

SOCIETY OF PROFESSORS EMERITI
Established in 1978

**THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSORS EMERITI OF WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY**

CONSTITUTION

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be: The Society of Professors Emeriti of Washington University.

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be to encourage and promote the common interests of its members, to provide for social and intellectual interaction among them, and to serve as a clearinghouse for information concerning University policy of interest to the group.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- A. All Washington University Emeriti of any academic rank and of any Department or School shall be eligible for membership upon application to the Council. The Council shall elect any eligible applicant or show cause why the applicant is not acceptable. The election to membership shall become effective upon payment of the dues for the first year in which membership begins.
- B. Individuals belonging in the three following categories of the University community may be invited by vote of the Council to become Members of the Society, with full privileges of membership:
- (1) Retired officers of the administration and staff associates who have served for at least ten years.
 - (2) Members of the Washington University faculty who have served at least ten years but without tenure and hence not eligible for emeritus appointment.

- (3) The surviving spouse of any deceased, tenured faculty member who would automatically have been eligible for membership in the Society.
- C. Individuals who have offered exceptional service to Washington University may be invited by vote of the Council to become Honorary members of the Society.
- D. The spouse or friend of a member of the Society may be invited by the member to be his or her guest at any luncheon meeting of the Society.
- E. In April of each year the Secretary shall obtain from the appropriate administrative office of Washington University the names of all newly appointed Emeriti and shall then send each of them a letter with information about the Society of Professors Emeriti.

IV. **OFFICERS**

The officers of the organization shall be as follows:

- A. The President shall serve for a period of one year, shall preside over all meetings of the membership and of the Council, and be a voting member of the latter body; shall be an ex-official member of all committees, and shall perform such other functions as are described in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- B. At the end of the term of office, the President shall become the Past-President and as such shall continue to serve as a member of the Council for one year.
- C. The President-Elect and Secretary, a joint office, shall serve for a period of one year and then succeed the President in that office. The President-Elect shall carry on the functions of the President in the absence or incapacity of the President, and shall be a voting member of the Council. In the capacity of Secretary, the incumbent shall handle correspondence with members and with others, and keep minutes of meetings. As an executive officer, the President-Elect shall, with the President, carry out the decisions of the membership and of the Council.
- D. The Treasurer shall serve for a period of one year and shall have the duties of collecting dues, keeping financial records, and disbursing funds of the Society. The Treasurer shall serve as a member of Council.
- E. The Council shall consist of the three regular officers and nine other Councilors elected for three years each and three a year. Councilors shall be

chosen to represent different academic disciplines and Schools of the University. The Council shall be the principal decision making body of the Society, and shall conduct its business at meetings held at least once a year, and more frequently if called by the President.

- F. An Archivist shall be included among the officers with the duty of preserving the Society documents, records and other official papers. The Archivist shall be nominated and elected by the Council to serve for a period of three years, with reelection unrestricted. He shall receive relevant materials from each successive officer at the end of their terms of office. Having discharged that function, the Archivist shall deposit the papers for perpetual preservation in the Washington University (St. Louis) Archives, in accordance with an arrangement effected in 1980-81. Retrieval of needed materials shall be the joint responsibility of the Society's Archivist and the Archivist of Washington University.
- G. The Archivist of the Society shall serve with the other officers as a regular member of the Council during the tenure of his office.

V. **COMMITTEES**

Standing or ad hoc committees may be appointed from the membership by the President with the advice of the Council.

VI. ELECTIONS

A. **New:** At the meeting of the Council each September a prenominating committee of three present or former Council member shall be appointed by the President with the charge to bring to the October Council meeting a proposed slate of officers for Council approval or modification. The Council approved nominations shall then be presented to the membership for its consideration and election at its December meeting.

Old: For a regular election, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three members who will prepare a slate of at least one nominee willing to serve in each office then falling vacant. Any group of three members may submit an additional nominee for any office if the nomination is received before the date set for the election, which shall take place at the regular meeting in December. Voting for any office for which there are two or more nominees shall be by secret ballot. The nominees receiving the highest numbers of votes shall be declared elected.

B. The Past-President cannot be a candidate for the office of President-Elect until the lapse of at least two years after serving as President. No such limit shall be imposed on the candidacy of Councilors.

C. If by reason of disability, change of location, or any other cause, a vacancy among the officers occurs before the end of the stated term, the Council shall, by majority vote, appoint a successor who will serve until the next regular election.

VII. MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the membership shall be held once a month except in June, July and August. Unless otherwise arranged, these meetings shall include: luncheon at the Washington University Faculty Conference Center (or other suitable place), then a social/intellectual program with a speaker or topic of general interest or a business session. At least two of the meetings shall be planned as business meetings: one in the spring, the other in November for the annual election.

VIII. OTHER ACTIVITIES

The officers and Council may conduct activities consistent with the purposes of the Society not specifically mentioned in the Constitution and Bylaws.

IX. **AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted to a vote of the membership and shall be adopted if favored by two-thirds of those voting at any regular meeting. Amendments may be proposed either by the Council or by any group of five members.