

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

General Rationale: Several amendments are presented below. Changes to the General Assembly process and timing are proposed to enable virtual meetings, or hybrid virtual+face-to-face meetings, and to enable meetings with appropriate preparation times in the event our conference is cancelled or delayed again. We also propose an expanded Executive to build, expand and diversify membership and to expand representation among student/youth and scholar-activists. In the event that the new membership composition passes, we will hold elections for the new positions before the close of the meeting. The current text of the constitution, updated to 2019, is online at <http://socialiststudies.ca/about/constitution/>.

Motion 1: that Section 5: General Assembly be amended as follows:

5c) The General Assembly will meet in a Membership Meeting, normally at our Annual Conference, or if an Annual Conference does not convene, at any Society event no later than June 30. Meetings will be conducted as a hybrid of online/in-person or entirely online as circumstances permit or require, at each Congress of Humanities and Social Sciences in which the Society for Socialist Studies participates. The quorum consists of those members in good standing who are present. The Membership Meeting shall review the operations of the previous membership year, plan for the current year, hold elections as appropriate, and approve a budget for the current year.

5d: All members in good standing in attendance will have voting rights at Membership meetings. ~~be issued a voting card at the General Assembly Membership Meeting.~~

Motion 2: that Section 6a and 6d be amended as follows:

6a) The day-to-day conduct of the Society is in the hands of the Executive, consisting of the following officers: President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, three (3) Members-at-Large, two (2) student and youth representatives, and two (2) scholar-activist representatives. The Journal Editor and Conference Committee Chair or nominee ~~or nominee~~ will be *ex-officio* members of the Executive.

6d) The President, Secretary, Membership Secretary, ~~and~~ Members-at-large, student and youth representatives, and scholar-activists are elected for two (2) year terms. The Treasurer is elected for a three (3) year term.

Motion 3: that Section 6c be amended as follows:

6c) The Executive will issue a call for nominations thirty (30) days before the General Assembly Membership Meeting ~~by March 31 on years on~~ on years when positions will be vacated. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the General Assembly Membership Meeting. A member of the Executive not seeking re-election will oversee the elections. The election of all positions will be conducted by secret ballot by members in attendance at the General Assembly Membership meeting unless uncontested.

Motion 4: that Section 7: Duties of the Executive be amended as follows:

7c) The Secretary shall record proceedings and resolutions of all meetings of the Society; receive and answer letters addressed to the Society; issue all notices of meetings; ~~maintain the website; keep a register of the members;~~ perform all duties pertaining to the office of Secretary.

7d) The Membership Secretary shall convene and chair a committee, open to all members in good standing and appointed by the Executive, tasked with maintaining and updating the membership list; retaining, expanding and diversifying membership; and working to stabilise and increase membership and donation revenues. The Membership Secretary and sub-committee will ensure compliance with all relevant privacy legislation and protection of members' data. The Membership Secretary will report to the Executive on the activities of the sub-committee and provide an annual report to the General Assembly Membership meeting.

7df) The Treasurer shall report on the condition of the treasury at all meetings of the Society; collect membership fees, donations and other incoming funds; keep the financial records; make payments on behalf of the Society; prepare a budget for submission to the Annual Membership Meeting; authorize expenses not exceeding 120% of the respective budgeted amount; request Executive approval for expenses exceeding this amount.

7eg) Members at Large, student and youth representatives, and scholar-activist representatives shall attend executive meetings regularly, contribute to its functions of deliberation and oversight and take up special tasks required for the working and advancement of the Society by mutual agreement with the rest of the Executive.