

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF SOUTHERN LITERATURE

(Revised September 2018)

- I. NAME.** The name of this society shall be the Society for the Study of Southern Literature, hereafter referred to as SSSL. The Society shall be incorporated as a non-profit organization under the laws of the State of Illinois or under the laws of the state to which the SSSL membership votes to move the Society hereafter.
- II. PURPOSE.** The purpose of SSSL shall be to encourage the study and teaching of U.S. southern literature and culture. SSSL fosters intellectual discussion, scholarship and teaching about U.S. southern literature and culture through the SSSL newsletter, a biennial conference, and the sponsorship of awards; as well as through books, articles and publications, professional meetings and other public forums either in cooperation with other learned societies or independently of them, as deemed appropriate by the members of the Society. In all endeavors, SSSL is committed to social equality and critical and rigorous discourse about the U.S. South. We are an anti-racist organization that contests historical revisionism, which white supremacists have used to maintain racial hierarchies, inequality, and injustice. We support scholarship that examines the heterogeneity of both the past and present South and that considers the borders of the region in expansive ways. We encourage dynamic critical dialogue from multiple theoretical and critical perspectives. We support others who advocate for diversity, community, inclusivity, and equality.
- III. MEMBERSHIP.** Any person interested in the purposes of the Society may be admitted to membership upon payment of biennial dues and may be continued as a member by payment of dues every two years. Membership dues shall be determined by the Council. Payment of biennial dues entitles the member to receive the digital newsletter, to be enrolled in the Society's electronic listserv, and to participate and vote in any applicable election organized by SSSL. The Leadership Council may remove a member of the Society for cause. In the event of resignation or removal, any membership dues already paid are forfeit.
- IV. OFFICERS.** To direct the Society there shall be a Leadership Council comprised of a President, a President-elect, a Past President, a Secretary-Treasurer, a Program Coordinator for the Biennial Meeting, and an Executive Committee. Any Officer or member of the Leadership Council, including the President or President-elect, may resign or may be removed for cause by two-thirds vote of the Council, per procedures outlined in the By-laws.

The President shall preside at meetings of the Leadership Council and at general meetings of the Society, and shall administer the Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies

throughout the year. The President may convene meetings of the full Leadership Council, in person or electronically, as needed, but not less than once a year. In order to facilitate smooth transfer of governance, the President shall apprise the President-elect of significant events leadership decisions and events during their term. The President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees of the Society.

The President-elect shall be elected by the SSSL membership and, normally, from the membership of the Council, per procedures in the By-laws. For two years immediately following their election, the President-elect shall serve as a voting member of the Leadership Council, after which time they become President for a single two-year term. Should the President-elect already be a member of the Leadership Council or Executive Committee, the Leadership Council will elect an interim replacement for that role until a regular election is held.

The Past President (the immediate predecessor of the President) shall advise the President and the other members of the Leadership Council. Past Presidents of the Society will serve an additional one-year term on the Leadership Council, ex-officio, following the termination of their last year in office. Continued service on the Leadership Council is subject to the same terms as regular elected members of the Council.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected triennially by the Leadership Council and may be chosen from among its membership. The Secretary-Treasurer serves on the Leadership Council, ex-officio.

The Program Coordinator shall be appointed by the President for a two-year term. The Program Coordinator shall coordinate SSSL's biennial national conference in consultation with the Leadership Council, the host university, and local organizers. The Program Coordinator serves on the Leadership Council, ex officio.

The Executive Committee shall consist of twelve elected members as well as the Past President of the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO), the ESO President (ex officio) and the Editor of the Newsletter (ex officio). Executive Committee members shall hold office for two calendar years following their election or appointment. No person shall serve more than two consecutive terms as a member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall advise the Leadership Council and the general membership concerning matters of policy and the long-term objectives of the Society.

The Past President of the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO) represents that organization's interests on the Executive Committee and serves a two-year term with voting rights. The current ESO President serves ex officio.

The President may also, at their discretion, appoint one or more honorary or advisory members to the Council. These members serve ex officio.

The full Leadership Council shall hold, in person or electronically, at least one meeting during each calendar year.

- V. INVESTMENTS COMMITTEE.** The Investments Committee shall consist of four members approved by the Leadership Council for staggered six-year terms, the President, and the Secretary-Treasurer, who will serve as chair. Committee members shall be nominated by the President and approved by the Leadership Council by two-thirds vote; they need not be members of the Leadership Council. The committee shall be responsible for establishing investment guidelines and for managing that portion of the Society's financial assets the Leadership Council allocates for long-term investment. The committee shall report annually to the Leadership Council on the funds under its supervision. In the event that a position on the Investments Committee falls vacant, the President shall make an interim appointment, which must be ratified by a simple majority at the next Leadership Council meeting.
- VI. ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS.** The President shall be empowered to appoint subcommittees to meet at the convenience of the President and to transact such business of the Society as cannot conveniently be delayed until the next meeting of the full Leadership Council.
- In addition, the President shall appoint such committees and officers as are necessary to further the work of the Society.
- VII. VACANCIES.** If vacancies occur in the Leadership Council before the expiration of members' terms of office, such vacancies shall be filled by vote of the Council.
- VIII. AWARDS.** SSSL shall encourage and reward outstanding work in the field of southern studies through scholarly and travel awards, as provided in the By-laws. The Leadership Council shall determine parameters and financial amounts (if any) of new awards as needed. The President shall appoint SSSL award selection committees of not less than three members in good standing. Travel awards to the Biennial Conference shall be made by the Program Committee.
- IX. POLICIES.** The Leadership Council shall develop, publicize, and implement such policies as further the purposes of the Society and protect the individual personal and scholarly rights of its members.
- X. ADVOCACY.** To further the stated purposes of SSSL, the President, or their designated representative, shall act as the voice of the Society with regards to public commentary and media. Any member in good standing may propose to the Leadership Council that the SSSL make public statement or position by procedures outlined in the By-laws and Policies. The Leadership Council may approve such proposals by a two-thirds vote. Members cannot use the SSSL name in public statements without completion of this procedure.

- XI. ARCHIVES.** With each change of office, all records shall be delivered intact to the new officer, and a copy delivered to the current Secretary and President. Documents of note should be sent to the SSSL archive at the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina.
- XII. AMENDMENTS.** The Constitution of the Society may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Leadership Council, providing that a proposed amendment be submitted in writing to the membership of the Council at least one month before the date of the Council meeting at which it is to be considered. The By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Leadership Council under the same timeframe.
- XIII. DISSOLUTION.** Should the Society be dissolved, the Leadership Council shall distribute its assets for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future tax code). Assets may also be distributed either to the federal government or to state or local governments for the public purpose. Upon dissolution and termination, no monies or profits whatsoever shall be paid to any officer or any other person except for compensation for services rendered or verified out-of-pocket expenses.