

Constitution of the Southwestern Philosophical Society

(approved Nov. 12, 1988)

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Southwestern Philosophical Society.

Article II: Purpose

It shall be the function of this organization:

- (a) to promote philosophical dialogue and inquiry;
- (b) to facilitate intercourse among philosophers in the Southwest; and,
- (c) to stimulate interest in and to improve the quality of the teaching of philosophy in colleges and universities in the Southwest.

Article III: Membership

A member of the Society for any year is any person who has paid dues for that year or who is an emeritus member. Dues shall be prescribed in the By-Laws.

Article IV: Organization

The officers of this organization shall be the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The officers together with the immediate Past-President and two elected members shall comprise the Executive Committee. The editor(s) of the *Southwest Philosophy Review* shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Executive Committee. Elections shall be held at the annual business meeting.

Article V: Meetings

The organization shall hold at least one meeting each year at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee.

Article VI: By-Laws

By-Laws may be enacted or amended by a simple majority of those eligible members present and voting, provided such enactments are consistent with the other provisions of this Constitution.

Article VII: Constitutional Amendments

Proposed amendments to this Constitution shall be enacted by a two-thirds majority of those eligible members present and voting at the annual business meeting, provided such enactments or amendments are consistent with the other provisions of this Constitution.

By-Laws of the Southwestern Philosophical Society

(Approved Nov. 12, 1988, last amended Nov. 11, 2006)

By-Law I: Membership

Section 1. The Membership year shall extend from the beginning of one annual meeting to the beginning of the next annual meeting.

Section 2. Annual membership dues shall be forty dollars (\$40) for full members, twenty dollars (\$20) for student members.

Section 3. Emeritus members are persons who have retired but remain fully participating members of the Society; they are exempt from the payment of annual dues.

Section 4. Only members of the Society, or applicants for membership in the Society, will be eligible to submit papers for consideration for presentation at annual meetings.

By-Law II: Quorum

Section 1. A quorum for meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a simple majority of its members.

Section 2. For the annual business meeting of the Society, a quorum shall consist of the members present and voting so that in case the number present is less than twenty percent of the total voting membership of the Society, the Executive Committee may by a majority of its members postpone action upon any measure.

By-Law III: Officers

Section 1. The Nominating Committee, consisting of the three most recent Past-Presidents with the most recent Past-President as committee chair, will report a slate of nominees for office for the following year to the Executive Committee and to the membership at the annual business meeting. Additional nominations from the floor shall be in order.

Section 2. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of those members present and voting at the annual business meeting.

Section 3. The term of the office shall extend from the end of the annual business meeting at which elections were held to the end of the next annual business meeting.

Section 4. In case any argument becomes vacant for whatever reason, the Executive Committee shall, by majority vote, fill that office.

Section 5. It shall be the duties of the President to:

- (a) preside at meetings of both the Executive Committee and the Society;
- (b) execute the decisions of the Executive Committee and the Society; and
- (c) give a presidential address.

Section 6. It shall be the duties of the Vice-President to:

- (a) preside in the President's absence at meetings of both the Executive Committee and the Society;
- (b) arrange the program for the annual meeting; and

- (c) execute whatever other assignments the President or the Executive Committee may give him in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and these By-Laws.

Section 7. It shall be the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer to:

- (a) keep accurate records of the membership and funds of the Society;
- (b) collect membership dues;
- (c) make whatever expenditures are authorized by the Executive Committee; and
- (d) make periodic membership and financial reports as required by the Executive Committee.

By-Law IV: Executive Committee

In addition to its regular meeting at the annual meeting, the Executive Committee shall meet at the pleasure of the President or upon the written request of any three of its members. It shall be the duty of the Executive Committee to carry out the decisions and policies of the Society in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution and these By-Laws.

By-Law V: Presidential Prize Committee

The Presidential Prize Committee shall consist of the current President, the two immediate past Presidents, and the journal editor. The eligible papers will be blind-reviewed. The award will be made at the annual banquet, which the winner will attend at the Society's expense.

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