

Oklahoma Society for Science and Faith
(Constitution and By-Laws)
Accepted November 8, 2007

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

Section I: Name

The name of this organization shall be *The Oklahoma Society for Science and Faith*, hereafter, referred to simply as “Society”.

Section II: Definitions

For the purposes of this Society “Science” shall concern any discipline from the sciences. “Faith” shall concern all faith traditions from all the major world religions, but with a practical emphasis on Christianity, which represents the main faith tradition in Oklahoma.

Article II. Purpose

The Oklahoma Society for Science and Faith exists to explore the confluence of religious belief and scientific theories of cosmology and evolution. The goal of the society is to find a positive interaction and rational coherence between what some would call incompatible ideas and seek avenues to help those within the Christian tradition develop a consistent and sustainable scientific world-view. The society will explore science and faith in public education, creation stories, theological implications of evolution and cosmology, historical perspectives in the ongoing debates in science and religion, faith development and finding resolution through dialogue and study.

Article III. Membership

Section 1: Definition

Membership in this Society shall be in two forms: “individual” and “organization”.

Section 2: Individual Membership

1. Although initiated by faculty members in the Southern Nazarene University Science Division and School of Theology and Ministry, the society is open to persons of all faiths, academic disciplines and interests. Members are entitled to attend all meetings, to receive regular society communications, to hold office, and to participate in all public activities.
2. Members are expected to be in accord with the purposes of the Society.
3. Members are not required to pay dues to join and remain active. Members are expected to provide pertinent and timely information for the Society’s records, including name and contact information (physical and/or email address).

Section 3: Organization Membership

1. Education: Universities, Colleges, Seminaries, Schools, Academic Departments or other organizations similar in kind are eligible for membership. The associated faculty or staff are entitled to attend all meetings and to participate in all public activities.
2. Other: (Parish, Society, Club, etc.): Other interested organizations, including societies, churches, clubs, etc. are eligible for membership. The members of each group are entitled to attend all meetings and to participate in all public activities.

Section 4: Status of Membership

1. Any member may terminate membership by resignation.
2. Any member may be dismissed from the Society. In the event that the continued membership of an individual or organization is deemed detrimental to the best interests of the Society, that individual or organization may be dropped from the membership roll upon the recommendation of the majority of the Society's steering committee with a two-thirds majority vote by said committee's members.

Article IV: Governance

Section 1: Steering committee

The steering committee's responsibility is to organize and plan events. The steering committee shall consist of:

- o a chair (with co-chairs being acceptable),
- o 2 academic faculty representatives from science,
- o 2 academic faculty representatives from religion,
- o an *ex officio* administrative member from the host institution (as named by the Provost of said),
- o 1 or 2 student representatives, and
- o 1 or 2 community representatives (from other than the host institution) and
- o a secretary.

The positions of faculty representatives may be held in concert with the positions of chair. The steering committee duties of this Society shall be:

1. Chair (to serve a one-year term) – Call regular business meetings for the sake of planning about and informing on the societies activities. Preside at all business meetings of the Society and represent the general interests of the Society.
2. Academic Faculty Representatives (to serve a one-year term) – Serve as advisors to the Society for selection of yearly themes and relevant speakers.
3. Secretary (to serve a one-year term) - the secretary shall maintain records of membership, and keep minutes of official steering committee business meetings., and fulfill any other responsibility authorized by the steering committee at its business meetings.

4. *ex officio* administrative member (to serve a one-year term) - the *ex officio* administrative member shall act to inform the administrators of the host institution about the Society's plans and activities.
3. Student representatives (to serve a one-year term) - the student representative shall execute tasks authorized by the steering committee under guidance by the chair.

Steering committee members and officers will be determined in the first meeting of the academic year by existing members from the previous term.

Section 2: Official Organ

A primary goal is to provide access to resources associated with the Society's activities; therefore, the society shall maintain an official presence of its purposes and activities on the Internet. A Society website will provide announcements, information and links to relevant web resources. This includes steering committee minutes, book reviews and webstreaming resources of videotaped or audio-captured presentations.

In addition, a Resource Center will be maintained in the Williams Learning Resource Center which contains books that pertain to science and religion issues. CDs and DVDs of materials and presentations will also be made available in the Resource Center and through the mail, upon request.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1: Definitions

Meetings in this Society shall take four forms: "Business meetings", "Book studies", "Speakerships", "Conferences."

Section 1: Business meetings

Business meetings may be called at such times and places as the steering committee may determine. In general, business meetings shall meet monthly. Special meetings may be called by written request to the steering committee members, provided all such members are notified of the time, place, and purpose of the meeting at least one week in advance.

Section 2: Book Studies

The Society will study at least one book each year, meeting regularly to discuss selected titles. The group will agree on a list of books that focus aforementioned themes. Society members are responsible for leading book studies on a rotating basis.

Section 3: Speakerships

The Society will invite at least one speaker per year, who are considered experts in a field. . Speakers will be selected according to the current theme that the Society is engaged in. Speakers will present in a public forum, generally in the evening for convenience to students, faculty and community persons. Speaking engagements will be publicized in the Oklahoma City newspaper, weekly gazettes, on the college's website and on local public radio stations. Speakership events will have associated question and answer sessions which will follow each presentation in the effort to promote a balanced and exploratory dialogue. When appropriate, speakers will also be invited to speak in other contexts within the host institution. Speaker presentations will be recorded, edited and made available (with appropriate permission) through website, webstreaming, and DVD technologies.

Section 4: Conferences

At its option, the Society may sponsor conferences where scholarly papers are presented. Keynote speakers may also be retained for purposes of advancing the themes for a given conference. Conferences will be open to the public, and will otherwise follow the format of speakerships as recounted in section 3 above.

Article VI: Amendments

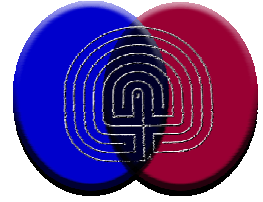
Upon recommendation by the governing group, this constitution may be amended upon the recommendation of the majority of the Society's steering committee with a two-thirds majority vote by said committee's members at an officially-called business meeting.

Amendment VI.1: Conference Travel and Attendance (Approved April 16, 2008)
OSSF members who are partially or fully funded by the OSSF must sign an OSSF Conference Travel and Agreement Form (see Appendix 1) prior to attending the conference.

BY-LAWS

1. Parliamentary procedure: the rules contained in the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of order of this Society.
2. Fees: Any levying of fees will be determined through a majority vote of the steering committee. Fees will be made known through the regular publications of the Society.
3. Proposed amendments of the by-laws of this Society must be sent to all steering committee members in a timely fashion prior to an official business meeting to which they shall be submitted. The by-laws may be amended by a majority of the members present and voting in a regular business meeting of the Society.

Appendix 1



OSSF Conference Travel and Event Agreement

OSSF members that are sponsored by the OSSF to attend a conference (or professional development opportunity) have certain obligations and responsibilities as specified in this agreement form. By signing this form, the conference attendee agrees to the statements given therein, regardless of whether the OSSF partially or fully funds the conference costs.

- As a representative of the OSSF (and by extension, Southern Nazarene University), I agree to conduct that represents the OSSF in a professional and responsible manner and is consistent with the ideals of Southern Nazarene University. If my conduct during a conference (including travel before and after) precludes attendance or results in an early dismissal from the conference, I understand that I may be required by the OSSF to repay any or all OSSF-funded expenses associated with the conference, including travel.
- I acknowledge that I have not been coerced to attend the conference and am traveling and attending the conference on my own volition. As an OSSF representative in a voluntary capacity, I release OSSF and Southern Nazarene University from any liability associated with any personal injury or damage of physical property that may be associated with the conference travel and event.
- _____ Initial here if an undergraduate. By initializing this paragraph, I understand that I will make arrangements for a personal chaperone for the conference travel and event. The chaperone must be authorized by the OSSF steering committee as reflected in the OSSF monthly meeting minutes. If for some reason the authorized chaperone is unable to accompany me, I agree that I will not attend the conference and will repay any or all OSSF-funded expenses associated with the conference, including travel.

Conference: _____ Location: _____

OSSF Member Signature: _____ Date: _____