

Society for Ethnomusicology Ethics Committee
Statement of Purpose

The Society for Ethnomusicology Ethics Committee (hereafter SEM-EC) will act as an advisory committee to the SEM Board, Business Office, Council, and membership as a body with reference to relevant ethical matters pertaining to SEM activities, business, and conduct. The SEM-EC is advisory and holds no adjudicatory functions.

The SEM-EC will maintain SEM's Ethics Statement, ensuring it remains current and relevant to the discipline of ethnomusicology as practiced by its members; monitor and respond to information and issues relevant to Institutional Reviews Boards (IRBs) as relevant to the discipline of ethnomusicology; act in an advisory capacity to the SEM Board, Business Office, Council, and membership as a body on matters pertaining to the SEM-EC and SEM business; and act in an advisory capacity to SEM on issues pertaining to ethical ethnomusicological research and professional practice and concern, where this is within the existing expertise and jurisdiction of the SEM-EC.

The SEM-EC has the authority to offer independent advice to the SEM Board, Business Office, Council, and membership as a body; draft for review and comment by the membership documents pertaining to codes of ethical conduct as they pertain to membership activity and SEM and SEM-EC business; draft for review and comment by the membership statements related to IRBs; and undertake the evaluation of existing ethical codes of conduct, research, and professional practice in order to maintain their currency and relevance to the field of ethnomusicology.

Committee members have the responsibility to champion examples of good ethical and professional conduct and best practice; contribute in a sustained, timely, and reliable manner to the business of the SEM-EC; declare conflicts of interest as they pertain to the business of the SEM-EC; maintain appropriate levels of confidentiality and professionalism in matters; seek external advice as appropriate and in a timely fashion where matters pertaining to the SEM-EC are beyond the expertise of the existing membership or where conflicts of interest have been identified.

Elections: The SEM-EC will serve as a standing committee of the Society. Any SEM member in good standing can recommend themselves to the SEM-EC for service on the SEM-EC. The SEM-EC will review self-recommendations, discuss them with the Board Nominating Committee, and indicate which of these candidates should be nominated for the ballot. The Board Nominating Committee may also nominate additional candidates. The Board Nominating Committee will submit all nominated candidates to the Board Secretary for inclusion on the annual ballot by April 1.

Members: 7 SEM members in good standing will be elected through annual ballot. Diversity in membership is encouraged. The committee will include at least 1 member enrolled in a PhD

program in ethnomusicology or a related field and at least 1 member not serving in a full-time teaching or research role at a university at the time of their election to the committee.

Chair: 2-year term. No consecutive terms; two terms total. The Chair is elected by members of the SEM-EC.

Outgoing Vice-Chair. The Chair serves as Outgoing Vice-Chair for a 1-year term following their 2-year term as Chair.

Secretary: 3-year term. No consecutive terms, two terms total. The Secretary is elected by members of the SEM-EC.

Regular Members: 3-year term. No consecutive terms, two terms total.

Additional attendees may be called upon to join the SEM-EC in an advisory capacity (e.g., legal, copyright, IP, financial and other experts) where this is deemed appropriate or necessary.

A Chair or Vice-Chair plus a simple majority of the SEM-EC will constitute a quorum. Meetings will take place at the SEM Annual Meeting and by email should circumstance require it.

The SEM-EC reports to the SEM Board and Council and submits a short written report each year for publication in the Reports Booklet, distributed at the General Membership Meeting.

The SEM-EC Secretary records minutes. The SEM-EC reserves the right to maintain confidentiality as necessary (i.e., not make the minutes open for public scrutiny by default), while always providing a summary to the membership as a body.

The functioning and terms of reference of the SEM-EC will be reviewed by its membership every three years.