

Proposed Changes to the ISJR By-laws to be Considered at the 2008 General Business Meeting as Approved by the IJSR Executive Committee, 2/08

Proposed Changes (followed by an edited version of the current by-laws)

§ 3

It is proposed that language that suggests that people need to "apply" and that membership is "conferred" by the executive committee be removed to ensure the intent of an open membership policy is clarified. The executive committee evaluated whether our by-laws required executive committee approval of applications at the Berlin meeting in 2006 and decided that the by-laws are consistent with open application and membership procedures, and that the by-laws should be revised to make this intent more transparently clear.

§ 4

It is proposed that mention of dues are updated to be consistent with current dues and fees approved by the membership at the General Business meeting in 2006.

§ 5

It is proposed that all possible causes of expiration of membership are mentioned in the first sentence.

§ 6

It is proposed that the executive committee should be empowered to appoint reviewers of the books in advance of the General Business Meeting, rather than voting on reviewers at the meeting, to allow reviewers sufficient time for a careful review.

§ 8

It is proposed that the word "mail" be removed from the election requirements to allow greater flexibility in election procedures and in hopes of transitioning to some kind of secure electronic election procedures in the future.

§ 9

It is proposed that the language regarding the appointment of the editor of *Social Justice Research* be revised to be consistent our contract with Springer. ISJR can only recommend a slate of candidates to Springer; Springer owns the journal and therefore has final say over the appointment of editor.

It is proposed that the executive committee be empowered to elect replacement officers in case of resignations.

It is additionally proposed that we eliminate language about "membership appointments" (see rationale for changes proposed under § 3).

**Bylaws of the
International Society for Justice Research (ISJR)**

[Proposed Changes to be Considered at the General Business Meeting, August 16, 2008, edited
version 2/29/08]

§ 1 Name and Seat

The Society is named "International Society for Justice Research e.V."¹ (ISJR).
It was registered in 1997 as a non-profit scientific organization at Potsdam, Germany.

§ 2 Objectives

Questions about justice are ubiquitous in interpersonal relations, within and between communities, social groups, organizations, and states. They are at the core of social conflicts and they are essential for sustainable conflict resolutions. A wide variety of scientific disciplines consider issues of justice. The aim of ISJR is to advance justice research in every way. The aim of the bylaws is particularly realized by

1. organizing and conducting biennial scientific meetings and further opportunities for the exchange of scientific information,
2. editing a newsletter to fosterer productive discussions of new ideas, research, and theories, and
3. encourage international and interdisciplinary research cooperation.

The society pursues exclusively and directly non-profit aims in the legal sense of the paragraph "non-profit aims" of the fiscal code. The society is acting unselfishly. It does not pursue goals primarily serving its own economic interest; funds can only be used for the objectives of the Society. No one may be benefited by expenses that do not correspond to the objectives of the Society (cf. §2) or by disproportionately high compensations. No member receives donations from the resources of the society.

§ 3 Membership

Membership is available to scholars whose work is related to issues of justice and who apply to join the society.

~~Applications as well as nominations for membership are to be addressed to the Executive Board. The Executive Board may confer membership to personalities from outside the academic field of justice.~~

Associate membership is available to students who are interested in justice research. Associate members are not counted for the quorum and do not participate in elections.

§ 4 Membership Dues

Dues for members are currently fixed at the rate of \$~~6075~~ per year for people who hold permanent positions and \$38 per year for others. Dues for members include a subscription to *Social Justice Research*.

¹ e.V. is a German acronym for registered society (eingetragener Verein)

Dues for Associate members are currently \$ 10 per year without subscription to the journal Social Justice Research. ~~In case~~If, an associate member wishes to subscribe to Social Justice Research, the total dues will equal the cost of the journal to the society. Dues will increase to accommodate scheduled increases in journal subscriptions. Any other changes in dues regulations are to be decided by the members at a General Business Meeting of the Society. Any member or applicant may apply to the treasurer for a reduction in dues because of financial hardship.

§ 5 Expiration of Membership

Membership expires with death, ~~or~~, resignation, or a failure to pay dues for two consecutive years. Resignation is possible only at the end of a financial year by notifying the treasurer. Membership may be terminated by the Executive Board in instances of weighty reasons. ~~Members who fail to pay dues for two consecutive years will be dropped from the Society.~~

§ 6 General Business Meeting

General Business Meetings will be held every two years, if possible on the occasion of the biennial scientific meeting. General Business Meetings must be announced to the members at least six months prior to the scheduled dates. With two exceptions, the members attending the General Business Meetings are authorized to make decisions by a majority vote, regardless of the number of members present. Amendments to the bylaws (**cf. § 10**) and the dissolution of the Society (**cf. § 11**) require a quorum of at least 20% of the members. Abstentions are considered invalid votes. The schedule of every ordinary General Business Meeting must include:

- the accounts of the Society for the preceding period,
- the approval of the Executive Board,
- elections to the Executive Board (**cf. § 8 and § 9**).

With the restrictions specified in **§ 10 and § 11**, the agenda to be addressed at the meetings may be changed or supplemented by request of the majority of the attending members. The approval of the Executive Board may only be given after examination of the past annual accounts by two members of the Society not currently on the Executive Board, who report their approval of the accounts at the General Business Meeting appointed by majority vote at the General Business Meeting. The decisions made at the General Business Meeting are noted in the minutes that normally have to be signed by the President and the Secretary, and in extraordinary cases by Past-President and Treasurer.

§ 7 Extraordinary General Business Meeting

If necessary in the interests of the Society, an Extraordinary General Business Meeting may be summoned by the Executive Board. An Extraordinary General Business Meeting must be summoned if 20% or more of the members have requested this in written form to the Executive Board. An Extraordinary General Business Meeting must be announced 1 month in advance.

§ 8 President

The President will be elected by ~~mail~~-ballot for a two-year term one year before she/he is to take up this office. During the period before her/his term as President, she/he will be member of the Executive Board as President Elect. After the end of her/his term as President, she/he will belong to the Executive Board as Past-President until the forthcoming President is elected. Together

with the Executive Board the President is responsible for providing leadership, maintaining the current operations of the Society (sponsorship and organization of meetings, production of newsletters, selection of members, collection of dues, etc.), and for stimulating new ways in which the Society may promote research and communication in the field. The President will be elected by the plurality of votes, preferably from a slate of candidates prepared by the Executive Board with the approval of those nominated.

§ 9 Executive Board

The Executive Board consists of the President, the President-Elect/Past-President, the Treasurer, the Secretary, one Newsletter Editor, the Editor of Social Justice Research and the Host of the forthcoming biennial meeting. The Treasurer and the Secretary are elected by the majority of the members attending the General Business Meeting for a period of two years. If a Treasurer or Secretary resigns before the end of the two-year term, the Executive Board may elect, by majority vote, an interim office-holder for the remaining term.

The Editor of the Newsletter, ~~the Editor of Social Justice Research~~ and the Host of the forthcoming biennial meeting are elected by the Executive Board by majority vote. A slate of candidates for the Editor of Social Justice is approved by the Executive Board by majority vote and are sent to the publisher for final selection. Reelections are allowed for all positions of the Executive Board. The functions of the Executive Board are:

1. to decide about the use of revenues,
2. to advise on the programs of scientific meetings, on the contents and format of the newsletter, and on other activities of the Society,
3. to advise with respect to the policies designed to advance the goals of the Society,
4. to elect the Editor of the Newsletter, ~~the Editor of Social Justice Research,~~ and the host of the forthcoming biennial meeting, and to develop a slate of candidates for the Editor of Social Justice Research,
5. ~~to conduct membership appointments,~~
- ~~6.~~to advise with respect to bylaws.

§ 10 Amendments to Bylaws

Amendments to the bylaws can only be decided by vote at a General Business Meeting with a quorum of at least 20% of the members. Any proposed modification requires a majority of at least 2/3 of the recorded valid votes. Amendments to the bylaws are only allowed if information about the planned modifications is included in the announcement of the General Business Meeting. In the case that less than 20% of the members attend the General Business Meeting, the following General Business Meeting has a quorum regardless of the number of attending members. This must be announced in the invitation to the General Business Meeting.

§ 11 The Dissolution of the Society

The Society may only be dissolved by majority decision at a General Business Meeting attended by at least 20% of the members. The announcement of such a Meeting must include the intention to dissolve the Society. In the case that less than 20% of the members attend the Meeting, the following Meeting has a quorum regardless of the number of attending members. This must be announced in the invitation to the General Business Meeting. If the Society is dissolved or by discontinuation of tax-exempt status, its resources will go to a tax exempt non-profit organization or to a public corporation that has to devote the resources for the advancement of justice research. The allocation of all resources is to be decided by majority vote on the General Business Meeting.

§ 12 Representation of the Society in Legal Transactions

The President, and only the President, has the authority to represent the society in any legal transaction and to speak on behalf of the society, except when the President delegates in writing his/her authority, in the whole or in specific cases, to another member of the Executive Board.