

Society of Christian Scholars Governing Policies

* These Governing Policies are still being edited by the Society Executive Committee and Global Scholars; they will be ratified at the launch of the Society.

1.0 Ends Policies

1.1 Name: Society of Christian Scholars (SCS)

1.2 The Society of Christian Scholars exists to equip missional Christian academics to have a redemptive influence for Christ among their students, colleagues, institutions, and academic disciplines.

2.0 Governance Process Policies

2.1 Statement of Faith: As a program of Global Scholars, SCS members must annually affirm the World Evangelical Alliance Statement of Faith (<https://www.global-scholars.org/about/statement-of-faith/>).

2.2 Membership:

2.2.1 Membership in SCS shall be on an individual rather than on an institutional basis.

2.2.2 Membership Requirements¹:

2.2.2.1 Full Members: Current academic staff of a tertiary institution that does not require students to adhere to a faith statement.

Membership is also open to academics serving in non-institutional contexts (e.g., think tanks, researcher in private industry, etc.), or retired from any of these roles.

2.2.2.2 Associate Members: Current academic staff of a tertiary institution that does not require students to adhere to a faith statement.

Membership is also open to academics serving in non-institutional contexts (e.g., think tanks, researcher in private industry, etc.), or retired from any of these roles.

2.2.2.3 Student Members: Those pursuing an academic degree but not yet in an academic post.

2.2.2.4 Friends of the Society: Others supporting or encouraging missional Christian scholars (pastors, campus ministries, etc.)

2.2.3 Member Dues shall be collected annually from all Society Members and Friends in order to join or to remain in good standing with SCS. Dues will

¹ For an explanation of member requirements and benefits, see www.SocietyofChristianScholars.org.

be determined according to the instructions found in Appendix A.

2.3 Executive Committee: The purpose of the Executive Committee is to interpret and apply, in order to ensure, on behalf of SCS members, that SCS (a) achieves SCS's Ends Policies (Section 1.0) according to (b) stated Governance Process Policies (Section 2.0) and according to (c) SCS–Global Scholars Partnership Policies (Section 3.0 and 4.0) within the (d) Executive Committee Limitations Policies (Section 5.0).

2.4 Officers and Committees:

2.4.1 Only full members are eligible to serve as officers.

2.4.2 Officers shall be:

2.4.2.1 Chair

2.4.2.1.1 Presides over the Executive Committee meeting as a leader among equals.

2.4.2.1.2 Ensures that the Executive Committee functions in a manner consistent with the policies contained in these Governing Policies.

2.4.2.1.3 Schedules, convenes, and presides over all Executive Committee meetings and informs Executive Committee members of the time and date of Executive Committee meetings.

2.4.2.1.4 Ensures all decisions made during Executive Committee meetings are implemented in a timely fashion.

2.4.2.1.5 May delegate some of this authority but remains responsible for the duties of the office being fulfilled.

2.4.2.1.6 The only Executive Committee member authorized to speak for the Executive Committee, other than in rare instances specifically authorized by the Executive Committee.

2.4.2.2 Vice Chair

2.4.2.2.1 Assume the duties of Chair when Chair is not able to fulfill these duties.

2.4.2.3 Scribe

2.4.2.3.1 Take and file minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and decisions.

2.4.2.4 These three officers, together with four members at large (including the requirement of 4.1), shall constitute the Executive Committee.

2.4.2.5 Additional Committees: The Executive Committee can appoint standing or temporary committees as needed. It is not required that

- the members of these committees be SCS members.
- 2.4.2.6 Officers are not to be employees of Global Scholars (except under the conditions stipulated in 3.0 below).
- 2.4.2.7 Officers shall receive free SCS Full Membership during their tenure as officers
- 2.4.2.8 Officers shall receive a stipend for their role as officers:
- 2.4.2.8.1 Chair shall receive a stipend of \$150 USD per year.
- 2.4.2.8.2 Other officers shall receive a stipend of \$100 USD per year.
- 2.4.3 Officer Elections:
- 2.4.3.1 Elections shall be held every other year.
- 2.4.3.1.1 Voting may be done in person or via digital technology provided by the Executive Committee.
- 2.4.3.2 Nominations: Each voting member shall have the opportunity to nominate no more than three candidates to the Executive Committee.
- 2.4.3.2.1 Nominations will be received by the Executive Committee no later than to April 15.
- 2.4.3.3 Final ballot: The Executive Committee shall draft a final ballot of two candidates from at least four of the following regions: Latin America, Europe, Asia, Middle East, North America, Africa, and Pacific.
- 2.4.3.4 Vote: A ballot will be presented to voting members by the Executive Committee for a final vote. The seven candidates with the most votes will serve on the Executive Committee.
- 2.4.3.5 New Executive Committee members shall take office August 15.
- 2.4.3.6 The Executive Committee shall, at first meeting after August 15, determine by majority vote who will serve in each respective office.
- 2.4.3.7 Executive Committee Member Term Lengths: Each serves two-year terms.
- 2.4.3.8 Term Limits: Executive Committee members are eligible for up to two consecutive terms, after which he/she must step down for at least one term before being eligible for nomination again.
- 2.4.4 Executive Committee:
- 2.4.4.1 The Executive Committee must have representation from at least 4 of each of the following 7 global regions: Latin America, Europe, Asia, Middle East, North America, Africa, and Pacific.
- 2.4.4.2 The Executive Committee shall meet at least three times per year

to fulfill its duties.

2.4.4.2.1 Attendance at meetings may be in person, by phone, or by videoconference.

2.4.4.2.2 To ensure equity in the discussion and decision-making process, the Executive Committee shall follow standard parliamentary procedures.

2.4.5 Executive Committee Decisions: Decisions must be made by a quorum of the Executive Committee.

2.4.5.1 A quorum shall consist of 70% of the Executive Committee.

2.4.5.2 Members must be present² and participate in the discussion in order to vote on any issue on the board meeting agenda.

2.5 SCS elections: SCS shall hold elections as needed in order to elect members to serve on the Executive Committee.

2.5.1 Voting will be done by electronic ballot.

2.5.2 Voting members shall be notified about these elections by the SCS website and by email on 3 separate occasions evenly distributed over the course of 3 months prior to the elections.

2.5.3 The candidates receiving the majority of votes shall be elected to the Executive Committee.

2.6 Procedures for amending Governing Policies:

2.6.1 A two Step Process for proposing amendments shall be followed:

2.6.1.1 Proposed amendments by the Executive Committee must be affirmed by three-fourths majority vote of the Global Scholars Leadership Team within 6 weeks of submission.

2.6.1.2 Proposed amendments by the Global Scholars Leadership Team must be affirmed by a three-fourths majority of the Executive Committee within 6 weeks of submission.³

3.0 Transitional Executive Committee

3.1 Executive Committee Term One: At SCS launch, a one-term (two year) Transitional Executive Committee (TEC) will be formed by the Global Scholars Leadership Team.

3.1.1 The TEC will meet the same criteria as the Executive Committee and be subject to all SCS Governing Policies, with two exceptions:

3.1.1.1 (1) in contrast to 2.4.3, the Global Scholars Leadership Team will elect the first-term (two year) officers for the TEC

3.1.1.2 (2) in contrast to 4.1.1, more than one Global Scholars staff may

² In person or via audio or video.

³ The Global Scholars Leadership Team is composed of the Global Scholars CEO and those he or she appoints to this Leadership Team.

serve on the TEC.

3.2 Executive Committee Term Two: All TEC members may serve a second term (beginning third year) on the Executive Committee, according to the nomination and election process in 2.4.3 above.

3.3 Executive Committee Term Three: In the third term (beginning fifth year) of SCS, all Executive Committee policies in this document shall be enforced.

3.4 At the beginning of TEC's third term (beginning fifth year), this "TEC policy" (3.0) shall expire and be removed from these Governing Policies.

4.0 SCS–Global Scholars Partnership Policies

4.1 Global Scholars Representation on the Executive Committee:

4.1.1 The Global Scholars Leadership Team shall choose one ex officio, voting member to serve on the Executive Committee.

4.1.2 The Global Scholars Leadership Team shall select one Global Scholars fellow to serve on the Executive Committee.

4.2 SCS Operations

4.2.1 As a program of Global Scholars, Global Scholars will provide the following operational support for SCS:

4.2.1.1 IT support

4.2.1.1.1 Web site hosting and maintenance

4.2.1.1.2 Registration protocols

4.2.1.2 Paid staff to implement programming

4.2.1.2.1 Regional Representatives

4.2.1.2.2 Global Partnerships VP

4.2.1.2.3 Curriculum VP

4.2.1.2.4 Operations VP

4.2.1.2.5 Administrative staff in support of these

4.2.1.3 Operations and Finance

4.2.1.3.1 Budgeting

4.2.1.3.2 Financial management

4.2.1.3.2.1 Membership Dues

4.2.1.3.2.2 Grant distribution

4.2.1.3.3 Human Resources

4.2.1.4 Fund Development

4.2.1.4.1 Donor acquisition and stewardship

4.2.1.4.2 Donor communications

4.2.1.5 Partnership Development

4.3 Disassociation of SCS and Global Scholars

4.3.1 SCS shall become independent of Global Scholars upon first a

three-fourths majority vote of the Executive Committee and, if approved by the Executive Committee, then ratified through a two-thirds majority vote of all SCS voting members who vote on the motion (requiring a quorum of two-thirds of members eligible to vote).

- 4.3.2 Voting members shall be notified of this vote by SCS website and by email on 3 separate occasions evenly distributed over the course of 3 months prior to the vote.
- 4.3.3 Should Global Scholars decide to disassociate from SCS, then Global Scholars shall give a six month notice to the Executive Committee.
- 4.3.4 If dissociation occurs, net financial gain generated through membership fees held in bank accounts at the time of dissociation shall be provided to SCS as a one-time grant from Global Scholars.

5.0 SCS Executive Committee Limitations Policies

- 5.1 The Executive Committee shall not participate in, cause, or allow any practice, activity, decision, or organizational circumstance that is unbiblical, unlawful (except insofar that specific biblical authority is to the contrary; e.g., Acts 5:29), imprudent, unethical, or in violation of these Governing Policies.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall not require affirmation beyond, or short of, the WEA Statement of Faith for membership.
- 5.3 The Executive Committee shall not enter legal contracts on behalf of SCS for longer than 30 days or for more than \$1,000 without Global Scholars CEO approval.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee shall not develop revenue inconsistent with Global Scholars' 501(c)(3) status without Global Scholars CEO approval.
- 5.5 The Executive Committee shall not fail to annually report to the Global Scholars CEO:
 - 5.5.1 Program development vis-a-vis SCS Ends (see 1.2)
 - 5.5.2 Legal concerns or litigation against SCS or Executive Committee members
- 5.6 The Executive Committee shall not fail to administer grants in accordance with the terms of the grant.
- 5.7 The Executive Committee shall not fail to report back to those providing grants in a timely manner, in accordance with the terms of the grant.

Appendix A: Membership Fees

ANNUAL SALARY	FULL MEMBERS	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	STUDENT MEMBERS	FRIENDS OF THE SOCIETY
Under \$10,000	\$15	\$10	\$20	\$30
\$10,000-25,000	\$35	\$20	\$20	\$30
\$25,000-50,000	\$65	\$40	\$20	\$30
\$50,000-75,000	\$95	\$60	\$20	\$30
\$75,000-100,000	\$140	\$95	\$20	\$30
Over \$100,000	\$195	\$140	\$20	\$30

1. Membership eligible for renewal on July 1 of each year.
2. Scholarships (as available) are distributed for following reasons:
 - a. Member cannot afford
 - b. Bank fees exceed half of membership fee
 - c. Logistically unable to pay (e.g., credit card services unavailable)
3. Those paying at higher membership levels will be invited to contribute financially to members joining at lower membership levels.
4. Membership fees are waived for Global Scholars Fellows