posted in November 2025.

**Summary of plans for next year** (changes in goals, key initiatives, plan of action, etc.): The entire committee is turning over, so new reps need to be identified and selected. Lindquist should remain as past chair. Ongoing MOP work.

**Recommendations for Board or Membership action** (funds or other requests):

- The board should direct the webmaster to make sure that there is only one copy of the MOP on the WSSA website. Otherwise we run into having two or more different copies of the MOP, depending on where on the website someone looks. Historically, the chair of this committee simply delivered approved changes to the MOP to the Executive Secretary, who makes sure the new version makes it onto the website.
- Since the chair of this committee functions as the de facto parliamentarian for the WSSA Board of Directors, they should be tasked with giving a presentation to summarize Robert's Rules of Order for operating a meeting to the BOD at the annual WSSA conference. Perhaps this responsibility should be codified in the MOP for this committee.
- It was agreed that the Publications Committee would work on modifying the MOP language to remove the publication awards from the awards committee language.