

Society of Christian Scholars

Governing Policies

1.0 Ends Policies

1.1 Name: Society of Christian Scholars (hereafter “Society”)

1.2 The Society of Christian Scholars exists to equip Christian academics to have a missional and 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, Society 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 the Society 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.

2.2.2.3 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 the Society. Dues will 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 Society members, that the Society (a) achieves its Ends Policies (Section 1.0) according to (b) stated Governance Process Policies (Section 2.0) and according to (c) Society–Global Scholars Partnership Policies

¹ For an explanation of member requirements and benefits, see

www.SocietyofChristianScholars.org.

(Section 3.0 and 4.0) within the (d) Executive Committee Limitations Policies (Section 5.0).

2.4 Officers and Committees:

2.4.1 To be eligible for election (see 2.4.3.3) to the Executive Committee, a nominee must have been a Full Society Member for at least two years and have participated actively in Society activities.

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 and convenes 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 those who, in rare instances, may specifically be 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 Bursar

2.4.2.3.1 Manage funds that the Society acquires that are independent of Global Scholars (see 5.0).

2.4.2.3.2 Distribute funds as directed by the Executive Committee.

2.4.2.4 Scribe

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

- 2.4.2.5 These four officers, together with at least three, and no more than five, members at large (including the requirement of 4.1), shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- 2.4.2.6 Additional Committees: The Executive Committee may appoint standing or temporary committees as needed. It is not required that the members of these committees be Society members.
- 2.4.2.7 Officers are not to be employees of Global Scholars (except under the conditions stipulated in 3.0 below).
- 2.4.2.8 Officers shall receive free Society Full Membership during their tenure as officers

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 April 15.
- 2.4.3.3 Final ballot: The Executive Committee shall draft a final ballot of at least nine candidates where there is multiple representation from at least five of the following regions, Caribbean, English/Portuguese Speaking Africa, East Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Francophone Africa, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, North America, South Asia, and South Pacific.
- 2.4.3.4 Vote: A ballot will be presented to voting members by the Executive Committee for a final vote. The seven to nine candidates with the most votes will serve on the Executive Committee, as long as policy 2.4.4.1 is fulfilled.
- 2.4.3.5 The new Executive Committee members shall be installed at the first meeting after August 15 and no later than December 15 of the same year.
 - 2.4.3.5.1 All members of the out-going Executive Committee, who were not re-elected, shall be retired from the Executive Committee at the same first meeting after 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.

2.4.3.9 In the event that the Executive Committee has less than seven members due to resignations or incapacity, the remaining Executive Committee members will, in compliance with policies above, elect an interim member from any Full Society member.

2.4.4 Executive Committee:

2.4.4.1 The Executive Committee must have representation from at least 5 of each of the following 11 global regions: Caribbean, English/Portuguese Speaking Africa, East Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Francophone Africa, Latin America, Middle East/North Africa, North America, South Asia, and South 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 and participate in the discussion in order to vote on any issue on the Executive Committee meeting agenda.

2.5 Society elections: the Society 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 Society website and by email on at least 2 separate occasions evenly distributed over the course of 2 months prior to the elections.

2.6 Procedures for amending Governing Policies:

2.6.1 A two Step Process for 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.²

3.0 Transitional Executive Committee

3.1 Executive Committee Term One: At Society 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 Society Governing Policies, with two exceptions:

3.1.1.1 (1) contrary 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) contrary to 4.1.1, more than one Global Scholars staff may 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 the Society, 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 Society–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.

4.2 Society Operational Support

² The Global Scholars Leadership Team is composed of the Global Scholars CEO and those he or she appoints to this Leadership Team.

- 4.2.1 Global Scholars is responsible to meet various requirements mandated by U.S. legal authorities and the Global Scholars board. Therefore, Global Scholars will provide the following in accord with these legal and board requirements, unless the Executive Committee chooses to take responsibility and ensure compliance regarding one or more of the following:
 - 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
 - 4.2.1.3 Operations and Finance
 - 4.2.1.3.1 Budgeting
 - 4.2.1.3.2 Financial management and grant distribution
 - 4.2.1.3.3 Human Resources
 - 4.2.1.4 Fund Development
 - 4.2.1.4.1 Donor acquisition and stewardship
 - 4.2.1.5 Partnership Development

4.3 Disassociation of Society and Global Scholars

- 4.3.1 the Society 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 ratification through a two-thirds majority vote of all Society 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 the Society 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 the Society, 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 the Society as a one-time grant from Global Scholars, and all Society related documents possessed by Global Scholars (e.g., past applications, scholarship applications, etc.) shall be given to the Society.

5.0 Society 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 When allocating Global Scholars funds, the Executive Committee shall not enter legal contracts 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.
- 5.5 The Executive Committee shall not fail to annually report to the Global Scholars CEO:
 - 5.5.1 Program development vis-a-vis Society Ends (see 1.2)
 - 5.5.2 Legal concerns or litigation against the Society 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

1. Members will be provided a recommended, salary based membership fee structure. Members will, however, pay the membership fee of their choice (i.e., "variable pricing").
2. Membership renews annually.
3. Scholarships (as available) are distributed for the 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)
 - d. For Global Scholars fellows
 - e. For Select Society volunteers