



WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY CONSTITUTION

Current through February 2016 Amendments

PREAMBLE

Criminology means all scholarly, scientific, and professional knowledge concerning the etiology, control, prevention, and treatment of crime and delinquency—including, but not limited to, the detection and measurement of crime, the legislation and practice of criminal law, and the operations of the law enforcement, judicial, and corrections components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the organization shall be the WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY, hereafter referred to as the WSC.

ARTICLE II: GOALS

- A. To bring together in one multidisciplinary organization, persons engaged in teaching, studying, researching, and practicing, or otherwise having a professional interest in criminology.
- B. To foster criminological scholarship, research, education, and training within academic institutions and within the components of the criminal and juvenile justice systems, including public and private agencies concerned with crime, justice, and corrections.
- C. To encourage cooperation among criminologists in the creation and exchange of scholarly, scientific, and practical knowledge.
- D. To serve as a forum for debate of criminological concepts and dissemination of criminological information.

ARTICLE III: EXECUTIVE BOARD

- A. The Executive Board shall administer the affairs of the WSC. It shall consist of at least 17 members all of whom are voting members except the President, unless there is a tie.
1. Three Elected Officers
 - a. President;
 - b. Immediate Past President (Past Presidents beyond the one-year limit may serve as non-voting members of the Executive Board if they are not serving in some other voting capacity); and
 - c. Vice President.
 2. One or Two Appointed Officers (who serve at the discretion of the Board)
 - a. Secretary, to serve a three-year term; and
 - b. Treasurer, to serve a three-year term.
 - c. At the discretion of the President, the positions of Secretary and Treasurer may be combined into a single position of Secretary/Treasurer as the needs of the Society may dictate.
 3. Seven Elected Board Members
 - a. Seven Executive Counselors to serve staggered three-year terms so that at least two new counselors will be elected to the Executive Board each year.
 4. Appointed Board Members (who serve at the discretion of the Board)
 - a. A minimum of four , but not more than eight, Counselors-at-Large, at least one of whom shall be a student, each to serve a one-year term;
 - b. Newsletter Editor/Communications Director, to serve a three-year term;
 - c. Journal Editor(s), to serve a three-year term;
 5. Optional Board Positions
 - a. At the discretion of the President or the Newsletter Editor/Communications Director, a Director of Social Media (or similarly-titled position) may be appointed to a one-year term as a Board member in order to assist the Newsletter Editor/Communications Director increase the WSC's visibility.

- b. At the discretion of the Board, an Executive Director may be appointed to a three-year term as a Board officer.
- B. The duties of the Executive Board shall include, but not be limited to:
 - 1. Form the policies of the WSC;
 - 2. Determine the date, location, and general program of the Annual Meeting;
 - 3. Ratify the budget for the WSC;
 - 4. Review the accounts and disbursements of the WSC;
 - 5. Act on resolutions submitted by the Resolution Committee; and
 - 6. Appoint Editors of WSC publications, including the newsletter and the journal, upon the expiration of the term of office for these positions.
- C. The decisions of the Executive Board shall be formally adopted, upon a majority vote, a quorum being present.
- D. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of ten voting members. Such a quorum is necessary for the Executive Board to conduct official business for the WSC.
- E. Executive Board business can be conducted by electronic voting, provided that a quorum is met.
- F. There shall be a minimum of two Executive Board meetings held annually.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

- A. The President
 - 1. Shall be the chief executive of the WSC, shall represent the WSC at formal gatherings, and shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Board and over the Annual Meetings.
 - 2. Shall appoint the Secretary and Treasurer (or a Secretary/Treasurer), subject to approval by the Executive Board.
 - 3. Shall appoint one or more of the Executive Board members as the Program Chairperson(s) for the Annual Meeting occurring during the President's term of office subject to approval by the Executive Board.

4. Shall appoint the Counselors-at-Large, at least one of whom shall be a student, to serve during the President's term of office.
5. Shall appoint replacements for any of the above positions that are vacated.
6. Shall appoint from among the Executive Counselors and Counselors-at-Large chairpersons for the various committees of the WSC.
7. Shall appoint a qualified person to conduct an annual review of the financial accounts of the WSC and ensure that a report is made to the Executive Board at the fall board meeting.

B. The Vice President

1. Shall preside over the meetings of the WSC in the absence of the President and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the WSC in the event that a vacancy exists in the office of the President, or upon the disability of the President.
2. The Vice President shall automatically assume the office of President when the one-year term of the President has expired, unless she/he declines to serve as President.

C. The Secretary, Treasurer, or the Secretary/Treasurer

1. The Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall record the details of all meetings of the WSC and of the Executive Board, and shall forward accurate minutes of such meetings to each member of the Executive Board as soon as possible after the conclusion of the meetings.
2. The Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate membership roster, indicating whether each member has paid his/her dues, and providing a record of each member's current mailing address.
3. The Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall invoice, receive, and safeguard all moneys of the WSC and be prepared at all times to render an account of the organization's income and disbursements, upon request of the President or the Executive Board.
4. The Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall draw all warrants of the WSC and sign them for payment of the WSC's expenses.
5. The Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer shall assist with an annual review of the financial accounts of the WSC.

D. The Executive Director

1. The Executive Director shall assist the other Officers in carrying out their respective duties.
2. The Executive Director shall support and guide the organization's mission and business operations.

E. Qualifications of Officers

1. Any regular member of the WSC whose dues are paid and who has been a member for at least one year shall be eligible to hold the position of Vice-President or President.
2. Any regular member of the WSC whose dues are paid and who has served at least five years on the Board shall be eligible to hold the position of Executive Director.
3. Any regular member of the WSC whose dues are paid shall be eligible to hold any other position on the Board.
4. Any Officer or Board member of the WSC may be removed by a membership referendum initiated by vote of three-quarters of the Executive Board. The referendum shall be sent to the members of WSC for vote. The referendum for removal will be adopted, and the officer removed, if approved by fifty-one percent of the members voting.

ARTICLE V: ELECTIONS

- A. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a chair and not less than two additional members to a Nominating Committee to develop a slate of nominees for the offices of Vice President and each of the eligible Executive Counselor positions. If the incumbent Vice President has declined to serve as President through the stipulated succession process, the Nominating Committee shall provide nominees for the office of the President.
- B. The Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute a tentative slate for elected offices to the WSC membership no later than eight weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the WSC.
- C. Upon an application containing the signatures of ten members of the WSC, the Nominating Committee shall add names to the ballot, when such application is received by the Chair of the Nominating Committee no later than two weeks after the official date of notification of the tentative slate.

- D. The Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall construct a final official ballot consisting of the slate of candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee, plus any additional nominations meeting the provision of Article V, Section C. This ballot shall be distributed to the membership of WSC. The membership shall be instructed by the Nominating Committee to return these official, signed ballots to the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer no later than two weeks after the official mailing date on the final ballot.
- E. In the event of a tie vote for any of the elected officers, the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall distribute a run-off ballot by mail to be returned by the membership to the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer prior to the Annual Meeting.
- F. The results of the election of officers shall be made available to the membership no later than during the Annual Meeting of the WSC.
- G. Newly elected persons shall take office at the designated end of the last regularly scheduled session of the Annual Meeting following their election.

ARTICLE VI: MEMBERSHIP

- A. Regular membership shall be available to those persons who are: (1) professionally engaged in criminology-related fields; (2) studying in criminology-related disciplines in colleges or universities; or (3) have a professional interest in criminology-related study or practice. All applications for regular membership must be approved by the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer.
- B. Associate membership shall be available to those persons who do not meet the criteria for regular membership.
- C. Honorary membership shall be available to those persons who: (1) receive an award from the WSC and are not members of the WSC; or (2) may not be eligible for regular membership, but whose current activities support the goals of the WSC. All honorary members shall be nominated by the Membership or the Award Committees, and must be approved by the Executive Board.
- D. Institutional membership shall be available to those public or private organizations with a major function that is both directly related to the field of criminology and supports the goals of the WSC. All applications for institutional membership must be approved by the Executive Board.
- E. Only regular members will be eligible to vote on matters that come before the membership of the WSC for such action. Only regular members are eligible to be elected or appointed to offices of the WSC.

ARTICLE VII: ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Executive Board supports the formation of student chapters at colleges and universities. Student groups can request that the Executive Board officially recognize the organization as a WSC student chapter. All organizational and financial regulation for these chapters would be the responsibility of individual colleges and universities.

ARTICLE VIII: PROCEDURE

The most current version of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the procedure of all decision-making meetings of the WSC, its Executive Board, and its committees unless such rules are contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws of the WSC.

ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- A. Proposed amendments shall be presented to the Executive Board which shall vote upon the amendments, and then present those that are approved to the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer.
- B. The Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the membership of the proposed amendment(s) and shall arrange for a mail or electronic ballot.
- C. Amendments shall become effective when approved by two-thirds of those members who return official, signed or electronic ballots to the Secretary or Secretary/Treasurer.