

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR HUMOR STUDIES**

**Amended by mail vote of members, December 2006,
according to proposed changes appearing in Vol. 19.4 of the *ISHS Newsletter*.**

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1: The name of this society shall be "The International Society for Humor Studies" (ISHS).

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

Section 1: The purpose of the Society shall be to promote, stimulate and encourage the interdisciplinary study of humor; to support and cooperate with local, national, and international organizations having similar purposes; to organize and arrange meetings; and to issue and encourage publications concerning the purpose of the society.

Section 2: The Society shall conduct activities solely for scholarly purposes.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: There shall be three classes of Members: Regular Members, Associate Members, and Honorary Members.

Section 2: Membership is open to all those interested in the academic study of humor who subscribe to the payment of annual dues in accordance with Article VII. Regular members shall receive full membership benefits. Associate and Honorary members shall receive membership benefits, except for regular subscriptions to the Society's journal and print publications. Honorary Membership may from time to time be conferred upon individuals deemed worthy of the Society's recognition by the Executive Board or by a meeting of Members.

Section 3: Except for Honorary Membership, Membership shall not become effective until the Executive Secretary-Treasurer has received the year's dues, such dues establishing membership for each calendar year, and being based upon the production and distribution costs of the Society's journal, in accordance with Article VII. Honorary Membership shall be for such period of time as is determined at the time of conferral under Section 2 above.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1: The officers of the Society shall be a President, Immediate Past-President, Convenor-Designate, Convenor, and Immediate Past Convenor, and an Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

The person submitting a proposal to host an international ISHS humor conference which is accepted by the Executive Board is designated as Convenor-Designate for the year before the Conference is held. This person serves as Convenor during the year that he or she hosts the conference, and as Immediate Past Convenor for the following year. The President serves for two years, and then in the office of Immediate Past-President for two years. The terms of all offices held shall run concurrent with the calendar year/s. The office of Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall be filled from time to time by a qualified person nominated by the President and confirmed by a majority of the Executive Board (in accordance with ARTICLE V). The editorial offices for the Society's Journal and Newsletter shall be filled in accordance with Article VIII Sections 1, 2 and 5.

Section 2: Resignation: Persons holding any of these offices shall serve their terms of office unless a) they, for whatever reason, decide that they can no longer satisfactorily carry out the duties of the office, in which case they shall submit, to the President or such other officer as may be appropriate and in writing, a statement of intent to resign, resignation to become effective thirty days following the date of receipt of such statement by the President; or b) the President or such other officer as may be

appropriate shall, having received statements of consensus from a two-thirds majority of members of the Executive Board voting within a reasonable stipulated period of time, call in writing for an officer's resignation, which shall be effective immediately.

Section 3: The officers shall have the powers and duties customarily incident to their respective offices in similar organizations and/or societies, with the addition of such as shall be specifically delegated to them by the Executive Board, and these must include:

Section 3A: President: The President shall preside over the business of the Society and chair the meetings of the Executive Board. The President will give a presidential address at the annual ISHS conference and will have the option of working with the Convenor to plan a "President's Session" or a "President's Strand" for the conference. The President shall chair an annual business meeting of members, which shall take place during the annual conference. In addition, the President shall actively work to further communication and enlightenment among humor scholars and to enhance respect and understanding for the academic study of humor.

Section 3B: Immediate Past-President: The Immediate Past-President shall assist the President and the Executive Board in conducting the business of the Society so as to ensure continuity, and shall also serve as Co-Chair of any Awards Committee (see Article IX Section 2). If the President is for any reason unable to discharge his/her duties, the Immediate Past President shall serve in that role until either the next biennial election or the outcome of nomination and election procedures to fill a casual vacancy held under Article X Section 1, whichever is the sooner.

Section 3C: Convenor: The Convenor is responsible for the Society's annual conference and although he or she may request assistance and support from the ISHS President and from other members of the Society, the Convenor has final responsibility for both program matters and local host arrangements.

Section 3D: Convenor-Designate: The Convenor-Designate works with the Executive Board and the Convenor to learn what is involved in hosting the annual conference and to make advance preparations.

Section 3E: Immediate Past Convenor: The Immediate Past Convenor serves a year on the Executive Board and offers advice and assistance as needed for the ensuing annual conference. With the Immediate Past-President, the Immediate Past Convenor serves as Co-Chair of any Awards Committee (in accordance with Article IX Section 2).

Section 3F: Executive Secretary-Treasurer: The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall keep and distribute to Society Members the minutes of Society meetings, including the meetings of the Executive Board; shall ensure that the membership is informed of the date and place of the annual meeting of members at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to that meeting; shall by mail or e-mail distribute every second year or as required under these Articles a list of nominations for election as the Society's officers and Executive Board members according to ARTICLE X; and shall be responsible for conducting the voting on these nominations and on any proposed amendments to the constitution of the Society in accordance with ARTICLE XI. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall promote membership, collect and disperse the Society's monies, and make available the Society's books for review by an "accountant of record," or by an individual or firm if appointed by the President in accordance with ARTICLE VI. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall report the financial status of the Society to the Members at their annual meeting at the conference and shall make that report available for inclusion in the Society's Newsletter or Journal.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1: Except as otherwise provided by these By-laws, the management of the affairs of the Society shall be vested in an Executive Board.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall consist of: the President, Immediate Past President, Executive Secretary-

Treasurer, four members-at-large, the Convenor, and the Editor of the Society's journal, HUMOR: International Journal of Humor Research, as voting members; and the Newsletter Editor, the HUMOR: Book Review Editor, the Convenor-Designate, the Immediate Past Convenor, and the Society's Historian/Archivist as ex-officio or non-voting members. The President shall act as Chair of the Executive Board. Five voting members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Board.

- Section 3: Each second year, at the time of election of the incoming President, two Board members-at-large shall be elected for four-year terms of office.
- Section 4: The Executive Board shall hold an annual Board meeting at the yearly ISHS convention. Members of the Executive Board are encouraged to be in close contact with each other on ISHS matters via e-mail and regular mail. The President bears a special responsibility for initiating e-mail communications with members of the Executive Board.
- Section 5: In the event that members of the Executive Board cannot attend the annual Board meeting, they may appoint a proxy to cast votes in their name. Such proxy appointments must be in writing and must be delivered to the President of the Society in advance of the meeting.
- Section 6: In the event that an elected member of the Executive Board cannot fill his/her term of office, the Board member shall present his or her resignation to the President in writing. Upon the acceptance of such a resignation, the President shall appoint a Member to fill the vacant position on the Executive Board.
- Section 7: Except as otherwise provided by law and these Articles, decisions of the Executive Board shall be by majority vote of those members of the Executive Board voting. Decisions may be made either at a meeting or by e-mail.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

- Section 1: There shall be an annual meeting of the Members of the Society at each year's annual Conference. Prior to this meeting, the Board shall hold an annual business meeting as required under ARTICLE V, Section 4. The President, in conjunction with the appropriate officers of the Society, shall designate the time and place of both meetings. The President, in conjunction with the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, shall arrange the order of business at these meetings.
- Section 2: The Executive Board of the Society shall present at the annual meeting of the Members a report on the last complete calendar year, verified by the President and Executive Secretary-Treasurer, or by a majority of the members of the Executive Board. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall make available to the meeting on request a current Membership list, including any Honorary Members who have been admitted to Membership during such year. This report shall be filed with the records of the Society and an abstract thereof entered in the minutes of the annual meeting of the Members at which the report is presented. The President may appoint an "accountant of record," who shall not be a member of the Board, to act as an auditor, and who shall examine the annual financial report prepared by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer under Article IV 3F prior to the annual meeting of the Members, and who shall express an opinion thereon in writing at the annual meeting of the Members.
- Section 3: The Board may sponsor other meetings or symposia which contribute to the purposes of the Society.

ARTICLE VII: DUES AND FINANCES

- Section 1: The amount of the annual Membership dues shall be determined from time to time by majority vote of the Executive Board, having regard to the production and distribution costs of the Society's journal and other publications. Differential dues may if necessary be approved by the Board for Members resident outside the USA and for other classes of persons such as students.
- Section 2: Membership dues are payable on the first day of each calendar year.

ARTICLE VIII: PUBLICATIONS

- Section 1: There shall be a Newsletter published on a regular basis, such basis to be determined from time to time by the Executive Board. The Editor of the Newsletter shall be appointed by the Society's President, upon the recommendation of the outgoing Newsletter Editor, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- Section 2: The journal of the Society shall be Humor: International Journal of Humor Research, published by an appropriate publisher under a contract determined from time to time by the Executive Board, on the advice of the Editor of the journal. The founding publisher of the journal is "Mouton de Gruyter" Press. (In the case that the Association or the Publisher decides to terminate this agreement, it shall be done by giving one year's notice). Each new Editor of the journal shall be appointed by the outgoing Editor of the journal, and confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board, and in cooperation with the publisher, as required.
- Section 3: Other publications may be approved from time to time if considered desirable by the Executive Board.
- Section 4: All Regular Members shall receive an annual subscription to the Society's journal and to the Newsletter and other official publications of the Society, subject to the current financial status of the Society. Associate and Honorary members shall receive the Society's electronic publications, but not a regular subscription to the Society's journal and other print publications.
- Section 5: The Editor of the Society's journal shall appoint from time to time the Book Review Editor, whose appointment shall be confirmed by a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- Section 6: The Editor shall appoint and terminate the appointment of persons to a standing Editorial Board designed to assist in the production and dissemination of a journal of high academic standing.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

- Section 1: Standing Committees:
Nominating Committee: The two officers of the Executive Board retiring in an election year (the Immediate Past President and the Immediate Past Chair/Convenor), together with the two retiring members-at-large of the Executive Board will constitute the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is responsible for the preparation of a list of nominees and supporting statements for the elected positions of the Society in accordance with ARTICLE IV, Section 1, ARTICLE V, Section 3, and ARTICLE X.
- Section 2: Ad Hoc Committees: The Convenor may appoint ad hoc committees for such purposes as oversight of the conference program, to assist in getting grants for supporting attendance, or awarding scholarships at the annual conference. At their discretion, the President and the Immediate Past President and the Convenor may constitute an Awards Committee to devise awards or select recipients of awards designed to promote the study of humor.

ARTICLE X: NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- Section 1: The Nominating Committee shall present a list of at least two nominations for each position of incoming officer and Executive Board member in the appropriate years to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer for elections which shall be held after the annual conference and meeting of Members, but before the close of the calendar year. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute a ballot to each eligible Member, containing the list of nominees and positions and allowing no less than thirty (30) days before the close of the ballot. Additional nominations may be made in writing to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer by any ten (10) Members of the Society at any reasonable time prior to the distribution of the ballots, provided that the candidate's written permission is received.

Section 2: In the case of the death or resignation of a President or an elected Board Member-at-Large (as described under Article IV, Section 2), balloting to fill the open position may be done at any time with appropriate notice by mail or e-mail, or at the annual meeting of Members, in which case nominations may be accepted both from the Nominating Committee and from the floor if the individual is present and agrees to be nominated.

Section 3: Except as provided for in Section 1 above, the voting in all elections for officers and Board members shall be accomplished by mail or e-mail, continue for at least 30 days, and end on a date set by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. The ballot distributed by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall include, but not be limited to: (a) a list of candidates for each office or Board member position, and (b) a brief statement by each candidate expressing his or her qualifications for the office, a summary of his or her publications, and a report of his or her professional activities. It may include other pertinent information on candidates and offices, as long as the additions are the same for each candidate for each office.

Section 4: For all mail elections, the Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of all votes cast for President and Board Member-at-Large, and at the end of the balloting period, shall count the votes for each open position. The Presidential candidate and two Board Member candidates who receive the most votes cast for their respective open offices shall be declared the winners of those offices.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Amendments to these Articles shall be accomplished by a two-thirds majority of the Members of the Society voting on such changes.

Section 2: Voting shall be accomplished by mail or e-mail ballot to ensure that to the extent possible each Member has an equal opportunity to voice an opinion. The deadline for return of ballots shall be 30 days from the postmark on the date of mailing.

Section 3: Amendments may be proposed by: (a) a majority of the Executive Board, (b) a majority of Members present at an annual meeting of the Members, or (c) by any ten (10) Members of the Society, when presented in writing to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 4: Ballots shall be distributed to all Members of the Society who are in good standing by the Executive Secretary-Treasurer. Ballots shall include a summary of the arguments in favor of or opposed to the changes in questions.

ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1: Roberts Rules of Order, Revised shall govern the procedures of Society meetings, except where such rules manifestly conflict with ISHS Articles, in which case, ISHS Articles take precedence.

ARTICLE VIII: LOGO

Section 1: The logo of the Society is the laughing profile. This logo shall be accompanied by the name of the organization written in full, "International Society for Humor Studies."

WORKING RULES APPENDED TO THE ISHS CONSTITUTION

Adopted by the ISHS Executive Board and subject to amendment by the Board from time to time.

GUIDELINES FOR FUTURE I.S.H.S. CONFERENCES (Adopted October 2003)

1. Conferences are to be self-supporting and self-funding, with the host institutions doing whatever is feasible to keep costs low so as to encourage attendance. Under no circumstances will the ISHS accept liability for any losses sustained by conference organizers.
2. Since the person who serves as Convenor also serves a three-year term as an ISHS officer, i.e. as Convenor-elect, Convenor, and Past Convenor, any person proposing to host a conference should also be ready to work with the President and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer in communicating with the media and with scholars in such a way as to help promote humor studies. A Convenor may elect to share their responsibilities with a Co-Convenor/s, but this does not increase any voting rights of the office of Convenor on the Executive Board or other ISHS organ.
3. At each conference, the Executive Board will entertain proposals for a conference three years in the future and will make a decision at that conference or shortly thereafter so the future Convenor-elect can begin making plans as early as possible.
4. The Executive Board will answer questions and offer informal advice to people interested in proposing conferences more than three years in the future. However, each Board will leave decisions on conferences in particular years to the appropriate Executive Board elected to make such decisions. Thus the 1994 Executive Board normally would make a commitment only for the 1997 meeting, and so on.
5. As far as practical, the conference sites should be representative of the ISHS membership, the majority of whom live on the North American continent. Until the membership profile alters, this means that at least half the conferences should be held on the North American continent; and preference for conferences in odd-numbered years will be given to proposals from North America, while for conferences in even-numbered years, preference will be given to proposals from Europe and other continents. In the even-numbered years, an effort should be made to alternate between long-standing members of the European community and such other possibilities as Australia, Eastern Europe, Asia etc.
6. Individuals or institutions wishing to make a proposal for hosting a conference should consult with the Executive Secretary-Treasurer as early as possible and prior to the Board or Members meeting at which the proposal is to be considered. The Executive Secretary-Treasurer will make available in either paper or electronic form (or both) at least one proposal from a previous year/s, for guidance. Proposals ready to be finalized by the Executive Board or the Annual Meeting of Members will normally include the following:
 - A curriculum vitae for the proposed Convenor/s showing scholarly contributions to humor studies
 - Description of conference site
 - Tentative information about housing, costs, meals, etc
 - Proposed refereeing procedures for selecting papers
 - Proposals for making Awards and grants (such as in Section B below)
 - Description of special topics or focus areas to be pursued at the conference, i.e. what will make this conference stand out?
 - Letter of support from proposed host agency or institution.
 - Letters of support from any cooperating agencies, institutions and/or individuals.
7. If for a particular year no acceptable proposal is received, the Society may omit meeting that year.
8. Because of the heavy work involved in organizing and hosting a conference, the International Society for Humor Studies, its officers and the Executive Board shall do whatever they can to show appreciation to the Convenor and to record that appreciation formally such that it contributes to promoting the individual's long-term career goals.

WORKING RULES APPENDED TO THE ISHS CONSTITUTION

Adopted by the ISHS Executive Board and subject to amendment by the Board from time to time.

PROCEDURES FOR THE SELECTION OF ISHS AWARDS (Adopted October 2005)

A. OBJECTIVE

Each year ISHS shall endeavor to recognize outstanding scholars and promising graduate students conducting research in humor studies with either a Scholarly Contribution or a Graduate Student Award.

B. SCHOLARLY CONTRIBUTION AWARDS (SCA)

- 1. Eligibility:** SCAs shall be awarded to scholars who have made outstanding contributions to humor research through high quality publications, conference presentations, and other scholarly activities. Particular consideration will be given to researchers doing important work but lacking international recognition due to limited opportunities to travel or to publish outside of their region of the world.
- 2. Process of Selection:** The ISHS Awards Committee shall invite and consider formal nominations (including self-nominations) from ISHS members for the Scholarly Contribution Award. Each nomination must include an outline of the nominee's merits that warrant the award as well as a list of referees who could attest to the nominee's scholarship. Upon its review of nominees, the ISHS Awards Committee shall present its recommendations to the Society's Executive Board for final approval, and the Board shall notify SCA recipients in advance of the Society's annual Conference. To receive their award, SCA recipients must give a plenary address at the Society's annual conference.
- 3. Award:** In addition to a plenary session of their work, SCA recipients shall receive (1) a certificate of achievement, (2) a stipend to cover their Conference registration fees, and (3) waived fees to designated ISHS-endorsed seminars and workshops. SCA recipients may also receive additional grants depending on the Society's resources.

C. GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS (GSA)

- 1. Eligibility:** GSAs shall be awarded to graduate students working toward masters or doctoral degrees and doing noteworthy research within humor studies. All ISHS graduate student members, planning to attend the Society's annual conference, shall be eligible for this award. As part of their conference application, interested students must submit (1) a letter of intent to compete for a GSA, (2) a description of their research program within humor studies, (3) a presentation proposal, and (4) all required registration materials and fees.
- 2. Process of Selection:** The ISHS Awards Committee shall review each applicant's materials and, based on merit, select students from different disciplines to receive Graduate Student Awards. The Awards Committee shall present its recommendations to the ISHS Executive Board for final approval, and the Board shall notify GSA recipients of their awards in advance of the Society's annual Conference.
- 3. Award:** GSA recipients shall present their work at a special session of the annual conference and shall receive (1) a certificate of achievement, (2) a stipend to reimburse their Conference registration fees, and (3) waived fees to designated ISHS-endorsed seminars and workshops (i.e., Summer School and Symposium on Humor and Laughter; European Workshop on Humor Studies). GSA recipients may also receive additional grants depending on the Society's resources.

D. FUNDING

To provide stipends and grants to SCA and GSA recipients as well as other humor scholars in need of assistance, ISHS shall maintain a scholarship fund. Each year, ISHS shall invite its members to support this fund with a contribution when they submit their dues. Based on all annual contributions, the ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall determine the number and the size of any stipends that may be made available in a given year

E. NUMBER OF AWARDS

The number of Scholarly Contribution and Graduate Student Awards shall depend on available funding and be limited to a combined total of four awards per year. In any given year, the Society may give any combination of the two types of awards or no awards at all. However, when funding allows, the Society's Awards Committee should make a good faith effort to provide at least two awards each year.

F. ISHS AWARDS COMMITTEE

The ISHS President shall appoint each year four members to serve on the ISHS Awards Committee. These Committee members shall include:

- the year's Conference Convenor, who shall serve as Chair,
- two ISHS Board Members, other than the Conference Convenor, and
- one active ISHS member, who regularly coordinates ISHS-endorsed workshops or symposia.

The Committee shall also include the ISHS Executive Secretary-Treasurer as an *ex officio* member, responsible for advising the Committee on scholarship resources. The Awards Committee shall review all nominations for ISHS awards and shall make Award recommendations, subject to final Executive Board approval.