

CONSTITUTION OF THE WESTERN SOCIAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION (As of May 12, 1998)

PREAMBLE

To foster professional study, advance research and promote the teaching of the social sciences in our institutions of higher learning, we establish this organization as the Western Social Science Association, which shall be guided by this constitution.

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP.

1. Any person sharing the interests of the Association may become a member upon payment of such annual dues as are prescribed under this constitution.

2. Student, Life, Honorary, and Special memberships may be established by the Association upon such terms as it shall determine.

3. All members not delinquent in their annual dues shall be entitled to attend, participate in, and vote in the Annual Business Meeting of the Association.

4. Upon recommendation of the Executive Council, annual dues shall be established by the Association to be effective at the beginning of the next fiscal year. All dues shall be effective for one calendar year following their receipt. A renewal notice shall be mailed to each member one month prior to the expiration of membership.

5. No special assessments, other than annual meeting registration fees established by the Executive Council, shall be levied against the membership of the Association.

ARTICLE II. OFFICERS.

1. The officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a President-Elect, who shall, except the President, be chosen by a majority of the members returning their ballots by the designated deadline.

2. The President-Elect shall succeed automatically to the office of President upon completion of the retiring President's term.

3. The terms of officers shall extend from one annual business meeting to the next. No incumbent officer shall be eligible for re-election to the same office.

4. Before each annual meeting of the Association the President shall appoint, with due regard to geographical distribution and professional interest, five members to a Nomination Committee, and shall designate the chairperson who shall be a member of the Executive Council. The remainder of the Committee shall not include members of the Executive Council. The Committee shall submit to the Fall meeting of the Executive Council one or more nominees for each office to be filled. Members may offer additional nominations by petition signed by five (5) members sent to the Executive Director, prior to the Fall meeting, postmarked no later than August 1. Upon ratification by majority vote of the Executive Council the Council shall send the list of nominees (including those by petition) to the membership. The Executive Director shall mail the completed ballots to the membership.

5. In case of an interim vacancy in the office of President, the Vice-President shall be President for the remainder of the term. An interim vacancy in any other elective office or on the Executive Council may be filled by the Executive Council for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE III. EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

1. There shall be an Executive Council herein termed the Council. The Council shall consist of the officers of the Association; the immediate Past President, whose term of office shall extend for one year; the Executive Director and the editors of the Social Science Journal and the newsletter editor, whose terms of office shall coincide with their respective terms as Executive Director and editors; and nine members elected at-large, whose terms of office shall extend for three (3) years. Three of the nine members elected at-large will represent institutions that are geographically distributed in such manner that these Council members will be expected to be present at least at the time of the annual meeting. One-third of the Council's membership at-large shall expire each year. The term of office for the Executive Director and the editors are set by the Executive Council at the time of appointment and the appointments are renewable upon a midterm review and vote of the Council. The Executive Director, the Editor of the Social Science Journal, the Book Review Editor, and the newsletter editor shall be ex-officio members of the Council without vote.

2. The President of the Association shall be the Chairperson of the Council. In case of the President's absence, the Vice-President shall act as Chairperson. In case of the absence of both, the Council may elect a temporary Chairperson.

3. The Executive Director shall be the secretary of the Council. He/She shall keep the records, conduct the correspondence of the Council., and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Council.

4. Five members shall constitute a quorum and a majority vote of those attending shall be required for all Council actions.

5. Meetings of the Council shall be called by the President or the Vice-President acting for the President, or the Executive Director on instructions of the President, or upon the written request of five members of the Council. The Council shall regularly meet in the Fall and Spring of each year. The Spring meeting shall coincide with the association's annual meeting.

ARTICLE IV. MANAGEMENT OF AFFAIRS AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

1. The highest authority for deciding the policies and managing the affairs of the Association is the membership of the Association. It elects the officers, resolves policy questions presented to it, and may confirm, revise, or repeal the actions of the Executive Council or any office of the Association.

2. A majority of those present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting shall be necessary for decisions of the membership, or a majority of those returning votes or ballots sent by mail to the membership.

3. The Executive Council shall have charge of the general interests of the Association and shall possess the governing power to carry out the business of the Association, except as otherwise provided for in this Constitution.

4. Annual Meetings of the Association shall be held at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Council. The chief purpose of Annual Meetings is the exchange of information through the presentation

of papers and discussions, but the Association shall also transact such other business as may be necessary, including the installations of officers at the Annual Business Meeting.

5. The Executive Council shall meet in the Fall and Spring of each year prior to the annual Business Meeting. It shall receive reports of all officers and committees, adopt a budget and appropriate money, and give its recommendations upon all questions (except the election of officers) to be presented to the membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

6. The President, or in his/her absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at the business meetings of the Association. Except as may be otherwise provided, the President shall appoint all committees of the Association and shall see that the business of the Association is faithfully transacted.

7. The Vice-President shall act in place of the President when the President is absent from a meeting or when asked to do so by the President and will automatically succeed to the office of President to complete the unfinished term of office of the current President if the President should die in office, resign, fail to act as required by the Constitution, or become unable to act. The Vice-President shall also perform other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Council of the Association.

8. The Executive Director shall have custody of the minutes of business meetings of the Council and of the Association, and shall report all actions of the Council at the Annual Business Meeting. The Executive Director shall review and approve the arrangements for the receipt, custody, and disbursement of Association funds, and for the keeping of the Association's financial condition at the Annual Business Meeting.

9. The President-Elect shall be a member of the Executive Council and shall during the year before succeeding to the Presidency, plan, develop, and take other action necessary to prepare for the program of his/her year in office. The President-Elect may proceed with the appointment of section leaders for the annual meeting and make other preparations as required and as approved by the Council.

10. The personal liability of each member of the Executive Council and each uncompensated officer of the Western Social Science Association of its members, for monetary or other damages, for conduct as a Council member or officer shall be eliminated to the full extent permitted by law.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES.

1. Standing committees of the Association shall be established by the Executive Council as needed for the business and function of the Association. These committees will report at each annual Business Meeting and to the business meeting of the Executive Council so required by the President of the Council. Standing committees will be named by the President and approved by the Council. Terms of office will be set by the Council.

2. Chairpersons of standing committees will be ex-officio members of the Council without vote.

ARTICLE VI. ADOPTION AND AMENDMENTS.

1. This Constitution shall take effect on the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the 1960 Annual Business Meeting of the Association.

2. Any member of the Association may propose amendments to this Constitution. Such proposed amendments shall be referred to the Executive Council for consideration, and by the Council referred, with such recommendations as the Council may take, to the membership of the Association for their action thereon either by mailed ballot wherein all proposed changes are fully shown, or at the next Annual Business Meeting.

3. Amendments to this Constitution shall be adopted by a majority vote of those present and voting at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association, or by a majority vote of the membership voting on a mailed ballot.

ARTICLE VII. AFFILIATED MEMBERSHIP.

1. The Association has a responsibility to aid and support other professional organizations of a disciplinary or interdisciplinary nature within the geographic region and the scope of academic concern. Such support may be limited to the exchange of organizational news notes or as broad as formal inclusion of such organization's sessions with the Association's Annual Meetings and publication of member's articles in the Social Science Journal. Where such activity involves participation of such groups in Annual Meetings as prerequisite it requires Association membership and session fees by participating members of such affiliated groups.

ARTICLE VIII. DISOLUTION AND FUND DISTRIBUTION.

In the event that the Western Social Science Association shall cease to function or be unable to continue to fulfill its constitutionally-stated educational and scientific functions, any funds remaining in the treasury following settlement of all debts and obligations shall be distributed to the sustaining institutions with the ratio of distribution being determined by the ratio of sustaining contribution during the previous complete business year.