



THE SOCIETY FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF SEXUALITY

• SSSS Bylaws

Approved by SSSS Membership, October 2021


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SexScience.org

Overview of SSSS

- Founded in 1957 to encourage the rigorous systematic study of sexuality.
- The Society's wide range of disciplines among its members, conference participants, and Journal authors make SSSS an important part of the sexuality research community. Members include anthropologists, biologists, educators, historians, nurses, physicians, psychologists, sociologists, theologians, therapists, and many other disciplines.
- The Society has a strong commitment to "the next generation," and supports a vigorous student membership base, including a mentoring program of young professionals, preparing them to be leaders on their profession and SSSS.
- The Society's Awards Program recognizes professional excellence, public service, and service to the study of sexuality, as well as The Society.
- A broad range of committee activities provides numerous opportunities for the involvement of members in the work of The Society. 

Mission Statement

The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality is dedicated to advancing knowledge of sexuality and communicating scientifically based sexuality research and scholarship to professionals, policy makers, and the general public.



SSSS fosters a worldwide community of diverse professionals committed to a scholarly and scientific approach to acquiring and disseminating accurate knowledge of sexuality.



As a Society, we believe that freedom of inquiry is essential for the promotion of human welfare and the reduction of ignorance and prejudice about sexuality.

Section 5. Definition of a Quorum

For all votes of the membership, a quorum will be defined as not less than the members entitled to cast one hundred votes or one tenth of the total number of votes entitled to be cast, whichever is less.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNANCE

Section 1. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors will manage the affairs of The Society. In general, the Board of Directors will be a policy-making body. The day-to-day implementation of policy and the administration of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, Inc., will reside in The Society staff, in close consultation with the President and Executive Committee.

Section 2. Number, Tenure, and Qualification

- A. Only members of The Society will be eligible to serve on the Board of Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors will be composed of five elected Society officers (President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair) and six at-large members, one of whom is a Student Representative.
- C. The Executive Committee will be composed of the President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Chair.

Section 3. Regular Meetings

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors will be held in conjunction with the Annual Conference. There will be, at minimum, one (1) additional meeting held each year at a location designated by the Board of Directors or via virtual/electronic conferencing. The location of the second and any additional meetings will be made with sensitivity to Board member travel costs and challenges.

Section 4. Special Meetings

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any three (3) Board members. Special meetings of the Board will take place via virtual/electronic conferencing.

Section 5. Notice

Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors will be given at least three (3) days in advance.

Section 6. Quorum

A simple majority of the Board of Directors will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the Board. If less than a majority of the Board members are present, either in person, phone, electronically, or by proxy at said meeting, a majority of the Board members present may adjourn the meeting without further notice.

Section 7. Manner Of Acting

The act of the majority of the Board members present at a face- to-face or virtual/electronic meeting where a quorum is present will be the act of the Board except where otherwise provided by law or by these bylaws. Any change to the Bylaws must be approved by two-thirds (2/3) of the Board members present at meeting before being submitted to the membership for a vote.

Section 8. Proxy

When a Board member cannot attend a meeting in person, participation can be maintained in the following order of priority:

1. Participation via virtual/electronic conferencing or phone
2. Designation of a proxy who is at the meeting. A proxy vote may be given to a member of the Board. No member of the Board will carry more than one proxy vote; that is, no one is allowed to have more than a total of two (2)votes on an issue.
3. The proxy option may only be used by any given Board member at one (1) regular meeting of the Board per year.

The President-Elect must be a member in good standing. Prior experience with committees or Society leadership positions is required. The position of President-Elect is a voluntary one. The President-Elect is expected to attend the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

Section 6. Treasurer

The SSSS Treasurer, in conjunction with the President, is responsible for financial oversight of the organization. The Treasurer will perform all the duties incidental to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. If required by the Board of Directors, the Treasurer will give a bond for the faithful discharge of duties in such sum and with such surety or sureties as the Board will determine. The Treasurer will serve as a member of the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Finance Committee. When feasible, at the end of the Treasurer's term, the past Treasurer serves on the Finance Committee for at least one year. The Treasurer reports to the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the membership of The Society.

Specific functions of Treasurer include:

- A. Oversee the management of all Society income and expenditures in conjunction with the President, Executive Committee, Society Staff and Certified Public Accountant (if applicable).
- B. Oversee the management of all Society financial accounts in conjunction with the Executive Committee, and Certified Public Accountant (if applicable).
- C. Oversee all additional Society systems, including payroll, investment and retirement packages, membership software program, etc.
- D. Oversee the rectification of expenses through the established tracking system with the Executive Committee, Society staff, and Certified Public Accountant (if applicable).
- E. Generate an annual budget with the Finance Committee for review and approval by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

F. Chair the Finance Committee and ensure The Society Fiduciary Policy is followed.

G. Attend the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings and provide Society financial reports.

H. Assist with the review of all financial contracts.

I. Help to maintain the overall financial health of The Society, including approving/denying expenditures.

The Treasurer must be a member in good standing. Prior experience in Society leadership or other positions managing budgets is preferred. The position of Treasurer is a voluntary one. The Treasurer is expected to attend the Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings.

Section 7. Secretary

The SSSS Secretary is responsible for keeping official records of the organization. The Secretary will keep the minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the Executive Committee. The Secretary will perform all duties incidental to the office of Secretary and other such duties as from time to time may be assigned by the President or the Board of Directors and serve as a member of the Executive Committee. The Secretary reports to the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the membership of The Society.

Specific functions of Secretary include:

- A. Attend the Executive Committee and Board of Director meetings and record minutes of these meetings.
 - B. Complete the minutes in a timely manner and distribute them to The Society President and Board of Directors.
 - C. Keep the official record of all motions and votes, including electronic votes.
 - D. Compile all motions at year's end and record them in the Book of Motions.
 - E. Serve as a member of the Executive Committee.
- The Secretary must be a member in good standing. Excellent writing and organizational skills are preferred. The position of Secretary is a voluntary one. The Secretary is expected to attend the Executive Committee and Board of Director meetings.

Section 8. Membership Chair

The Membership Chair works on The Society's membership recruitment and retention for the term. The Membership Chair will also engage with members by helping them to understand and experience the benefits of belonging to The Society. The Membership Chair may perform other duties from time to time that may be assigned by the President or by the Board of Directors. The Membership Chair will serve as a member of the Executive Committee and as Chair of the Membership Committee. When feasible, at the end of the Membership Chair term, the immediate Past-Membership Chair will serve on the Membership Committee for at least one year. The Membership Chair reports to the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the membership of The Society.

Section 9. At-Large Representatives

Five at-large representatives will be elected to the Board of Directors for a term of two (2) years. Terms will be staggered so that only two or three new at-large representatives will be elected in a given year.

A sixth at-large representative seat is held by the Senior Student Involvement Co-Chair. (See Section 11 below).

Each at-large representative will interestsserve on at least one Society committee and act as a liaison between that committee and the Board of Directors.

At-large representatives must be members in good standing. Prior experience with committees or Society leadership positions is preferred. The position of at-large representative is a voluntary one. At-large representatives are expected to attend the Board of Director meetings.

Section 10. Student Representation on the Board of Directors

The Senior Student Involvement Co-Chair will serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Directors. Every other year, the Student Members will elect a candidate to the position of Student Involvement Co-Chair. Co-Chairs will serve a term of four (4) years: two as Junior Chair, and two (2) as Senior Chair. The Senior Chair will also serve as the Student Representative to the Board of Directors. The Student Involvement Co-Chairs will work to identify student needs, solicit and organize student volunteers, organize student activities at Society conferences, and communicate student interests to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION PROCEDURES

Section 1. Nominations and Elections Committee

The Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by the immediate Past-President, will oversee the elections of The Society. The immediate Past-President will serve a two (2) year term. The committee will be responsible for securing nominations for office (which will be approved by the Board of Directors) and, working with The Society staff to create the electronic ballot.

The Society staff will certify the eligibility of all ballots received, tabulate the ballots, and report the results of the election to the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Nomination by Petition

Ten percent (10%) or more of The Society members entitled to vote for a particular office and in good standing may nominate by petition a qualified member as a candidate to serve in a specific position on the Board of Directors. This candidate will appear on the ballot without the typically-required approval from the Nominations and Elections Committee and the Board of Directors. The petition must be sent to the chair of the Nominations and Election Committee.

A statement signed by the candidate must be filed with the completed petition stating the candidate is willing to serve if elected. A name supported by this petition must be placed on the next ballot in which the relevant position is included. The petition must be submitted to the Nominating Committee no later than 30 days before the balloting date in order to be included on that ballot.

Section 3. Certification of Candidates

The Nominating Committee will certify one or more nominees for each Society office. The Nominating Committee will present this to the Board of Directors for approval.

Section 4. Voting Procedure

Electronic ballots will be provided to those members eligible to vote. An appropriate voting system to ensure secret balloting will be used.

Section 5. Tie Votes

The Board of Directors will break any tie votes cast by a coin toss by The Society President.

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees of Board Members

The Board of Directors may designate one or more committees, each of which will consist of one or more members of The Society. To the extent provided in such resolution, a committee will have and exercise the authority thus vested in it by the Board of Directors in the conduct of that portion of the business of The Society thus assigned to it. Committee chairs will report progress, findings, and activities of the committee to the Executive Committee of The Society at the discretion of the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee has not required such reports, then the committee chairperson will make such report to the Board of Directors prior to or during its next regular meeting.

The Board of Directors may, at its discretion, designate itself as one or more of the committees, or if any committee has not been designated, may at its discretion, serve and take action as such committee.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections Committee

The immediate Past President will serve as chair of this committee for a two (2) year term. At least three (3) additional members of the Society will be part of the committee, selected to ensure diversity (broadly defined) among the committee members. As stated in Article VII, Section 1, this committee is responsible for securing nominations for office, and working with The Society staff to create the electronic ballot.

Section 3. Finance Committee

The Executive Committee will establish a Finance Committee consisting of not less than five (5) members of The Society, including the Treasurer of The Society (who serves as chair), the past Treasurer of The Society (when feasible), and any other members deemed necessary by the Board of Directors, President, or Treasurer.

Section 4. Other Committees

The Board of Directors may establish other committees of The Society.

Section 5. Term of Office

Each member of a committee will continue as such until the next Annual Conference and until a successor is appointed, unless the committee is terminated, or Society membership is not maintained. When feasible, terms of office will be staggered between committee members. Members can be terminated from committee membership at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Chairs

The President will nominate a chair for each committee.

Section 7. Vacancies

Vacancies in membership of any committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

Section 8. Quorum

Unless otherwise provided, a majority of the whole committee will constitute a quorum, and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present will be the act of the committee.

Section 9. Rules

Each committee may adopt rules for its own government consistent with the Bylaws and with the Board-approved policies and procedures of The Society.

ARTICLE IX: CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS

Section 1. Contracts

The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of The Society, in addition to the officers so authorized by these Bylaws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of The Society, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 2. Checks, Drafts, and Other Orders Of Payment

All checks, drafts, or other orders for the payment of money, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of The Society will be signed by The Society Staff, President, or the Treasurer.

Section 3. Deposits

All funds of The Society will be deposited from time to time to the credit of The Society in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as The Society staff, President, or the Treasurer may select.

Section 4. Gifts

The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of The Society any contribution, gift, bequest or device for the general purpose or for any special purpose of The Society.

ARTICLE X: BOOKS AND RECORDS

The Society will keep accurate and complete minutes of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, business meetings, and special meetings, and semiannual reports from committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors, including financial records. The Society will keep the names and email addresses of the members entitled to vote. Any member by an agent or attorney may inspect all books and records of The Society for any proper purpose at any reasonable time.

ARTICLE XI: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of The Society will begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December in each year.

ARTICLE XII: DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

Section 1. Annual Dues

The Board of Directors may determine from time to time the amount of annual dues payable to The Society by members of each category. The Board of Directors will also be empowered to levy and collect special assessments upon an affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of such Board.

Section 2. Payment of Dues

Dues and special assessments will be payable as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Default and Termination Of Membership

When any member is in default in the payment of dues, the membership may thereupon be terminated in the manner provided in Article III.

ARTICLE XIII: SEAL

The Board of Directors may provide for an appropriate seal that will adequately identify The Society and will serve to authenticate the execution of documents by its officers.

ARTICLE XIV: WAIVER OF NOTICE

Whenever any notice whatever is required to be given under the provisions of the Membership Corporation Law of the State of New York or under the provisions of the articles of incorporation of the Bylaws of The Society, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated herein, will be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

ARTICLE XV: SOCIETY STAFF

The Board of Directors may employ an Executive Director, office director, associate director, office manager or other administrative staff. The individual will be an ex-officio member, without vote, of all standing committees of The Society. The Executive Committee will stipulate all conditions of employment, including duration of contract, salary, and others as required. The staff members will be responsible to the President and to the Executive Committee of The Society.


ARTICLE XVI: ANNUAL CONFERENCE**Section 1. Annual Conference**

The Society will sponsor a scientific conference each year, and this meeting will be called the Annual Conference. The Society Annual Conference will be the only conference with invited plenaries, concurrent research presentations, and large-scale sponsors and advertisers.

ARTICLE XVII. AMENDMENTS**Section 1. Effective Date**

The Bylaws will become effective thirty (30) days following approval by the membership.

Section 2. Bylaws Changes

The Bylaws may be altered, amended, or repealed, and new Bylaws may be adopted by approval of a 2/3 majority of Board members followed by majority approval of Society members. 



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