

Constitution for Society for Philosophy of Science

Article I: Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy

Section 1: Name:

(§1) Society for Philosophy of Science (hereafter: SPS)

Section 2: Purpose:

(§1) The purpose of SPS is to create a forum for discussing issues in philosophy of science. Philosophy of science, as a branch of philosophy, tries to understand the aims, methods, principles, and practices of science. These are investigated both on a general level - by focusing on the topics applied to any branch of science, such as theory and evidence, scientific progress and theory change, confirmation, explanation, etc. - and in a more focused way - by looking into each field of science such as physics, biology, psychology, economics, computer science, etc. Issues closely related to science are also the target of study, such as the relationship between science and policy, moral problems in scientific research and technological advance, feminist science, to name a few. Given the apparent success and a huge impact science has made, understanding science - its nature, role, and value - is undoubtedly an important task. And given that societies are becoming more and more driven by scientific research and findings, the task will also become more and more significant. Society for Philosophy of Science aims to facilitate members of the Ohio State community to engage with the said task. For this, this group will provide various opportunities for people thinking about science to share their ideas and to discuss recent and important works in philosophy of science.

Section 3: Non-Discrimination Policy:

(§1) Along with The Ohio State University, SPS is committed to building and maintaining a diverse community to reflect human diversity and to improve opportunities for all. SPS is committed to equal opportunity, affirmative action, and eliminating discrimination. This commitment is both a moral imperative consistent with an intellectual community that celebrates individual differences and diversity, as well as a matter of law.

(§2) SPS does not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

(§3) As a student organization at The Ohio State University, SPS expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here:

<https://hr.osu.edu/wp-content/uploads/policy115.pdf>

(§4) If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <https://titleix.osu.edu/> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

Article II Membership: Qualifications and Categories of Membership

Section 1: Definition of Membership:

(§1) Any current graduate student and faculty member of The Ohio State University who is interested in philosophy of science.

(§2) A person is an active member of SPS if and only if that person attends more than ten hours of SPS meetings a semester and is in good standing.

Section 2: Qualifications for Voting:

(§1) Voting shall be restricted to currently enrolled students who are active members of SPS (Article 2, Section 1, §1).

Article III: Cause and Procedure for Removing Members and Executive Officers

Section 1: Cause and Procedure for Removal for Members

(§1) If any member conducts themselves in such a manner deemed by the any active member of SPS to be detrimental to advancing the purpose of SPS (Article I, Section 1), is in violation of The Ohio State University's Student Code of Conduct, floats the Non-Discrimination Policy of SPS (Article I, Section 3) or any other of SPS's constitutional by-laws, or otherwise violates university policy, federal, state, or local law, then SPS has cause for removal of that member

(§2) If SPS has cause to remove a member, then that member can be removed through either a majority vote of the other voting membership (Article 2, Section 2, §1) or unanimous vote of the officers, under the counsel of SPS's current advisor.

Section 2: Cause and Procedure for Removal of Executive Members

(§1) Any elected officer of SPS (Article IV, Section 1) may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of SPS, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws.

(§2) The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a unanimous affirmative vote of the other members of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor. If there is no unanimous vote, then the officer's removal will be determined by a two-thirds vote by the other voting members. If the cause of the officer's removal is their violation of the Non-discriminatory policy of SPS (Article I, Section 3), or any otherwise egregious behavior, and is voted for removal by either the executive board or the voting membership, then that person will no longer be permitted to participate in SPS events.

(§3) In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

Article IV: Organization Leadership

Section 1: Membership of the Organization Leadership

(§1) The membership of the organization leadership is restricted to the members of the following offices. The Primary Leader, The Secondary Leader, Treasurer, and Advisor.

Section 2: Terms of the Executive Board, Qualifications

(§1) The leadership offices of the have the following term lengths: September of year N to September of year N+1. Their term will begin one week following the voting meeting (Article V, Section 1) until the week after the next year's voting meeting. In the event of removal or graduation, special accommodations are met (Article V, Section 2)

(§2) There shall be no term limits for any leadership office.

(§3) The Secondary Leader must be a current graduate student at The Ohio State University's Philosophy Department. There is no such restriction on any other leadership office.

Section 3: Duties of the Executive Committee

(§1) The Primary Leader's duties include, but are not limited to, the following: determine the schedule of SPS meetings, spearhead recruitment and retention, maintain contact with the Office of Student Life, organize speakers, set and act as the primary facilitator for SPS's goals, set the agenda for each meeting, and moderate disputes within SPS.

(§2) The Secondary Leader's duties include, but are not limited to, the following: provide excellent council to the President in all matters related to the President's duties, act as the liaison between the executive committee and the general non-office holding active members, appoint the ranking members of any standing committee.

(§3) The Treasurer's duties include, but are not limited to, the following: maintain organized and accurate records pertaining to SPS's financial domain, secure appropriate funding from the Office of Student Life and, if need be, organize fundraising efforts, coordinate SPS's budget the goals of SPS.

(§4) The Advisor's duties include, but are not limited to, the following: provide guidance so that SPS meets both its specific, semester-dependent goals as well as its broader purpose, in the event of an leadership member's removal (Article IV, Section 2) counsel the remaining executive members in the replacement of an officer, aid SPS in its selection of speakers.

(§5) The members of the executive committee are expected coordinate with each other so that all of the responsibilities necessary for the maintenance and growth of SPS are met.

Article V: Election / Selection of SPS Leadership

Section 1: Voting Procedure for Officers

(§1) The terms for the leadership offices consists of the week after the voting meeting until the next voting meeting. Voting meetings must occur once annually every September, the exact date in which will be determined at least two weeks in advance by the active members, typically each August.

(§2) Selection for an executive member will be determined by the active voting membership of SPS. A person will be selected as an officer of SPS if and only if that person received a majority vote. No one person can hold more than once executive office in SPS. In the event of a tie, the advisor for SPS will determine the winner.

Section 2: Emergency Replacement of Officers

(§1) In the event that the leadership officer will no longer be a current student at the end of the spring semester in which their term as an officer begins, then that person must nominate an interim member to hold the office after their status as a student ends until the new September voting meeting. Once nominated, the majority vote of the executive board of the interim term will determine whether the nominee is selected. This nominated member must not be a current member of the interim executive committee but must be an active member of SPS.

(§2) In the event of the removal of an executive member (Article II, Section 2), an emergency voting meeting will occur and act in accordance with the voting procedure expressed at (Article V, Section 1).

Article VI: Executive Committee: Size and Composition

(§1) The Executive committee is composed of those who hold the leadership offices (Article IV, Section 1) and the ranking members of any SPS standing committee.

Article VII: Standing Committees

(§1) Formation: A standing committee can be formed for any purpose deemed necessary by the active membership to accord with SPS's goals. Any member of the active membership of SPS can make a call to form a standing committee, but the nomination of the standing committee's ranking member is restricted to the Primary Leader and subject to the approval of only the Secondary Leader.

(§2) Once formed, the composition of the standing committee is subject to the approval of the standing committee's ranking member.

(§3) The standing committee will be dissolved once the executive committee has determined by majority vote that the purpose of the standing committee has been achieved. If deemed necessary, the leadership office holders are encouraged provide a formal acknowledgment of the ranking member of the standing committee's efforts.

Article VIII Advisor: Qualification Criteria

(§1) The Advisor for SPS shall be a full-time member of The Ohio State University's faculty or Administrative and Professional staff.

(§2) This person must be able to perform the duties outlined (Article IV, Section 3, §4) as well as attend bi-annual training determined by the Office of Student Activities.

Article IX: Meetings and Events

(§1) In addition to the requirements expressed (Article II, Section 1, §2), all active members are expected to attend the annual voting meeting, any emergency voting meeting, and provide input when members of the executive committee determine input from the non-executive committee is necessary, as far as reasonable.

Article X: Conflict Resolution

(§1) SPS reserves the right to address member or even attendee behavior where the member or event attendee's behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization's constitution.

Article XI: Method of Amending Constitution

Section 1: Amendment Change Proposal and Notification

(§1) To change or otherwise amend the existing SPS constitution, any active member must submit in writing to the executive committee the precise nature of the change or amendment, the motivations for such a change or amendment, and what the current constitution does not adequately achieve relevant to the proposed change or amendment.

(§2) The Secondary Leader must review the proposal and advise the Primary Leader of its merits or demerits, orally, in private, and at a low volume.

(§3) Within two weeks of the initial proposal, the Primary Leader must respond to the proposal the following way. The Primary Leader must relate the leadership board's official view of the matter and state whether the proposal merits a vote among the active, voting membership. If it is determined to merit a vote, then the original proposer may be given a small amount of time, determined by the Primary Leader, to discuss the proposal. No further action will take place until the voting meeting.

Section 2: Voting Procedure for Changes or Amendments to the Constitution

(§1) Whether the proposal will be adopted will be determined by a two-thirds majority vote no later than the second meeting following the meeting where the Primary Leader discussed the proposal in question.

(§2) If the proposal achieved a two-thirds majority in its favor, the Primary Leader must, at the earliest reasonable time, revise the constitution and submit it to review by the Office of Student Activities for final approval.

Article XII: Method for Dissolution

(§1) SPS shall only be dissolved by a two-thirds majority vote with a *quorum* of two-thirds of its active membership, subject to the approval by the Advisor.

(§2) In the event of dissolution, the members of the executive committee are responsible for notifying the Office of Student Activities as soon as reasonably possible.