

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GERMAN PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

Article I

Section 1 - Name:

German Philosophy Society

Section 2 - Purpose:

The purposes of the German Philosophy Society are (1) To study historically important German-language philosophical texts in the original German, (2) To evaluate and attempt translations of these texts, (3) To better understand these texts by reading them in their original language, (4) To improve the translation, language, and philosophical skills of all members through the activities of (1), (2), and (3), and (5) To bring scholars to campus, or give a forum to scholars on campus, to discuss issues related to German-language philosophy. These German-language texts include, but are not limited to, those belonging to the most fruitful period of German-language philosophy, ranging roughly from the publication of Immanuel Kant's *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781) to the publication of Ludwig Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* (1951). During this 170-year period, philosophers such as Kant, Hegel, Schopenhauer, Marx, Frege, Nietzsche, Heidegger, Hilbert, and Wittgenstein published German-language works that continue to have a significant impact on the philosophical community. Furthermore, many of these texts are so full of German neologisms, or so involved with the study of language itself, that translation of the works proves extremely difficult. Having an official group will allow members to develop their German-language skills in a philosophical capacity. There is significant interest in this endeavor among students and faculty in both Philosophy and German departments. For philosophy students/faculty, members are given the chance to work with untranslated material. This is rarely available in seminars, which tend to focus exclusively on English translations of the works. For German students/faculty, members are given the chance to engage in philosophical conversation over the texts with philosophy students/faculty and improve their translation skills. Additionally, the official group will provide its members opportunities to speak with experts in this field, which will further enhance our understanding of the issues in German-language philosophy. Finally, undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty members will have a chance to engage with texts on a peer-to-peer basis, further encouraging departmental harmony and inclusion.

Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.

We encourage anyone who is interested in German-language philosophy to participate. In particular we aim to include undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at The Ohio State University, Ohio State faculty, alumni, and professionals with relevant expertise. Also, colloquium talks will be open to all interested students/faculty/alumni. However, only currently enrolled students at The Ohio State University shall have the right to vote on organizational issues.

If a member conducts him/herself in such a manner deemed detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization or is in violation of the OSU Student Code of Conduct, they can be removed through a majority vote of the other voting membership or unanimous vote of the officers, under the counsel of the adviser.

Article III - Organization Leadership: Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.

The Executive Committee of the German Philosophy Society shall conduct and have final say in all business during and in between meetings of the general membership.

The Executive Committee is comprised of five persons: i) President, ii) Secretary, iii) Treasurer, iv) Representative A, and v) Representative B.

The term of the President shall last for one academic year, from the beginning of Spring Semester to the end of an Autumn Semester.

The term of the Secretary shall last for one academic year, from the beginning of a Spring Semester to the end of an Autumn Semester.

The term of the Treasurer shall last for one academic year, from the beginning of a Spring Semester to the end of an Autumn Semester.

The term of each Representative shall last for one academic year, from the beginning of a Spring Semester to the end of an Autumn Semester.

Elections will be managed and supervised by the Secretary for the German Philosophy Society. Elections will be held in February of each year. In the event that an Officer fails in their duties, they may be removed by a majority vote and replaced in an Emergency Election. Tie votes for removal will be decided by the Faculty Advisor.

Where there is only one candidate for an office, that candidate will be awarded the office by default if he or she has the endorsement of at least one current member of the Executive Committee.

There are no term limits on any Executive Office.

In the event that Officers fail in their duties, they may be removed by a group majority vote.

Article IV - Executive Committee (if needed): Size and composition of the Committee.

President: The President shall be a graduate student in any Department at The Ohio State University. The president shall have one vote on all matters of the German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

Secretary: The Secretary shall be a graduate student in any Department at The Ohio State University. The Secretary shall have one vote on all matters of the German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be a graduate student in any Department at The Ohio State University. The Treasurer shall have one vote on all matters of the German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

Representative A: Representative A shall be a graduate student in any department at The Ohio State University. Representative A shall have one vote on all matters of the German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

Representative B: Representative B shall be a student in any department at The Ohio State University. Representative B shall have one vote on all matters of the German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

Popular Vote: The majority vote from the enrolled student, non-executive members of the German Philosophy Society shall count for one vote on matters deemed to be of significant general interest by the Executive Committee of German Philosophy Society's self-governance.

All matters concerning the self-governance of the German Philosophy Society are subject to the rulings of the Executive Committee. The rulings of the Executive Committee shall be established by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. In some cases, the Executive Committee may include one extra vote established by the majority of the general, non-executive membership. In such cases, the Popular Vote shall count for one additional Executive vote.

Popular Vote: The vote established by the enrolled student, non-executive majority of the German Philosophy Society.

The majority vote of the Executive Committee is always constituted of whatever offices are filled at the time of the vote.

Article V - Standing Committees (if needed): Names, purposes, and composition.

Members of the Executive Committee of the German Philosophy Society are empowered to create committees to serve the Executive Committee and the general membership. While committees can be proposed by any member of the German Philosophy Society, the creation, purpose, and tenure of a proposed committee shall only be established by a vote according to Article IV.

Article VI – Advisor(s) or Advisory Board: Qualification Criteria.

The German Philosophy Society shall have at least one Advisor, being a full-time member of any department at The Ohio State University. The Advisor for the German Philosophy Society is expected to consult with the Executive Committee at least once per academic year.

Article VII – Meetings of the Organization: Required meetings and their frequency.

The German Philosophy Society shall have at least four meetings in the Spring semester. The first meeting of the Spring semester shall be termed the “General Meeting” for the German Philosophy Society. The Autumn and Spring semesters of the academic year shall have at least three meetings.

“Meetings” shall typically, but not exclusively, include general meetings to address organizational business, meetings to discuss texts, social gatherings off or on The Ohio State University campus, and Colloquia given by faculty and/or students from The Ohio State University or other universities.

“Meetings” may also include impromptu Executive, non-executive, or mixed population gatherings called by the President, Secretary, or the Executive Committee as a whole.

Article VIII – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.

All business of the German Philosophy Society and all proposed amendments the constitution of the German Philosophy Society should be in writing. Proposed amendments to the constitution should not be acted upon, but should be read in the meeting in which they are proposed and should be read again at a specified number of subsequent general meetings and the general meeting in which the votes will be taken. A majority of Executive votes in the organization, plus the Popular Vote is required to pass a proposed amendment to the constitution.

Votes and the issues to be voted upon shall be announced by email at least twenty-four hours in advance.

Any constitutional amendment shall include a clause specifying when said amendment becomes active.

Article IX – Method of Dissolution of Organization

The German Philosophy Society shall only be dissolved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The majority vote for dissolution shall be constituted by an Executive majority as specified in Article IV.

By-Law

The Executive Committee of the German Philosophy Society shall have the right to institute by-laws and amend this constitution where it sees fit according to the voting rules given in Article IV.