

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS WESTERN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY As amended 2009

CONSTITUTION

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.

I. NAME

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

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.

III. EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The Executive Board shall administer the affairs of the WSC. It shall consist of the following 17 officers all of whom are voting members except the President, unless there is a tie.

1. 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.)

c. Vice President

d. Seven Executive Counselors serving staggered three-year terms so that at least two new counselors will be elected to the Executive Board each year.

2. Appointed Officers (who serve at the discretion of the Board)

a. Secretary/Treasurer, to serve a three-year term.

b. Four Executive Counselors-at-large, one of whom shall be a student, each to serve a one-year term.

c. Newsletter Editor, to serve a three-year term.

d. Journal Editor, to serve a three-year term.

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.

6. Appoint Editors of WSC publications, including the newsletter, the Western Criminologist, and the journal, Western Criminology Review, 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, given the Quorum is met.

F. There shall be a minimum of two Executive Board meetings held annually.

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/Treasurer to serve during the President's term of office, subject to approval by the Executive Board.

3. Shall appoint one of the Executive Board members as the Program Chairperson for the Annual Meeting occurring during the President's term of office subject to approval by the Executive Board.

4. Shall appoint four Executive Counselors-at-large, 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--including, but not limited to, program, nominations, awards, constitution, membership, publication, and resolution committees.

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

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. 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

1. 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. 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. 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. Shall draw all warrants of the WSC and sign them for payment of the WSC's expenses.
5. Shall assist with an annual review of the financial accounts of the WSC.

D. Newsletter Editor and Journal Editor

Shall oversee the publication of the *Western Criminologist* and the *Western Criminology Review* at regular intervals.

E. Qualifications of Officers

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 office.

F. Any officer of the WSC may be removed by a membership referendum initiated either 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.

V. ELECTIONS

A. The President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a chair and not less than three 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/Treasurer shall distribute a tentative slate for elected offices to the WSC membership no later than ten 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/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 V(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/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/Treasurer shall distribute a run-off ballot by mail to be returned by the membership to the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the Annual Meeting.

F. The results of the election of officers shall be made available to the membership 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.

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/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.

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.

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 By-laws of the WSC.

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/Treasurer.

B. The Secretary/Treasurer shall notify the membership of the proposed amendment(s) and shall arrange for a mail ballot.

C. Amendments shall become effective when approved by two-thirds of those members who return official, signed ballots to the Secretary/Treasurer.

BY-LAWS

I. EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS

A. Executive Board meetings shall be called at the discretion of the President with at least two weeks written notice provided to all members of the Board by the Secretary/Treasurer.

B. Upon petition by at least ten members of the Executive Board to the Secretary/Treasurer a special meeting of the Executive Board shall be scheduled within four weeks.

C. Any member of the Executive Board who will not be able to attend an Executive Board meeting shall be able to vote by written proxy given to any voting member of the Board.

D. Any member of the Executive Board who is absent from two Board meetings within one year without prior notice to the President, will be considered, in effect, to have resigned. At the next regularly scheduled meeting, the Board shall vote to accept this resignation and be informed of the Presidential appointment of a replacement to serve the remainder of the term.

E. Not less than ten days prior to a scheduled Board Meeting, all available documents to viewed at the forthcoming meeting and the agenda shall be mailed to all Board members by the Secretary/Treasurer.

F. In the case of a permanent vacancy on the Board for any reason, the President shall appoint a replacement to complete the term. The president will use the ranking of remaining candidates from the previous election to select the replacement. The position will be offered to candidates in rank order on the basis of number of votes received in the previous election. If none of the candidates are willing, or able, to serve, the President will fill the vacancy from the general membership with the approval of the Board.

II. MEMBERSHIP DUES

A. Annual or life-time dues for all classes of membership shall be determined by the Executive Board.

B. Regular members who qualify as students shall pay less dues than regular members who qualify as professionals.

- C. Honorary members shall be relieved of the requirement to pay annual dues.
- D. The membership year shall be the calendar year and dues shall not be pro-rated.

III. AWARDS AND CRITERIA

- A. The WSC may confer awards at its Annual Meeting upon one or more persons whose achievements can be confirmed by the Awards Committee as satisfying the appropriate award criteria.
- B. All awards shall be approved by the Executive Board.
- C. Paul Tappan Award may be conferred upon those persons who have made outstanding contributions to the field of criminology by creating or developing generally accepted knowledge that has been validated over time by peer review and use.
- D. J.D. Lohman Award may be conferred upon those persons who have significantly enhanced the welfare of the WSC through outstanding service as officers, committee members, and members of the WSC.
- E. Morrison-Gitchoff Award may be conferred upon those persons whose actions have significantly improved the quality of justice in the United States or in other countries.
- F. President's Award may be conferred upon a person whose achievements are directly related to the improvement of the field of criminology and who has personally influenced the career of the current President.
- G. Fellow Award may be conferred upon those academics and practitioners generally associated with the Western region who have made important contributions to the field of criminology and who may not be members of the WSC.
- H. W.E.B. Du Bois Award may be conferred upon those persons who have significantly contributed to scholarship or activism on crime and race or ethnicity.
- I. A special award can be conferred by the Executive Board on a person of special merit whose accomplishments do not fit the requirements for any of the existing award listed above.

IV. REGISTRATION FEES

A registration fee may be assessed for participants at the Annual Meeting and other activities of the WSC. All fees shall be set by the Executive Board and the membership shall be notified by the Secretary/Treasurer or conference program chair.

V. RESOLUTIONS

A. The WSC shall express its position on criminological issues through written resolutions, which shall be widely disseminated beyond its membership.

B. Resolutions shall be formulated by the Resolution Committee, or by individual members who may forward them to the Resolution Committee either directly or through the Executive Board.

C. The Resolution Committee shall present all original resolutions to the Executive Board for approval.

VI. PUBLICATIONS

A. The Publications Committee is responsible for support and coordination of WSC publications, including the *Western Criminology Review*, the *Western Criminologist*, the world wide web home page, and related matters. The Publications Committee will be composed of the editors of the WCR and WC; one voting member of the WSC Executive Board who is neither of the above and who will serve as Chairperson; and two at-large WSC members. The Publications Committee shall not abridge the autonomy and control of the Editor over the review and publication of the WCR.

B. The *Western Criminology Review* is the official journal of the WSC. The WCR is a scholarly journal that assesses the quality of publications through anonymous peer review. The journal and journal mission are at <http://wcr.sonoma.edu>.

C. The purpose of the Editorial Advisory Board is to advise the WCR Editor as to the suitability of manuscripts for publication in the WCR. Members should have sufficient experience and time to provide reasoned, timely, and unbiased decisions about the quality of papers submitted to the WCR. EAB members may be replaced before their term expires. The Editor will appoint the Editorial Advisory Board to three year terms. EAB appointments are subject to approval by the Executive Board.

D. The WCR Editor shall serve a three-year term and shall have sufficient experience in scholarship and publication to carry out the duties as an editor of an electronic publication.

VII. JUNE MORRISON FUND

The June Morrison Fund, comprised of individual donations and the proceeds from special events, shall be used to recognize student accomplishments and to assist student attendance at the Annual Meeting. The Executive Board shall determine the amount and manner in which funds shall be dispersed.

VIII. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended by two-thirds of those members voting according to the same provisions specified in Article VIII of the Constitution.