

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY

PREAMBLE

The term criminology as used hereinafter refers to all scholarly, scientific and professional knowledge concerning the etiology, prevention, control, and treatment of crime and delinquency, including the measurement and detection of crime, legislation, and the practice of criminal law, the law enforcement, judicial, and correctional systems.

I. Name of the Organization

The name of the society shall be THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY.

II. Purpose and Objectives

- A. To bring together in one multidisciplinary society persons actively engaged in research, teaching, and/or practice in the field of criminology;
- B. To foster criminological scholarship, research, education, and training within academic institutions and within the divisions of the criminal justice system, including public and private agencies concerned with crime, justice, and corrections
- C. To encourage scholarly, scientific and practical exchange and cooperation among those engaged in criminology;
- D. To serve as a forum for the dissemination of criminological knowledge.

III. The Executive Board

- A. The Executive Board shall administer the affairs of the organization. It shall consist of the following officers as voting members:

- 1. The elected officers

- a. President
 - b. President-Elect
 - c. Immediate Past President
 - d. Vice President
 - e. Vice President-Elect

- 2. The appointed officers

- a. Executive Secretary
 - b. Treasurer
 - c. Editor of CRIMINOLOGY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL

- 3. Executive Counselors

- a. There shall be six elected Executive Counselors.
 - b. In the event of death or resignation of an Executive Counselor, the President shall appoint the next runner-up from the same election, for the remainder of the term.

- B. Committee Chairpersons

Chairpersons of Society committees who are not members of the Executive Board may attend its meetings without having voting rights. Such other persons as the President and Board deem appropriate may also attend, upon invitation, without voting rights.

C. The Executive Board shall:

1. Form the policies of the Society;
2. Determine the date and place of the Annual Meeting and outline the program for this meeting;
3. Instruct the Treasurer on criteria for acceptance of all applications for membership in the Society;
4. Ratify the budget for the Society;
5. Audit the accounts and disbursements of the Society;
6. Ratify the appointment of the various Editors of the Society's journal, CRIMINOLOGY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY JOURNAL, the Publications Committee and any other committees of the Society;
7. Fill vacancies on the Board by a majority vote of the Board;

D. The actions of the Executive Board shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board.

E. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of half plus one of the total number of members.

F. The President, President-Elect, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer shall constitute an executive Committee to act on behalf of the Board, at the request of the President, in between meetings of the Board.

IV. Officers

A. The President

1. Shall be the Chief Executive of the Society, shall represent the Society at formal gatherings, shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Board, shall preside over the Annual Meeting, and shall appoint such committees as deemed necessary.

B. Vice President

1. The Vice President shall preside over the meeting of the Society in the absence of the President and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Society in the event that a vacancy exists in the office of the President, or upon the disability of the President.

C. President-Elect and Vice President-Elect

1. The President-Elect shall become the President at the end of the predecessor's Presidential term of office.
2. The President-Elect shall appoint the Program Chairperson for the Annual Meeting subject to ratification by the Executive Board.
3. The Vice President-Elect shall become the Vice-President concurrent with the President-Elect assuming the presidency.
4. In the event that the Vice President must assume the duties of the President, the Vice President-Elect will assume the remaining term of the Vice President and will also serve his/her own term.
5. If the Vice President-Elect vacates his/her office for reasons other than replacing the Vice President, his/her place shall be taken by the runner-up in his/her election.

C. **Honorary members shall be:**

Those persons who make exceptional contributions to criminology and are so approved by the Executive Board.

D. **Emeritus members shall be:**

Those retired persons who have been active members for not less than ten (10) years and upon whom the Executive Board bestows the title.

E. **Life memberships shall be available to those who have been active members for at least five years and have been approved for such membership by the Executive Board. A certificate acknowledging this status shall be awarded upon receipt of the sum equivalent to ten years dues.**

F. **Fellows**

The title of Fellow is available to members in good standing who have, in the opinion of the Board, achieved distinction in criminology and have complied with such standards as are determined by the Executive Board. Fellow status shall be announced each year at the Annual Meeting and the candidates will be acknowledged by the Society with the presentation of a Certificate at the Annual Meeting. No more than four (4) Fellows shall be designated annually, and each shall be elected by the Executive Board.

G. **Institutional**

Institutional membership shall be available to any accredited institution of higher education offering a bona fide degree in the discipline of criminology (as defined in the Preamble, and regardless of the actual designation of the degree's field), or other organizations. Membership will be achieved upon review of the application by the Treasurer and majority vote on the application by the Executive Board.

H. **Divisions**

Divisions may be organized to represent major professional interests that lie within the scope of the Society as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution.

A Division may be established whenever three percent or more of the members in good standing of the Society petition the Executive Board and receive Board approval. Two-thirds affirmative vote of those present at any meeting of the Executive Board is required for the establishment of a new Division. The Board may create a Division provided that (a) the Division represents an active and functionally unitary interest of a group of members, (b) its proposed objectives fall within the scope of those specified in the Society's Constitution, (c) its membership is not restricted on any bases other than interests and Society membership and, (d) the establishment of any new Division is not inimical to the objectives of the Society or any other Division already established. Divisions may use a distinct name, provided they append to it the phrase: "A Division of The American Society of Criminology".

A petition for the formation of a new Division shall include in its prefatory statement the following: a statement of the proposed name and purpose of the Division, relevant evidence that the petitioners "represent an active and functionally unitary interest of a group of members", the names of the member or members sponsoring the petition or speaking for the petitioners and a statement that the individual petitioners ask for and will accept membership in the Division if it is established. The names of the petitioners should be followed by their ASC mailing address to assist in the unambiguous identification of the signers. The petition shall be transmitted to the Executive Secretary with designation of some individual who will speak for the petitioners in further communications. The

VIII. Journal Publications

The Society shall publish a refereed journal entitled CRIMINOLOGY: An Inter-disciplinary Journal which shall be distributed to all members and member institutions in good standing.

- A. Composition. The Editorial Board shall consist of the Vice-President as Chair, the Vice President-Elect, and four members appointed by the President, with the Editor and Editor-Elect, in years where such exists, as ex-officio (non-voting) members.
- B. Powers. The Editorial Board shall recommend to the Executive Board of the Society on such matters as editors, publishers, and publishing arrangements. It shall generally oversee the operation of the Society's publishing activities.

IX. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

- A. Due notice of proposed amendment to the Constitution having been given, any section of this Constitution may be amended by two-thirds vote of those members who cast a ballot and such ballots shall be by mail.
- B. Procedure for Amending the Constitution
 - 1. Proposed amendments must be presented to the Executive Board which shall vote upon the amendment, and then present the amendment to the Executive Secretary.
 - 2. When presented to the Executive Secretary, the proposed amendment must bear the signatures of a majority of the members of the Executive Board, or alternatively, the proposed amendment must bear the signatures of five percent of the members of the Society.
 - 3. The Executive Secretary shall notify the membership of the pending vote and shall arrange for the ballot.
- C. Any By-Laws shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board in each of two consecutive meetings.

Section 3. Term. The Editor is normally appointed for a three-year term by the President and ratified by the Executive Board. The four appointed Board members shall serve staggered two-year terms. During the first year following ratification of this amendment, two members shall be designated as having one-year terms.

Article 6. Elections

The election shall be by mail ballot distributed at least twelve weeks prior to the Annual Meeting of the Society with return due date to be specified by the Executive Committee. Candidates for President-Elect and Vice President-Elect each receiving the larger plurality of 40% or more of all votes cast shall be elected. In the event no person receives this plurality, a run-off election by mail will be held between the two candidates who received the most votes. For Counselors, the two candidates who receive the most votes shall be elected. Should resignation, removal or death require that more than two Counselors be elected, the candidate(s) with the next highest number of votes shall be elected.

Article 7. Disbursements

Payments from Society funds may be approved by the Treasurer up to a sum of \$500.00. Payments in excess of \$500 must have approval by both the President and the Treasurer.

Revisions Adopted by Membership 6/5/85