

Proposed Change: Establishment of a new ESCOP standing committee, the Finance Committee.

Rationale: Currently, the Finance Committee is a subcommittee of ESCOP's standing Budget and Legislative Committee. This subcommittee's genesis can be traced back to 2019 and a need to strategically invest the substantial Experiment Station Section reserve assets. At the time, the reserve assets were approximately \$600,000. With the approval of the section in 2020, \$600,000 was invested with TD Wealth, a management unit of a top 10 North American bank. To provide oversight of this investment, a new ESCOP subcommittee was established. Per the [Investment Policies of the Experiment Station Section](#), "the Finance Committee is responsible for the development, recommendation, implementation, and maintenance of all policies relative to ESS funds..." Currently, the Finance Committee is focused primarily on the management of the wealth account. Herein, we suggest the establishment of a new standing committee dedicated to providing oversight of any ESS external wealth accounts as well as assisting in the development and disposition of the annual ESS budget including suggestions for an annual ESS assessment. We also suggest decoupling activities related to ESS finances from activities of the Budget and Legislative Committee, two distinct and separate operations.

To be added to the ESS Rules of Operation (following the Diversity Catalyst Committee):

Finance Committee:

ESCOP has a direct oversight role regarding decisions that impact ESS funds. ESCOP delegates supervisory responsibility for the management of ESS funds to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee membership includes: the Past ESCOP Chair (who also serves as chair of the Finance Committee), Incoming ESCOP Chair, ESCOP chair, and one at-large member (2-year term, renewable, preferably from a region not represented by the Past, Incoming and Current ESCOP chairs, selected during the annual fall ESS meeting). The Finance Committee is supported by a regional Executive Director who serves as the Executive Vice Chair. The Finance Committee shall draft and present a budget and budget narrative to the ESCOP Chair's Advisory Committee, for review and approval prior to submitting it to ESS for adoption; act in an advisory capacity and give counsel regarding financial matters affecting the organization; coordinate payments/reimbursements from ESS operating funds with appropriate APLU offices and personnel (e.g., Vice President of the Office of Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Office of Finances); conduct an orientation for ESCOP on income and expenses; and review the investment plan annually. The specific responsibilities of the Finance Committee and the investment policies of the Experiment Station Section are described in the "Investment Policy of the Experiment Station Section".