

CHARTER

SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE (4S)

I. PREAMBLE

This organization is called the Society for Social Studies of Science. Its purpose is to promote research, learning and understanding in the social analysis of science. The Society is an independent organization that cooperates with other organizations having similar interests.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Membership

Membership in the Society includes all scholars interested in the social and policy aspects of science who have paid their current dues. Every effort will be made to have as broad a disciplinary representation as possible in the membership.

B. Offices and Election

1. The Society shall have a Council composed of the following elective officers: a President, a President-elect, and twelve ordinary Council members. The term of office for ordinary Council members shall be three years. The President shall serve for a one year term as President-elect followed by a two year term as President.
2. Four ordinary members of Council shall be elected each year. If an elective office becomes vacant, the Council shall appoint a replacement who will serve until the next annual election, at which time a person will be elected to serve out the remainder of the term. The Secretary and Treasurer (who may be the same person) shall be appointed by the President, with the approval of Council.
3. Seven voting members of the Council constitute a quorum. Voting members of the Council consist of the elected officers. Ex-Officio members of the Council, as specified below, are non-voting members.
4. There shall be a standing committee on future annual meetings.
5. There shall be a standing committee responsible for the program of annual meetings.
6. There shall be a standing committee responsible for local arrangements of annual meetings.

7. There shall be a standing committee on liaisons with other scholarly organizations.
8. There shall be a standing committee on publications.
9. A nominating committee consisting of the President as chair and four other members of the Society designated by the President, no more than two of whom are officers, shall present to the Society at least six months before the annual meeting at least one nominee for each office to be filled.
10. Further nominations by petition signed by five members shall be presented to the President at least four months before the annual meeting.
11. Election shall be by mail ballot, the results to be announced at the annual meeting.
12. The retiring President shall serve for two years as an ex-officio Council member, but shall otherwise be ineligible for election in that period. Former Presidents shall serve as ex-officio members of the Council, without voting rights.
13. All officers must be members of the Society.

III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The President

1. The President of the Society shall have general charge of the affairs of the Society.
2. The President of the Society or a member of the Council designated by the President shall preside at all meetings of the Society and of the Council.
3. The President-elect shall assist the President of the Society in management of the Society.

B. The Secretary

1. The Secretary shall be responsible for communicating the agenda of Council meetings, and for transmitting committee reports to members of the Council, at least twenty days before each Council meeting.
2. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of Council meetings, and shall be responsible for the administration of the Society, and the safe-keeping of its records.

3. The Secretary shall be responsible for the conduct of elections.

C. The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall receive and have custody of the funds of the Society.

2. A Statement of the Society's accounts shall be transmitted to the Council at least twenty days before the annual business meeting of the Society.

3. The accounts shall be subject annually to an audit by two members of the Society or by a certified public accountant or by its equivalent, and at other times if requested by the President or by a majority of the Council.

D. The Council

The Council shall set membership dues and have control and management of the funds of the Society. It shall act as a committee on time and place of meetings, and perform such duties as the Society may delegate to it. The Council may adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Charter of the Society. The Council will regularly communicate its actions to the membership.

IV. COMMITTEES

A. Standing Committees

The Council shall recommend standing committees to the Society membership for its approval or rejection in annual meetings. Proposals for changes in the standing committee structure may also be moved by any members of the Society in annual meetings.

B. Ad Hoc Committees

The President may appoint ad hoc committees as circumstances dictate or the Council recommends.

C. Membership

Each year, the President shall appoint one newly-elected council member to a three-year term on each standing committee, and shall appoint such other committee members as he deems appropriate. Non-members of the Society may be co-opted as non-voting committee members where appropriate, with the approval of the President.

V. ACTIVITIES

A. Meetings

The annual business and other meetings of the Society shall be held at such time and place as are determined by the Council. Adequate notice of such time and place shall be given to members of the Society. Special meetings of the Society may be called by action of the Council. Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President or at the request of a quorum of the Council.

B. Publications

The Society, acting through the Council, will seek to publish appropriate literature (including a journal) for distribution to the membership and for sale.

The publications committee will be responsible for the conduct of the Society's journal and all matters of editorial policy. The publications committee may from time to time recommend to the Council one or more candidates for the position of editor. The editor shall be appointed by the Council for a term of up to five years (renewable).

C. Facilitation of the Society's Activities

The Society, acting through the council, may receive and disperse funds in order to carry out its activities. This organization is organized exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this charter, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue law).

Upon the dissolution of this organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or corresponding section of any future tax code), or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed by the Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Charter may be submitted at any time by any member to the Council of the Society for consideration at its next meeting. Recommendations of the Council shall be reported at the annual business meeting of the Society and such recommendations shall be approved, revised or rejected by majority vote at that meeting. Recommendations, if approved, shall be put to a mail ballot of the Society for ratification by a majority of those voting.