

# Proposed Bylaws Changes

The last revision of the Bylaws was in 2001, but this was primarily for dividing the Secretary and Treasurer's position; the rest of the document remained essentially the same. The current Bylaws were revised both to up-date needed changes and to reflect evolving practices. For example, classes of membership in APA have expanded and Article 1 was rewritten to reflect our current eligibility for Division One members. The other major changes were in replacing the Fellows and Membership Committees with Chairs and simplifying the Nominations and Elections procedures.

— Bonnie Strickland  
Division One President

Bracketed material to be added; crossed-out material to be deleted.

Proposed draft revision, February, 2005

## BYLAWS - THE SOCIETY FOR GENERAL PSYCHOLOGY, (Division I of the American Psychological Association)

### ARTICLE I - Name and Purpose

1. The name of this organization shall be the Society for General Psychology, a Division of the American Psychological Association.
2. The Society shall concern itself with the general discipline of psychology considered both as a science and as a profession. Its concerns include such areas as: (1) historical, systematic, and methodological aspects of psychology as a whole; (2) scientific and professional developments, especially as they cross specialty boundaries; (3) the relationships of psychology to other areas of human knowledge; and (4) relationships among specialties of psychology.
3. To promote the above, the Society shall initiate and encourage constructive interaction and integrative efforts.

### ARTICLE II - Membership

[1 Individuals in each of the classes of membership that APA recognizes [Fellow, Member, Student Affiliate, etc.] are welcome to join the Division. Persons who meet the qualifications for APA even though they are not members of APA may apply to the Division as Professional Affiliates or Students. Individuals become members of the Division after stating their interest in the Society goals stated in Article I-2 and payment of the Society dues, with the exception of Fellow, to which one must be elected as per Article II.2.]

1. The Society shall consist of five classes of members: Fellows, Members, Associates, Affiliates, and Student Affiliates.
2. Fellows must have made a significant contribution to one of the concerns of the Society as stated in Article I-2, must have been a Member of the Society for at least one year, and must meet the minimum standards (set) by APA Bylaws for Fellow status. (See also Article II and VII 4 of these Bylaws.)
3. For each of the classes of membership that APA recognizes (e.g., Fellow, Member, Associate, Affiliate, and Student Affiliate), the Division also recognizes that same class of membership in the Division, and it is open to the persons in that APA member class upon application to the Division stating their interest in the Society goals stated in Article I-2 and payment of the society dues, with the exception of Fellow, to which one must be elected as per Article II.6.
3. Members must have an interest in the concerns of the Society as stated in Article I-2, and meet the minimum standards [set] by APA Bylaws for Member status. (See also Article II-7 of these Bylaws.)
4. Associates must have an interest in the concerns of the Society as stated in Article I-2, and meet the minimum standards prescribed by the APA Bylaws for Associate status. (See also Article II-7 of these Bylaws.)

5. Affiliates of the Society are individuals who are not members of APA [but] who meet qualifications established by the Executive Committee. (See also Article II-8 [of these Bylaws].)

6[2. Fellows must have made a significant contribution to one of the concerns of the Society as stated in Article I-2, must have been a Member of the Society for at least one year, and must meet the minimum standards set by APA Bylaws for Fellow status. See also ~~Articles II-3 and Article VII-4~~ of these Bylaws.]

7 [3.] Election as Fellow of the Society:

(a) Members of the Society who are not Fellows of APA may be nominated to the APA as Fellows by the Executive Committee on recommendation of the Fellows (Chair) ~~Committee~~. If such Members are nominated by three APA Fellows and also qualify for Fellowship under Article II-2 of these Bylaws, subsequent election of such persons as Fellows by the Council of Representatives of the APA shall also constitute election as Fellows of the Society. (See also Article VII-4 of these Bylaws).

(b) Members of the Society who are Fellows of APA but not Fellows of the Society may be elected as Fellows of the Society by the Executive Committee if such Members qualify for Fellowship under Article II-2 of these Bylaws, and are recommended by the Fellows (Chair) ~~Committee~~.

7. New Members and Associates. Those persons who already have been elected as Members or Associates of the APA shall be accepted by the Society as respectively Members or Associates within the Society on receipt of their request to this effect. Membership shall not become effective until the relevant dues requirements of the APA are satisfied. The Treasurer of the Society, directly or through the Central Office of the APA, shall notify new members of their acceptance.

8. Student Affiliates. Graduate and undergraduate students who are enrolled in a course of study in psychology and who are Student Affiliates of APA upon application will become Student Affiliates of the Society. If such students are not Student Affiliates of the APA, they may affiliate with the Society as Student Affiliates by applying with the endorsement of a faculty member in psychology at their institution.

8 [4.] Members eligible to vote are the Fellows, and Members, (and Affiliates) of the Society. Except when otherwise specified in these Bylaws, all decisions on matters calling for action by the membership of the Society shall be by majority vote of the voting members at the (Annual) ~~Society~~ Business Meeting or by mail (or electronic) ballot of such members. Voting by proxy shall not be allowed (except see Article IV-6 of these Bylaws).

### ARTICLE III - Officers

1. The Officers of the organization shall be a ~~Society~~ President, a ~~Society~~ President-Elect, a ~~Society~~ Past-President, {Representative[s] to the APA Council of Representatives,} three Members-at-Large a Secretary, a Treasurer, an Historian, [the Editor of the Society's Journal, *Review of General Psychology*, the Editor of the Society's Bulletin *The General Psychologist*, and a Student Representative from the American Psychological Association of Graduate Students] a Newsletter Editor. Terms of office of all Officers will begin at the beginning of the calendar year following their election or appointment, except that the terms of the President Elect, the President, and the Past-President, their at the end

of the Society's Annual Business Meeting following (his or her) their election or appointment.

3. [2.] The Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a renewable term of three years.

4. [3.] The Treasurer shall be appointed by the Executive Committee for a renewable term of three years.

5. [4.] It shall be the duty of the Society President to preside at all meetings of the Society; to be Chair of the Executive Committee of the Society, and to exercise supervision over the affairs of the Society with the approval of the Executive Committee; to serve (on) ~~ex-officio as a member of the Nominations and Elections Committee.~~ The Society President will work closely with the Fellows, [Membership,] and Program [Chairs] Committee; and [will] to perform such other duties as are incident to the office or as may properly be required of the President by vote of the Executive Committee. The outgoing Society President shall designate [appoint] for the ensuing year one of the Members-at-large as (a) member or Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee [to assist the Fellows Chair and one to assist the Membership Chair of the Fellows Committee. With the consent of the Executive Committee, the President may appoint Task Forces and special committees.]

6. [5.] It shall be the duty of the Secretary to issue calls and notices of meetings; to receive and transmit applications for Society membership; to keep records of the Society; to cooperate with the Executive Officer of the APA; [and] to serve as Secretary and member of the Executive Committee; and, in the name of the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, to issue calls for nominations of officers and Members at large of the Executive Committee, or to arrange with the APA Central Office for the issuing of such announcements.

7. [6.] It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to have custody of all funds and property of the Society; [to receive and transmit applications for Society membership;] to collect any special dues that may be voted in accordance with Article VIII, Section I, of these bylaws; to make disbursements as authorized by the Executive Committee; to serve as a voting member on the Society Executive Committee and to work closely with to serve ex-officio as a member of the Nominations and Elections, the Fellows Chair, the Membership Chair and the Program Chair; and, directly or through the Central Office of the APA, to notify new members of the Society of their acceptance into the Society.

8. [7.] It shall be the duty of the Society President-Elect to serve as a member of the Executive Committee of the Society, and to perform the duties of the Society President in the event of the absence or incapacity of the latter. The President-Elect shall automatically become President one year after assumption of office as President-Elect. Upon assuming office the President-Elect shall designate a Program [Chair-Elect] who, at the end of a year, will become Chair of that Committee.

9. [8.] It shall be the duty of the Society Past-President to serve as a member of the Executive Committee, and to perform the duties of the Society President in the event of the absence or incapacity of [both] the latter and of the Society President-Elect. The President shall automatically become Past-President one year after assumption of office as President. The outgoing Society [Past-]President shall designate [appoint] for the ensuing year one of the Members-at-Large as [a] member or [serve as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee] and one as [a] member or of the Fellows Committee.

10. [9.] It shall be the duty of each (elected) Society Representative [to the APA Council of Representatives] to perform the duties and accept the responsibilities specified in Article III of the [APA] Bylaws of the APA. [and Association Rules.] The Representatives shall also serve as members of the Society Executive Committee.

11. [10.] An Historian , and [an] Editor of a [the Society's] Newsletter, [*The General Psychologist*, and a Student Representative] are each appointed to three-year renewable terms by the Executive Committee.

12. [11.] An Editor of the Society's Journal , *Review of General Psychology*, shall be selected, appointed, and contracted with by the actions of the Executive Committee.

[12. It is the responsibility of each named office to insure that the responsibilities of their office are carried out in a timely manner and that written reports are prepared for the convention annual meetings of the Executive Commit-

tee and of the Division (i.e., the Annual Business Meeting). Failure in this shall result in replacement by appointment or election, as appropriate given the immediate needs of the society and the schedules for APA elections 13. It is the responsibility of each named office to insure that the responsibilities of their office are carried out in a timely manner and that written reports are prepared for the convention annual meetings of the Executive Committee and of the Division (i.e., the Annual Business Meeting). Failure in this shall result in replacement by appointment or election, as appropriate given the immediate needs of the Society and the schedules for APA elections.]

13. [13.] In case of the death, incapacity, or resignation of any of these officers [excepting the Society President] the Executive Committee shall [appoint] elect a successor to serve until the end of the [Annual] Business Meeting following the next election.

#### ARTICLE IV - Executive Committee

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Society consisting of the Society President, Society the President-Elect, the Society Past-President, the Secretary of the Society, the Treasurer of the Society, the Society Representatives on the APA Council of Representatives, and three Members-at-Large. The Society Historian, [the Editor of the Society's Journal, *Review of General Psychology*, the Editor of the Society's Newsletter, *The General Psychologist*, and an appointed Student Representative] are also ex-officio members of the Executive Committee.

2. There will be as many Society Representatives on the Council of Representatives as are provided for by the Bylaws of the APA. The seat of a Representative to APA Council shall be deemed vacant if the incumbent is elected to another office holding a seat on the Executive Committee. In that case, or in the case of resignation or incapacity, the President shall appoint the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the most recent election to fill the seat until the end of the Business meeting following the next election of the Society. It shall be the duty of each Society Representative to perform the duties and accept the responsibilities specified in Article III of the Bylaws of the APA. Society Representatives to the APA Council will report to the Executive Committee on matters of concern for the Society that are on the agenda of the Council and will seek counsel from the Executive Committee with respect to those matters. Representatives will report back to the Executive Committee the results of Council actions that affect the Society.

3. The Members-at-Large shall serve for terms of three years each, with elections so arranged that there is one new Member-at-Large elected each year. The seat of a Member-at-Large shall be deemed vacant if the incumbent is elected to another office holding a seat on the Executive Committee. In that case, or in the case of resignation or incapacity, the President shall appoint the candidate with the next highest number of votes in the most recent election to fill the seat until the end of the [Annual] Business Meeting following the next election of the Society.

4. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of [over] the affairs of the Society, performing the duties and abiding by the limitations specified in these Bylaws. All actions of the Committee affecting Society policy shall be put to the vote of the members eligible to vote at the next annual Society Business Meeting [or by special mail ballots].

5. All decisions of the Executive Committee shall be made by majority vote of the Committee. Members. On a mail ballot a majority of those returning their ballots within 21 days of its mailing shall decide the issues.

6. When an Executive Committee member is present at the Annual Convention of the APA but is unable to attend the Committee meeting because of membership on either an Executive Committee of another APA [Division] Society or the APA Board of Directors, meeting at the same time, a written proxy vote on one or more issues before the Committee may be given to either the Society President or Secretary to be recorded.

#### ARTICLE V - Nominations and Elections

1. The [President-elect,] Officers of the Society, Representatives to the APA Council of Representatives, and the Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee shall be elected by a preferential vote of the Society Fellows, and Members, [Associates, and Affiliates who are members of APA] on a secret mail ballot.

2. The Secretary [Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee] shall arrange to issue a call for nominations, in the name of the Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, for the office of Society President-Elect, for the offices of Representatives to the APA Council of Representatives in those years when a term of office expires or additional Representatives have been assigned to the Society, and for Members-at-Large of the Society Executive Committee, in accordance with the procedures established by the APA Election Committee. The nomination ballot shall provide spaces for at least three names for President, and at least two spaces for each other person to be elected to other offices. The ballot shall be accompanied by a roster of all current officers, committee chairs and members of committees, those who have served in all those capacities for the preceding three years, and the names of all Past Presidents of the Society.

3. The nominees for a given office shall be identified by the Nominations and Elections Committee from among those persons receiving the largest number of votes on the nomination[s] ballot and who have indicated to the Nominations and Elections Committee their willingness to serve [if elected]. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall determine the number of nominees to be nominated for each office, providing that at least three nominees are named for the office of Society President-Elect and that there are at least twice as many nominees as there are persons to be elected for each other office. In the event that an insufficient number of candidates for a slate receive nominations, the Nominations and Elections Committee may supplement the list with additional names.

4. The Nominations and Elections Committee of the Society shall [issue calls for nominations of officers and Members-at-large of the Executive Committee, or arrange with the APA Central Office for the issuing of such announcements,] count the nomination ballots, and shall report a slate of names of the persons nominated for each office, and willing to serve, to the Central Office for inclusion in the election ballot issued by the APA, in accordance with the established APA procedures. Only members who are also members of APA may vote for officers and Members-at-large.

5. The preferential count of the votes for each office shall be obtained by the Society Secretary [Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee] from the Election Committee of the APA, and these counts shall be referred to the Society. The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall indicate to all candidates the result of the election, and the Nominations and Elections Committee shall announce the election results at the [Annual] Business Meeting of the Society.

6. All officers and members of the Executive Committee with the exception of the President Elect shall assume office at the beginning of the calendar year in which their election is announced. The President Elect (-Elect) takes office following the Business Meeting in the year in which elected.

#### ARTICLE VI – Meetings

1. The [Annual] Business Meeting of the Society shall take place during the Annual Convention of the APA and in the same locality for the transaction of business, the presentation of scholarly papers, and the discussion of questions of interest to general psychology.

2. A quorum shall consist of those Fellows and Members, [and Affiliates] of the Society attending the announced [Annual] Business Meeting.

3. The Executive Committee will meet prior to the [Annual] Business Meeting of the Society and at such other times as are agreed upon by the Executive Committee or are determined by the President.

#### ARTICLE VII – [Chairs and] Committees

1. The Committee of the Society shall consist of three standing committees: a Nominations and Elections Committee, a Fellows Committee, and a Program Committee, and of such special committees as may be established by vote of the membership of the Executive Committee. [A Nominations and Elections Committee, chaired by the Past-President, shall consist of the Past-President, the President, and the President-Elect. There shall also be a Fellows Chair, a Membership Chair and a Program Committee.]

2. The members of the Fellows [Chair] Committee, the Nomination and Elections Committee, and the [Membership Chair] Program Committee shall serve for a term of three years. Appointments shall be made during and take effect at the end of the Annual Business Meeting of the Society. Each Chair with the concurrence of the President-Elect may solicit additional members to assist him or her.

3. The Fellows Committee and the Nomination and Elections Committee shall each consist of three members appointed [approved] by the Executive Committee. The Past-President will serve as Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. The [Fellows and Membership] Chairs of the Fellows Committee shall be designated by the President. [The Fellows Chair] must be [a] Fellow of the Society. The Program Chair[-Elect] shall be designated by the President-Elect. [The Program] Committee shall consist of three members: (1) a Chair designated for that position the previous year by the prior President-Elect, (2) a member, who will serve as Chair the following year, and (3) the Past Chair of the Committee.

4. It shall be the duty of the Fellows [Chair] Committee to receive or initiate nominations for Fellowship, to examine the credentials submitted, and to make recommendations, accompanied by necessary data regarding each applicant, to the Executive Committee in accordance with the requirements set forth in Article II-2 and II-6 of these Bylaws. The [Fellows] Chair of this Committee shall be directed by the Secretary to inform all candidates of their status, once the Executive Committee, the APA Membership Committee, and the APA Council of Representatives have acted on the recommendations.

5. It shall be the duty of the Program Committee to make arrangements for the program at the Annual Meeting of the Society in accordance with Article VI of these Bylaws, and to coordinate the program with the APA Convention Program Committee.

[6. It shall be the duty of the Membership Chair to solicit new members, to oversee membership applications and examine the credentials submitted, and to welcome new members.]

[7.] 6 It shall be the duty of the Nominations and Elections Committee, in cooperation with the APA Election Committee, to conduct and supervise all nominations and elections of the Society, as provided in Article V of these Bylaws.

[8.] 7 [The] Committee Chairs shall present [oral and written] reports, [submitted in advance to the secretary for inclusion in the permanent record of the Society,] to the Executive Committee on [their] committee activities during the preceding year. In the absence of the Chair, another member of the [Society] committee may appear to present the report. In either case, written copies of the report should be submitted to the Society's President and Secretary by the time of the Executive Committee's meeting at [prior to] the Annual Business Meeting of the Society.

#### ARTICLE VIII – Dues

1. Changes in annual dues and assessments of any special kind shall be recommended by the Executive Committee and shall be voted on at the next Annual Business Meeting or by mail [or electronic] ballot of voting members.

#### ARTICLE IX – Amendments

1. The Society at any Annual Business Meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members present, or by a majority vote of the members of the Society voting by a mail [or electronic ballot], may adopt such amendments to these Bylaws as have been presented and read at the preceding Annual Business Meeting, or (b) mailed [or electronically-mailed] to the last known post-office address of each member or (c) published in the Newsletter of the Society one month prior to the final vote on the proposed amendments.