

By-Laws of the Thin Film Division of the American Vacuum Society

ARTICLE I: Name

The organization shall be known as the Thin Film Division (TFD) of the American Vacuum Society, hereinafter designated as AVS.

ARTICLE II: Objectives

The objectives of the Division shall be:

1. To provide a continuing forum accessible to its members as well as to other persons active or interested in the field of thin film processing and characterization for the purpose of fostering an improved understanding of thin film fundamentals and applications including deposition of coatings and films, surface mechanisms and modification, characterization of properties and applications enabled by thin film technologies.
2. To promote the dissemination of that understanding by the organization of conferences, symposia and workshops, by publication of original works and surveys in proceedings, technical journals and books, and by creation of web-site(s) related to the field.
3. To participate actively in all phases of the American Vacuum Society programs as presented in the AVS Constitution.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1. Divisional members are defined as members of all categories of the AVS in good standing who have applied for membership in the Division and have paid Divisional dues (if any are assessed).

Section 2. The Executive Committee and Officers of the Division may extend the courtesy of notification, Divisional publications and attendance at Divisional meetings to non-members by individual identification. None of the other rights and privileges of Divisional membership will be implied or accorded under any circumstances by this action.

Section 3. All categories of Members of AVS who are members of this Division shall be entitled to attend business meetings and vote. Student members of the AVS shall be entitled to the rights and privileges of all other AVS members including the right to vote or serve on committees.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1. The officers of the Division shall be:

Chair
Chair Elect
Immediate Past Chair
Secretary
Treasurer

The same person may hold the offices of Secretary and Treasurer.

Section 2. The officers of the Division shall hold office for the following terms:

Chair 1 year
Chair-Elect 1 year
Secretary 1 year
Treasurer 1 year

The Chair-Elect shall automatically assume the position of Chair at the end of his/her term. If the Chair is unable to fulfill his/her duties and obligations at any time in his/her term, then the Chair-Elect shall immediately assume the position of Chair.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer will normally be elected by the Divisional members voting by correspondence (e.g. mail, facsimile or electronic mail). In the absence of such a vote, these officers may be elected at an annual meeting of the Division. The results of this ballot shall be announced at the annual meeting of the Division.

Section 4. In the event an annual meeting is not held and no mail balloting has occurred, the President of the AVS shall appoint a Chair of the Division considering the recommendations of the past Executive Committee.

Section 5. In the event that the Chair of the Division has been appointed by the President of the AVS, it is the responsibility of the Chair to appoint members of the Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the President of the AVS, considering the recommendations of the past Executive Committee.

Section 6. The term of office for the officers and Executive Committee of the Division shall begin directly after the AVS annual symposium in the year immediately following their election/appointment.

ARTICLE V: Management

Section 1. The management of the Division will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee and Officers of the Division. The Executive Committee shall consist of:

1. Six duly elected members of the Division. The members will be elected for two-year terms. The terms shall be staggered (three new members each year). The term of office for the six elected members of the Executive Committee shall begin directly after the AVS annual symposium in the year immediately following their election.
2. Chairs of Thin Film Chapters of the AVS as ex-officio members.

Section 2. In the event of a vacancy in an office or Executive Committee position, other than the Chair, caused by incapacitation, resignation, or removal, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Chair and approved by majority vote of the Executive Committee. The incoming member filling a vacancy shall serve until the normal term of his or her predecessor has expired. In the event of a simultaneous vacancy in the offices of the Chair and Chair-Elect, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Chair to fill the unexpired term.

ARTICLE VI: Nominations and Elections

Section 1. A Nominations Committee shall be formed as soon as practical following the beginning of the term of office for the officers. The Chair of the Nominations Committee shall be the Immediate Past-Chair of the Division. The Chair of the Division shall appoint at least two additional members of the Division to the Nominations Committee for the purpose of nominating Division members for the position of Chair-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and the three members of the Executive Committee whose terms expire at the end of that year.

Section 2. The Nominations Committee shall recommend at least one candidate for each office. The nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary at least TWELVE (12) WEEKS prior to the Annual Business Meeting of the Division. The Secretary shall announce the nominations and date of the Annual Business Meeting to the Division at least TEN (10) WEEKS prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Nominations Committee shall assure itself and the Division that the nominees are voting members in good standing of the Division and are willing to serve.

Section 3. Additional nominations by petition shall be submitted at least TWELVE (12) WEEKS prior to the Annual Business Meeting. Valid petitions must be signed by at least 10 members in good standing of the Division. The slate of candidates presented to the Divisional Membership shall include names submitted by the Nominations Committee as well as those submitted by qualified petitions.

Section 4. The Secretary shall direct distribution of ballots to the membership at least TEN (10) WEEKS prior to the Business Meeting. The ballots shall close TWO (2) WEEKS prior to the Annual Business Meeting. The Division Chair shall appoint a committee to count the ballots and report the results. The Chair may delegate these duties to the Administrative Director of the AVS.

The candidate receiving the largest number of votes for a given office shall be elected to that office.

If more than one position in the Executive Committee is to be filled, the candidates shall be elected in the order of the number of votes received. If a tie vote occurs for the third position, the outgoing Chair will decide the tied election by chance.

If a tie vote occurs for the Chair-Elect, Secretary, or Treasurer, the outgoing Chair will decide the tied election by chance.

ARTICLE VII: Duties of the Officers

Section 1. Chair - To preside at all business meetings of the Division; at his/her discretion to serve as a member of any committee of the Division; to submit to the Board of Directors of the AVS an annual report concerning the activities of the Division; to appoint chairs of all necessary Standing Committees; to appoint Special Committees; to authorize expenditures as provided in the budget; and to perform such other functions necessary of a chair of an organization. He/she shall make sure that the date on which the Annual Business Meeting of the Division will be held is determined before August 1st of each year.

Section 2. Chair-Elect - To carry on all duties of the Chair in the event of the Chair's absence, illness, resignation, or incapacity. To carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair.

Section 3. Secretary - The Secretary shall maintain a list of all members in good standing as provided by the AVS. The Secretary shall be responsible for the minutes of all Divisional Executive Committee and Annual Business Meetings. The Secretary shall direct mailing and receipt of all literature pertaining to the operation of the Division at the discretion of the Chair.

Section 4. Treasurer - The Treasurer shall keep a strict accounting of all income and expenditures. The Treasurer may pay out such funds as authorized by the Chair or Executive Committee to meet all obligations of the Division. The Treasurer shall issue a report

of the financial standing of the Division at the Annual Business Meeting or whenever requested by the Chair. The Treasurer may be bonded at the expense of the Division. The Treasurer will submit an annual Divisional Financial Report with the AVS Treasurer on or before the date and in the format established by the AVS Treasurer.

Section 5. Immediate Past Chair – The immediate past chair will provide continuity and guidance by continuing to serve during biannual meetings of officers and executive committee as well as chair the Nomination Committee as detailed in Article VI, Section 1.

ARTICLE VIII: Duties of the Executive Committee

Section 1. Members of the Executive Committee shall act as representatives of the division membership in matters pertaining to the objectives of the Division, meetings, dues, organization, policy, and such other matters that preserve the integrity of the Division and make it responsive to the needs and wishes of its membership.

Section 2. The Executive Committee will hold biannual meetings with officers (nominally in January and July) to survey the standing, current activities and future direction of the Division. The minutes of all meetings and financial reports of these meetings shall be filed promptly with the Clerk of the AVS. All budgets and financial reports required by the AVS Board of Directors shall be submitted in a timely manner. The Division shall be authorized to incur only such expenses as approved by a majority of the Executive Committee and officers.

Section 3. At least one half the number of voting members must be present at meetings of the Officers and Executive Committee to constitute a quorum. Presence via telephone, video chat, or other real-time electronic means is acceptable.

Section 4. The annual Divisional budget and all motions must be approved by a majority of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Executive Committee will provide management oversight for the conduct of any other conferences, workshops, and meetings sponsored by the Division.

ARTICLE IX: Committees

Section 1. Standing Committees - There shall be three Standing Committees as follows: Program Committee, Nominations Committee, and Awards Committee.

The Chair-Elect shall serve as the Program Chair for the current year and rotate into the Division Chair position the following year. This allows for continuity of leadership within the major activities of the Division..

The members of the Program Committee will consist of the current Officers and members of the Executive Committee plus as many additional members to reflect the number of sessions anticipated at the annual symposium. Program committee members will be selected and approved by the Officers and Executive Committee from the Society as a whole before August 1 of the year prior to the symposium being organized. A member is expected to serve 3 consecutive years. Every 3 years, program committee members will need to state their intent to continue service on this committee and be reapproved by the Executive Committee. This is to enable a diverse committee that accurately represents the current interests and fields of TFD. The purpose of the Program Committee is to coordinate and organize the TFD sessions and jointly sponsored sessions at AVS symposia, and any other sessions or symposia as authorized by the Executive Committee. Specific tasks of the Program Committee include determining sessions for call for abstracts, nomination of invited speakers, soliciting abstracts from the scientific community, reviewing abstract submissions and being active at the annual symposium. Members who do not perform in these tasks areas will be removed from the committee in subsequent years.

The Nominations Committee will be governed as described in Article VI, Section 1 of the Bylaws.

A person appointed by the current Division Chair would chair the Awards Committee. The purpose of the Awards Committee is to solicit and coordinate submissions of nominations for AVS Fellow and other AVS Awards or Prizes. The Awards Committee will also be responsible for determining student awards.

Section 2. Special Committees - The Chair will appoint special committees as the need arises.

Section 3. General - Each committee chair shall select as many members of his/her committee as needed with the concurrence of the Division Chair except as noted in Section 1, with said members of each committee serving for a term of one year.

Before the Annual Business Meeting, each committee is to file with the Executive Committee a report of its activities during the past year as requested by the Chair. It shall be the duty of each of the committees to recommend to the Executive Committee any action with respect to the subjects or matters in their charge, which the committee deems advisable. The chair will submit a tentative budget to the Executive Committee for approval. Expenses incurred by the committee shall be limited to the budgeted amount, or as approved by the Chair.

ARTICLE X: Finances

Section 1. Dues may be established by the Officers and Executive Committee with the approval of the Board of Directors of the AVS. Changes in the membership dues shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and approved by a majority of the voting members of the Division by a ballot. The Executive Committee as needed may set special symposia registration fees.

Section 2. The Divisional financial records or ledger books may be reviewed by an auditor at any time if requested by the Officers or Executive Committee.

Section 3. All funds received by the Division shall be deposited in a bank approved by the Officers and Executive Committee. The signature of either the Treasurer or the Chair or written approval by either for expenses associated with specific activities shall be required for all withdrawals from this account.

Section 4. The financial year of the Division will coincide with the financial year of the AVS.

Article XI: Business Meetings

Section 1. The Division shall hold at least one regular business meeting each year. This Annual Business Meeting, which may be held during AVS symposia, shall be announced by correspondence to all Members of the Division at least six (6) weeks prior to the meeting, and it will also be announced in the program for the AVS annual symposium. The Executive Committee shall determine time and location of all meetings.

Section 2. The number of members present to constitute a quorum at business meetings of the Division calling for the transaction of regular business and requiring a vote to be taken shall be not less than 1% of the Division membership or ten (10) members, whichever is smaller.

Article XII: Chapters of the Thin Film Division

Section 1. The Division or its members may form chapters of the Division by submitting a petition signed by at least twelve (12) members of the Division who pledge themselves to become members of the Chapter. The Chapter shall be deemed established after approval of the petition by the Officers and Executive Committee of the Division and by the AVS Board of Directors. Notification of approval shall be given by the AVS to the Chair of the Division.

Section 2. The Divisional Chapter shall elect its own Chair and other desired officers as stated in the Chapter By-Laws. Divisional officers and members of the Executive Committee shall be AVS members in good standing. Student members are not eligible to hold offices in the Division Chapters but can serve and chair committees appointed by the officers.

Article XIII: Conferences, Symposia, and Workshops

Section 1. The Division may sponsor various conferences, symposia, and workshops in addition to organizing a program at AVS Symposia. Approval to sponsor such meetings must be by majority vote of the Officers and Executive Committee. If the Division is the sole or principal sponsor of a meeting, then the Executive Committee shall be responsible for financial management of the meeting and shall appoint the General and/or Program Chair for such meetings. The General Chair shall submit a 1-2 page proposal with budget for approval by the Officers and Executive Committee. No expenditures in excess of the budgeted amount may be made without approval of the Officers and Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Division may enter into contracts with individuals or companies for the execution of certain activities associated with conferences, symposia, or workshops. Examples include the conference administrator and local arrangements coordinator and the publishing of the proceedings from the meetings. Such contracts must be approved by a majority of the Officers and Executive Committee and shall not be for duration longer than three years.

ARTICLE XIV: Awards of the Division

Section 1. Student Awards - The Division may grant Student Awards to financially assist students to attend the AVS Symposia and other conferences, symposia, and workshops sponsored by the Division. The monetary amount of each award and the selection criteria for the awards will be determined by the Executive Committee and in accordance with the limits established by the AVS Board of Directors.

Section 2. Technical Recognition Awards - Purpose: The Division may make Technical Recognition Awards to recognize and encourage outstanding scientific and technical contributions in areas of research, development, and discovery having special interest to the Division. This includes sustained contributions to the research interests of the Division or singular contributions in terms of an achievement or outstanding paper contributed/published in an AVS meeting. This is an AVS award, specifically conferred by an AVS Division.

Eligibility: The nominee must be recognized for scientific and technical contributions that are fostered and encouraged by the Division. These areas are those evidenced in the program of the Symposia of the Society, topical conferences sponsored by the Division, and those areas defined in the Division's By-Laws. The contribution may be in the nature of sustained or single (e.g., outstanding achievement or publication) significant contributions to theory or experiment, discovery, understanding, inventions, measurements, technique development, or management. Colleagues or others who are well acquainted with the nominee should make nominations. Self-nominations are not acceptable. Division officers and Members of the Division Award Selection Committee are not eligible for the award during their terms. All nominees shall be active members of AVS.

Nature of the Award: The award consists of a certificate (or other appropriate symbol) identifying the award and a monetary cash prize, which shall not exceed the limit established by the Board of Directors in the Division Technical Recognition Awards Protocol, established the AVS Board of Directors. The award may be made at any time during the year.

Establishment and Support: This award is established by the Division, after application and approval through the Scholarship and Awards Committee, which presents the award details to the Board of Directors. The Scholarship and Awards Committee must approve the name of the award. If the award is "named" (i.e., honoring individual(s)) or if there are other funds used to establish it, the Scholarship and Awards Committee will consult with the AVS Board of Directors for guidance. The award funds must be clearly identified in the annual Division budget request. Acceptance of external funds for the award can be implemented only after consultation with and approval by the AVS Treasurer, ensuring conformity with the rules that govern 501(c)(3) organizations.

Procedures: The Division will establish an independent award committee, of no less than three people, to handle the logistics and selection of the award. This committee and its Chair will have the responsibility to:

1. Announce the award with a formal call for nominations.
2. Accept the nominations.
3. Evaluate the nominations.
4. Make the recommendation for the award winner.
5. Confer with the Division Chair and Officers on the choice.
6. Forward the selection to the Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee for the concurrence of the Trustees (which should be expected within 2 weeks of the request).
7. Notify the awardee.

The Committee should provide to the Scholarship and Awards Committee a short report on the procedures and selection process. After notification from the Scholarship and Awards Committee, the Division Committee can implement the processes (notification, scheduling, etc.) of making the award. The Division Chair should work with the Chair of the Scholarship and Awards Committee in advance to ensure no delay in consideration by the Scholarship and Awards Committee. This consideration by the Scholarship and Awards Committee can take place at any time during the year to best meet the Division schedule for award selection and presentation.

The nomination process should include an appropriate nomination form. Other required procedures (letters of support, backup material, etc.) should be identified by the Division Award Committee, and clearly identified in the call for nominations.

The approved procedures for the award should be clearly established and announced by the Division (e.g., via the AVS Newsletter, posted on Division web sites, etc.). These should include:

1. Statement of the award and its purpose(s).
2. The nature of the award (monetary amounts, certificates, etc.).
3. The nomination deadline, exact instructions for making the nomination, the nomination form (or instructions how to obtain it), any other pertinent information needed to provide a complete nomination, and a contact for further information (e.g., Award Committee Chair).
4. The award announcement date.
5. The award presentation date/location and any additional procedures (e.g., required talks).

ARTICLE XV: Termination of Membership

All interest of any member in the Division or in its property or funds shall terminate and vest in the Division upon his or her ceasing to be a member whether by death, resignation, or otherwise.

ARTICLE XVI: Dissolution of the Division

At any time when the Division shall become inactive, not holding at least one meeting during each biannual period, it shall be deemed to have ceased to exist unless such non-holding of meetings has been due to national emergency, actions of federal or state government, or other factors beyond the control of the Division. Upon such a condition arising, all funds remaining in the treasury of the Division shall revert to the AVS and become part of the general funds of such Society.

ARTICLE XVII: Amendments

These By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of ballots cast by members in good standing, provided the Officers and Executive Committee shall have first approved the proposed amendments. The Secretary shall distribute ballots to the membership at least five (5) weeks prior to the Annual Business Meeting, at which time the Chair shall appoint a committee to count the ballots and report the results.

Amendments must be approved by the Board of Directors of the AVS before being effective.

ARTICLE XVIII: Parliamentary Law and Procedure

Any matter of parliamentary law or procedure not specifically provided for in these By-Laws shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order as published in the last revised edition.

Approvals:

TFD Executive Committee: April 2021

AVS Governance Committee: April 2021

AVS Board of Directors: April 2021

AVS TFD Membership: October 2021