

District of Columbia Sociological Society Constitution

Revised and approved by the membership, October 2022

Article I. Name and Location

The name of this organization shall be “District of Columbia Sociological Society.” (Hereinafter it is cited as “the Society.”) The Society serves professional sociologists and students of sociology in the Greater Washington Metropolitan region.

Article II. Objectives

The objectives of the Society are to promote sociological research, education and discussion, to facilitate cooperative exchanges among persons and organizations engaged in sociological research and teaching, to encourage young sociologists and students, and to increase the contribution of sociology to human welfare. The Society is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.)

The objectives of the Society are accomplished through the conduct of meetings, research institutions, and other appropriate activities. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall constitute attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation/organization exempt from Federal income tax under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), or (b) by a corporation/organization, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United Internal Revenue Law.)

Article III. Official Year

The Official year shall be July 1 through June 30.

Article IV. Membership

Any person interested in the objectives of the Society shall be eligible for membership. Members of the Society are persons who have paid dues to the Society for the current official year. Provisional members are members whose dues have been waived based on their student status. Provisional members are non-voting members.

Article V. Officers and Terms of Office

The principal officers of the Society shall be a President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Editor of the official publication of the Society. All officers shall be members of the Executive Committee.

Terms of office

The Executive Committee acts on behalf of the paying membership. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four principal officers of the Society (President, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor), and may

include the Immediate Past President, the immediate past secretary, two Student Representatives and At-large officers. The number of At-large officers is determined by the Executive Committee.

The President serves for a period of one year. The President may serve for one additional year if agreed by the majority of the Executive Committee. If the President is unable to complete the term of office by reason of absence, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death, an interim President selected by the Executive Committee assumes the duties of the Presidency immediately and serves for the remainder of the official year in the role of President and for a full term as President in the subsequent official year. If both the President and interim President are unable to complete their terms in office by reasons of absence, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death, the Secretary shall call a special meeting to fill the position. Such decisions (as all policy and personnel decisions) must be announced immediately to the membership.

The Secretary serves for a period of one year and may serve a maximum of four consecutive terms. The Treasurer serves for a period of two years and may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. The Editor of the official publication of the Society shall serve for a period of two years and may serve three consecutive terms. All principal officers shall be members of the Society elected in the manner prescribed in Article IX.

At the end of a Presidential term, the President is invited to join the Executive Committee as the Immediate Past-President. At the end of their term, a Secretary is invited to join the Executive Committee.

The Immediate past president and immediate past secretary rotate off the Executive Committee at the end of the term of the President.

At-large officers are appointed by the Executive Committee to represent the membership at large. Members of the Society shall be provided opportunity to join the Executive Committee through open invitation and communication. Each At-large officer shall serve for a period of at least two years. Student Officers represent Graduate student members and Undergraduate Student members of the Society. Each student representative serves for a period of at least two years.

Duties

The President shall preside at meetings of the Society, chair the Executive Committee, appoint chairs and members of other committees, be responsible for planning programs for meetings, and perform duties assigned by the Society and the Executive Committee. In the event of the temporary absence of the President, the duties are delegated to an interim president or presiding officer selected by the Executive Committee.

In the event of the absences of both the President and the interim President or presiding officer, duties are delegated to the Secretary.

The Secretary shall record the business of the Society, assist the various committees, be responsible for the custody of the society's records during the term of office, and distribute a directory of members.

The Treasurer shall collect dues, hold and disburse funds and maintain an up-to-date list of those who have paid dues for the current official year. The Editor of the official publication of the Society shall be responsible for the publication and distribution to members.

When an annual budget is approved by the Executive Committee, the Treasurer and the President shall maintain the 501(c)(3) status of the Society by filing all required forms so that the Society may remain in good standing.

The Immediate Past-President shall provide continuity of operations for the Society and shall advise the President and Executive Committee. The Immediate Past-Secretary shall provide continuity of operations for the Society and advise the Executive Committee. Student Representatives serve as advocates for student members of the society.

At-large officers serve as resources for conducting the business of the Society. At-large officers serve as Committee Chairs and provide material support to the principal officers for organizing events and outreach.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for conduct of the business of the Society. Important actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported promptly to the membership at a business meeting or through mailed or emailed communication. In all matters of policy, the wishes of the majority of the membership expressed at a meeting or by referendum shall take precedence.

Article VI. Official Publications

The Society shall issue an official publication entitled *The Sociologist*. The Society shall issue such other regular or occasional publications as it deems necessary in the promotion of its objectives.

Article VII. Regular Committees

The President may appoint regular committees, as needs arise, to support the operation of the Society. The regular committees of the Society may include: (1) Membership, (2) Nominations & Elections, (3) Communications/Social Media, (4) Awards, (5) Archiving and History, (6) Outreach, (7) Events. Committees for special purposes may be appointed by the President with the consent of the Executive Committee. Regular committees shall be appointed by the President for a period of one year and expire at the conclusion of the President's term of office unless reappointed by the succeeding President. Ad hoc committees may be appointed for shorter periods of time.

The Membership Committee shall take action to encourage sociologists and students in sociology to apply for membership in the Society.

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall solicit nominations from the membership and prepare slates of nominees for President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Editor of the official publication of the Society and for any special nominations that are necessary for filling vacancies which occur in these offices during the official year. The Nominations Committee shall secure the agreement of nominees to be candidates for office and report the slate of nominees to the Secretary.

The Communications/Social Media Committee shall support the Society's objectives for maintaining and managing the presence and image of the Society in media.

The Awards Committee shall nominate candidates for DCSS Annual Awards including but not limited to the Irene B. Taeuber Graduate Student Paper Award; Anna Julia Cooper Award; Morris Rosenberg Award; Stuart A. Rice Merit Award.

The Archiving and History Committee shall focus on updating and preserving the historical records of the Society.

The Outreach Committee shall focus on planning and implementing outreach strategies to connect DCSS to people in all areas of sociological learning, teaching and practice.

The Events Committee shall assist the President in arranging for meetings and events of the Society.

Article VIII. Meetings & Events

The Society shall meet on occasions from October of one year to May of the following year. Date, time, and place of meetings shall be established by the President in consultation with the Executive Committee with a view of maximizing the convenience of members and meeting the exigencies of programming. Business meetings shall be meetings of the Society at which official reports are made or business transacted.

Business meetings at which matters of major importance are to be considered shall be announced in advance and the business under consideration shall be included in an Agenda mailed to the membership whenever possible. There is no restriction on combining business and regular meetings. Advance notice of the business session shall be provided as indicated above in cases where matters of major importance are to be considered. Notices of meetings shall be mailed or emailed to members of the society. Joint meetings may be held with other professional groups and societies.

Each year, meetings and events may include: (1) an Awards Ceremony to recognize and celebrate the achievements of fellow sociologists. (2) A Banquet to encourage and facilitate bonds of membership. (3) Events such as: book talk by authors and professors in the area, discussion forum or panel discussion of topical issues, faculty presentations of new research, new faculty event to introduce new professors or sociologists, graduate student networking gatherings. (4) An American Sociological Association President-Elect Talk to DCSS members. (5) Holiday Party.

Article IX. Elections & Appointments

The Nominations and Elections Committee shall perform the duties designated in Article VII. The slate of nominations shall be reported to the membership. Opportunity shall be provided for additional nominations for all elective offices from members of the Society. The election of officers shall be conducted by mail or email ballot. All members are eligible to vote. Provisional members are not eligible to vote (Article IV). The schedule of elections shall be determined by the Nominations and Elections Committee. After the results are known, the outcome of the election shall be reported.

The Executive Committee shall consider appointing the Officers of the Society based on the consensus of the Committee if the Nominations and Elections Committee is not able to provide a slate of nominations and if elections are not held. All such considerations, and the basis of all such appointment decisions shall be promptly communicated to Members.

Student Representatives are appointed by the President based on recommendations from the Executive Committee. When there is a vacancy, opportunity shall be provided to members of the Society to submit candidates for consideration by the Executive Committee. .

Article X. Finances

The amount of annual dues shall be established or changed by the Executive Committee. Dues for the official year shall be due upon receipt of notice from the secretary. A statement of receipts and disbursements of the Society shall be prepared by the Treasurer at the close of the official year. This report, after review by the Executive Committee, shall be provided to the members at a business meeting or by email. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.

Upon dissolution of the organization, the Executive Committee shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the liabilities of the Society, dispose of all the Society's remaining assets exclusively for the purposes set forth in Article II. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Court of Common Pleas Of the County in which the principal office of the organization is then located (or the Superior Court in the case of the District of Columbia), exclusively for such purposes or to such organization and organizations as said court shall determine, which are organized exclusively for such purposes.

Article XI. Adoption and Amendments

This Constitution shall become operative upon approval by a majority of the votes cast within thirty days of its submission to the membership in a referendum. Only persons whose dues are paid for the current official year may vote in this referendum. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by a petition signed by ten or more members of the Society, or by the Executive Committee. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the members of the Society and shall be adopted upon a favorable vote by a majority of Members responding within thirty days.