

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF THE**  
**SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN LITERATURE**

- I. AMENDMENTS.** Amendments to the by-laws shall be made by the Leadership Council by majority vote.
- II. ELECTIONS AND VOTING.** All SSSL members in good standing are eligible to vote for President-elect and Executive Committee members. Unless otherwise specified by the Leadership Council, voting shall be conducted by confidential electronic ballot, presided over by the Secretary-Treasurer. A quorum shall consist of nine members of the Leadership Council.
- III.** If meetings of the Leadership Council are held in person, voting shall take place in person. Non-present members of the Leadership Council may vote by proxy. Electronic meetings (via email or other media) shall conduct votes by electronic ballot (email or confidential ballot).
- IV.** A President-Elect is elected by the membership every two years. In the second year of any presidential term the Executive Committee will appoint a Nominating Committee of three members in good standing, one of whom must be a current or past member of the Executive Committee. The Presidential Nominating Committee will choose a chair from among themselves, and will take charge of all facets of the election process including recruiting a slate of candidates and assisting the Secretary-Treasurer with the creation and distribution of an electronic ballot to SSSL members. Nominees for President-elect must be current or former members of the Leadership Council. The ballot should include each candidate's name, position, and candidate's vision statement.
- V.** The twelve elected members of the Executive Committee serve staggered two-year terms. Executive Committee elections occur each year to replace retiring members. Each year, the Executive Committee will appoint a Nominating Committee of three members in good standing—one of whom must be a current or past member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee Nominating Committee will choose a chair from among themselves, and will take charge of all facets of the election process including recruiting a slate of candidates and assisting the Secretary-Treasurer with the creation and distribution of an electronic ballot to SSSL members. The Nominating Committee will announce the call for nominations, including job descriptions of each position, on the SSSL listserv, the SSSL website, the SSSL Facebook page, and among the members more generally. All SSSL members in good standing are eligible for nomination, including self-nomination.
- VI.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall be authorized to deposit funds of the Society in a federally-insured banking institution. The Secretary-Treasurer shall establish and

maintain a careful bookkeeping system in accordance with the requirements put forth by the non-profit corporation laws, and should report regularly to the Leadership Council and President about relevant financial matters. This officer, in conjunction with the Investments Committee, also works with the Leadership Council and President on basic financial operations, such as designing a yearly budget, fulfilling contractual obligations, and receiving and keeping track of all SSSL funds, including membership and conference registration fees. The Secretary-Treasurer shall set the agenda and keep minutes of all Leadership Council and membership meetings and shall distribute copies to the Council before each meeting.

- VII.** To assist the Program Coordinator, members may be appointed from the Council or the membership at large to constitute the Program Committee. The Program Coordinator serves as chair of this committee, and is empowered to negotiate hotel and other conference expenditures with approval of the President and Secretary-Treasurer. In addition to planning the conference, the Program Committee awards all relevant travel prizes to attend the biennial conference.
- VIII.** The Leadership Council shall choose a Newsletter Editor, upon recommendation of the President, to edit, publish, and distribute the Newsletter of the Society. All members whose dues are paid shall receive digital copies.
- IX.** The President shall appoint a Digital Media Coordinator, with the approval of the Leadership Council, to edit, publish, and coordinate the presence of the Society on the internet.
- X. PRESSES.** The President of the Society, or its designated representatives, shall be authorized to enter into arrangements with appropriate presses for publication of volumes that promote the scholarly study of Southern literature and culture.
- XI. SPONSORSHIP OF PROGRAMS.** Four years shall elapse between the Society's sponsorship of a program proposed by Society members and sponsorship of another program proposed by the same members.
- XII. AWARDS.** Each year, the President appoints the Holman Award Committee and the Rubin Prize Committee, each of which must consist of at least three SSSL members in good standing. The Holman Award Committee names the best book of literary scholarship or literary criticism in the field of southern literature and culture published during a given calendar year, with the copyright date of the book determining its year of publication for this purpose. Books eligible for the award may be literary criticism, literary history, scholarly editions, or bibliographies, which show significant study of southern literary and cultural production. However, reprints of previously published books or essays are not eligible. The Rubin Prize Committee names the best article of literary scholarship or literary criticism in the field of southern literature and culture published during a given calendar year, with the copyright date of the article determining its year of publication for this purpose. Prizes will be awarded at the SSSL, MLA, or ALA conference. Biennially, the President appoints a committee for The

Richard Beale Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters. The Davis Award is presented every other year at the biennial conference of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature to honor a writer or scholar who has made distinguished lifetime contributions to southern letters. Travel awards to the biennial conference are made by the Program Committee.

- XIII. AFFILIATION.** To more effectively achieve the purposes of SSSL, the Society may enter into affiliation with other groups or associations. Affiliated groups should agree in principle and practice with SSSL's policies. Any member may propose affiliation with a group or association to the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council must designate affiliated organizations or groups by a two-thirds vote.
- XIV. ADVOCACY.** Requests for advocacy statements can originate with any member of SSSL who provides a written request that provides a clear and concise nature of the matter and which states its relevance to the membership at large, the intended audience of the statement, the timeframe of the statement, and the desired objective of the statement. SSSL advocacy statements are made by the President upon consultation with and by the approval of the majority of the Leadership Council. The Council may decide to move the question to the vote of the entire membership. SSSL should be strategic in selecting matters on which to speak out, and public statements should address matters of clear and common professional interest and concern.
- XV. REMOVAL.** SSSL members agree to abide by the Society's Constitution, By-laws, and Policies. Any member may report violations of these documents orally or in writing to the President and/or other members of the Leadership Council, who shall conduct an investigation. The Leadership Council shall then vote on removal from leadership position, committee membership, and/or Society membership. Votes for removal of officers or members must be by two thirds majority.

**Revised September 2018**