

Sustainability Committee Member Role Description

Background:

Reporting to the Advisory Council, the Sustainability Committee is responsible for developing the future leadership of the Society and for ensuring the long-term viability of our activities to support the Society's three main strategic objectives.

Time commitment:

In total, the time commitment is approximately 5 days per year, including meetings.

Committees meet twice a year in May and October. The May meeting is typically remote and approximately 2 – 3 hours in length. The October meeting is held as part of Committees Day usually held in London. Papers are circulated a week before the meeting and members are expected to read them ahead of the meeting and come prepared to participate in discussions. There may be other ad hoc business that takes place between meetings.

Terms of office:

Members serve for three years. Terms start and finish with the calendar year.

Eligibility:

Any Full, Full Concessionary, Postgraduate Student or Honorary Member is eligible to serve on a committee.

Process:

Committee members are elected by members of the Society.

Remuneration:

The role is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although reasonable expenses for travel may be claimed.

The Society is committed to creating an inclusive culture, which requires a governance structure that fully reflects both its membership and the global microbiology community. We welcome nominations from across the full breadth of the membership and are particularly keen to receive nominations from members from historically marginalised backgrounds. We look forward to hearing from you.

1. What is the Sustainability Committee?

Reporting to Advisory Council, the Sustainability Committee is responsible for developing the future leadership of the Society and for ensuring the long-term viability of our activities to support the Society's three main strategic objectives:

1. *Through a better understanding of the diversity of our members, we will enable them to strengthen their existing relationships and gain access to new communities, unlocking the potential for international collaboration and global knowledge exchange.*
2. *By harnessing local knowledge for worldwide impact, we will advance understanding of microbiology and champion the contribution made by microbiology, our members and their work in addressing global challenges.*
3. *By recognising global differences in accessing opportunities at the Microbiology Society, we will build on existing strong financial and governance foundations to reinforce long-term sustainability and resilience through diversifying income streams, increasing efficiency and ensuring robust mechanisms for decision-making, monitoring and evaluation.*

The Committee will provide advice and expertise to Advisory Council and will be specifically responsible for overseeing the delivery of strategic objective three. Further detail on the work of the committee can be found in its [Terms of Reference](#).

2. Committee Member duties/attributes

- To bring perspectives from the range of different needs and challenges affecting members and the microbiology community
- To read committee papers, attend committee meetings and actively participate in discussion
- A willingness and ability to devote the necessary time commitment and to respond to tight deadlines where necessary.
- To advise, oversee and support the implementation of the duties of the Committee as noted in its [Terms of Reference](#)
- To take forward the actions of the committee as relevant
- To utilise networks to harness cohesion and synergy between committees, panels and boards
- To communicate with tact and diplomacy and foster a welcoming and collaborative environment