

# **Bylaws for the US Burning Plasma Organization**

As amended September 8, 2009

## **1. Directorate**

The USBPO Director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Associate Director of the OFES. The Director does not have a fixed term, but will be periodically reviewed by the OFES. The USBPO Council will be called upon to develop a slate of candidates to aid in the selection of the person to serve in this position.

The Deputy Director is chosen by the Director and OFES, with input from the Council, and serves at the pleasure of the USBPO Director. The Deputy Director nominally serves a three-year term and can be reappointed.

The USBPO Director and Deputy Director are expected to be accomplished leaders well versed in the science and technology of burning plasma research.

## **2. Research Committee**

Each Topical Group in the USBPO shall have a Leader and no more than two Deputy Leaders. The Leaders and Deputy Leaders of the Topical Groups are members of the Research Committee.

Normally these individuals shall not concurrently be members of the Council. They shall serve two-year terms, renewable once. After serving two full two-year terms as Topical Group Leader or Deputy Leader, a person is ineligible for two years to become the Leader or Deputy Leader of the same Topical Group.

The Director is responsible for appointing the Topical Group Leader and Deputy Leader(s) for each Topical Group, with the advice of the Council and in consultation with the OFES program manager for the USBPO. The candidates for these positions will be developed on the basis of nominations by the membership of the respective Topical Group, discussion with the Research Committee members, and community input as appropriate. If a Topical Group Leader or Deputy Leader resigns before the normal end of his or her term, the Director will appoint a replacement for the remainder of the term, following the same procedure as for regular appointments. The new Leader or Deputy Leader is eligible to serve a second, full term.

## **3. Council**

### ***Council Membership***

The Council has 12 regular members who shall serve staggered terms of three years each. Council members shall not serve consecutive terms.

Elections for Council members from the USBPO community shall be held annually to replace half of the members whose terms are ending. The remainder of the open Council seats shall be filled by appointment, as described below. At least one month prior to the election, a small nominating committee with members from both the Council and Research Committee, appointed by the Director and Council Chair, will solicit nominations for the Council from all USBPO members. This committee will put forward a slate of candidates, drawn from the regular USBPO membership, to the Council Chair and Vice-Chair, who will then work with the Director's staff to hold an election for the open Council seats. Voting is limited to the USBPO regular membership, and open seats are to be filled by those candidates who receive the most votes. In order to maintain institutional balance on the Council, no more than two Council members may be from the same home institution. In the event that the election results would otherwise violate this criterion, the third person and subsequent people from a given institution will not be elected.

Following the Council election, the Director, in consultation with the OFES and the continuing or incoming Council Chair and Vice-Chair, shall appoint the balance of the new Council membership, normally two members, in order to ensure broad community representation.

If a Council member resigns before the normal end of his or her term, the Director, in consultation with OFES and the Council Chair and Vice-Chair, will appoint a replacement, who will serve for the remainder of the term.

In addition to the Council members already described, two people will be ex-officio members of the Council with voting privileges: the Chief Technologist and the Chief Scientist (if different from the USBPO Director) of the U.S. ITER Project Office. The ITER Science Officer and the ITER Technology Officer at OFES, and the USBPO Director, will be ex-officio participants in Council meetings without voting privileges. At the discretion of the Council Chair, other individuals may be invited to participate in Council meetings, but will not be voting members.

### ***Council Leadership***

The Council is led by a Council Chair, who is selected from the continuing and incoming Council members by the Director and OFES. A Council Vice-Chair, who is chosen by the Director, OFES, and the Council Chair from among the continuing and incoming Council members, assists the Council Chair. The Chair and Vice-Chair each serve a three-year term, continuing their service on the Council from the time they assume these positions; thus these Chair and Vice-Chair service periods may supersede the nominal Council member term limit. A serving Vice-Chair can become the new Council Chair.

### ***Council Decision-Making***

A quorum of the Council is defined as at least 60% of the total Council membership, including voting ex-officio members. A quorum must be available, either in person or remotely, for discussion and debate when a Council vote is required on issues that are discussed in formal Council meetings. Council approval shall consist of a simple majority

of those participating in the Council meetings. On specific issues identified in advance by the Council Chair, voting by e-mail may be permitted. In such cases a quorum of the Council must respond with a vote in order to render a decision; a simple majority of this quorum shall suffice to approve a matter being considered by e-mail voting. For changes to the USBPO Charter, a quorum of the Council members must be available to participate in the discussion and to vote. E-mail voting will not be permitted in decisions to change the Charter.