

# CONSTITUTION OF THE RADIATION RESEARCH SOCIETY

Amended ~~November 3, 2019~~<sup>95</sup>

## ARTICLE I - Name

The name of the Organization shall be the Radiation Research Society.

## ARTICLE II – Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be:

1. To promote original research in the natural sciences relating to radiation.
2. To facilitate integration of different fields/disciplines in the study of radiation effects.
3. To promote the diffusion of knowledge in these fields.

## ARTICLE III – Members

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of Full Members, Associate Members, Scholars-in-Training, Emeritus Members, Honorary Members, Corporate Members, and Institutional Members.
2. Full Members. There shall be elected to full membership only such persons who have contributed either two or more peer-reviewed research publications or made some other substantial and meritorious special service to the natural or population sciences. The fulfillment of these qualifications shall be determined by examination of the membership application and the published works of the applicant. The rights and privileges of Full Members include voting, holding office, subscribing ~~to~~<sup>to</sup> and publishing in the Society publications at favorable rates.
3. Associate Members. Applicants that do not meet the requirements for full membership or another membership category, but whose interests and endeavors are otherwise aligned with the objectives of the Society, shall be elected as Associate Members of the Society. The fulfillment of these qualifications shall be determined by examination of the membership application and the published works of the applicant. Associate Members have all privileges of Full Members except that they may not vote or hold office.
4. Scholars in Training. Pre-or postdoctoral students may be elected as Scholars in Training. Membership as a Scholar in Training is limited to six years, but may be extended indefinitely by petitioning the Membership Committee. The fulfillment of these qualifications shall be determined by examination of the membership application. Scholars affiliated with an Institutional Member may be nominated by that Institutional Member. Scholars in Training have all the privileges of Full Members except that they may not vote or hold office.
5. Emeritus Members. An Emeritus Member fulfills the requirements for a Full Member, but has become Emeritus or retired at his/her own institution. He/she has all the rights and privileges of Full Members and pays no dues. However, annual confirmation is required to maintain Emeritus membership.

6. Honorary Members. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Governing Council on distinguished individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to the objectives of the Society, but are not eligible for Full membership. Honorary Members may not vote or hold office. Honorary Members pay no dues.
7. Corporate Members. Any corporation or business interested in the goals and mission of the RRS may be elected a Corporate Member. Corporate Members may not vote or hold office.
8. Institutional Members. Academic Departments or Institutes may be elected as Institutional Members. Institutional Members may not vote or hold office in the Society. An Institutional Member may subscribe to the Society's publications only at the institutional rates. Institutional members may sponsor pre- and postdoctoral students from their institution for membership as Scholars in Training without an additional fee levied on the student. There is no limit to the number of students that can be so sponsored.
9. Member Field/Discipline. Each member may select one of the ~~five~~ primary fields/disciplines of the radiation sciences (biology, chemistry, epidemiology, medicine, physics) to be used for matters where one of these ~~five~~ fields/disciplines is specified (e.g., voting, holding office, service on Editorial Board or committees, etc.). Selection will be made at the time of election to membership or with any change in membership type. Additionally, an opportunity will be provided annually, at the time of payment of annual dues, for ~~each~~ members to change ~~his~~/their selected field/discipline. [Adds a fifth element to the historical four disciplines underpinning radiation research. The term "field" has been added to avoid controversy about whether the broad area of epidemiology is a discipline or an integration of disciplines.]

#### ARTICLE IV – Management

1. The affairs of the Society shall be conducted by its members through their elected Officers, Council, and Board of Editors.
2. It shall be the guiding principle of the Society, its Officers, Council, and Board of Editors to provide equal opportunities to all branches of the radiation sciences in the conduct of the affairs of the Society by ensuring their appropriate representation on the Council, Board of Editors, and Committees.
3. The Officers shall be a President, a Vice-President/President-Elect, a Vice-President-Elect, a Secretary-Treasurer, and an Editor-in-Chief, and every third year, a Secretary-Treasurer-Elect unless the Secretary-Treasurer is re-elected.
4. The Council shall consist of the current Officers, the most recent Past President, and ten elected Councilors. The fields/disciplines of biology, ~~physics~~, chemistry, epidemiology, ~~bimedicineology~~, and ~~physicsmedicine~~ shall be represented on the Council each by one Councilor from that field/discipline, elected expressly for this purpose by eligible members in the same field/discipline, as described in Article III.9. The remaining ~~six-five~~ Councilors shall be elected by the entire eligible membership to represent the membership at large. Each Councilor shall be elected for a three-year term. No councilor completing a three-year term shall be elected or appointed as a Councilor until at least one year after the completion of the term. [Effectively, one of the six at-large councilors is transitioned to a specified councilor for epidemiology. Thus, size of Council is not changed.]

5. In the event that a Council seat is vacated, the Council shall appoint a temporary Councilor to serve until the next election is held. The Councilor elected at this time shall serve for the unexpired term of the Councilor elected to office.
6. The Board of Editors shall have charge, as designated by the Council, of all publications of the Society. The Board of Editors shall consist of the Editor-in-Chief, and at least ~~ten~~<sup>eight</sup> Members, appointed expressly to represent the fields/disciplines of ~~biology~~<sup>physics</sup>, chemistry, ~~epidemiology, biology, and~~ medicine, ~~and physics~~, each by two Members from those fields/disciplines. [Adds two board members to represent epidemiology, on par with present four disciplines.] Each Member of the Board of Editors upon nomination by (except the Editor-in-Chief and approval) shall be appointed annually by Council shall be appointed to a one-year term. Members, and shall typically serve for four years. Members of the Board of Editors may be removed by simple majority vote of the Council on recommendation by the Editor-in-Chief. [Functional changes to facilitate operation of the Board.]
7. The Editor-in-Chief may be appointed by the Council or elected by the Society membership, at the discretion of the Council, for a three-year term. In either case, he/she may be re-appointed or re-elected for additional three-year terms.
8. The Vice-President-Elect shall be elected for a term of one year, at the conclusion of which he/she shall automatically assume the office of Vice-President/President-Elect. The Vice-President/President-Elect shall serve a term of one year, at the conclusion of which he/she shall automatically assume the office of President. The President shall serve a term of one year, at the conclusion of which he/she shall automatically assume the office of Past-President and serve for one year. The Past-President may not run for the office of Vice-President-Elect until at least one year after completing his/her term.
9. It is strongly encouraged that the succession of the Presidency shall rotate through the ~~five~~<sup>four</sup> ~~primary field/~~<sup>disciplines</sup> ~~and at large~~, to be accomplished by the election of a Vice-President-Elect from a specific field/discipline/field. The order of rotation is chemistry, biology, medicine, physics, and ~~at large~~<sup>epidemiology</sup>; the order of rotation is maintained regardless of whether a candidate from the scheduled discipline is elected in a specific year. [Inclusion of epidemiology in the encouraged, not required, rotation.]
10. The Secretary-Treasurer-Elect shall serve for a term of one year, following which he/she shall serve a three-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. The Secretary-Treasurer may be re-elected for one additional three-year term, in which case there will be no Secretary-Treasurer-Elect during the last year of the first term.
11. Removal of Officers and Councilors. Any Officer or Councilor may be removed by a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Council, whenever in their judgment the best interest of the Society will be served thereby. Such action by Council shall require confirmation by a vote of the entire voting membership, which shall be initiated as soon as possible but no later than two (2) weeks after the Council decision. A period of two (2) weeks will be allowed for voting. Confirmation requires a vote for removal by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Members voting. Removal is effective once notice of the confirmation has been distributed to the membership

## ARTICLE V - Elections

1. Nomination and eElections of Officers and Councilors shall be conducted either by mail or electronically, as prescribed. ~~The election process and its method of delivery shall be approved~~ by the Council. Not less than 18 weeks before the Annual Meeting, the Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute to each Member a request for nominations, specifying the vacancies to be filled. Within fourteen weeks before the Annual Meeting, all nominations shall be received by the Secretary-Treasurer who shall transmit all those that are valid to the Nominating Committee. A person is nominated by the Membership if he/she is named by at least 10 Members. The Nominating Committee shall present at least two candidates for each vacancy, excepting only the office of Editor-in-Chief. The Committee may nominate candidates for each office in addition to those nominated by the Membership. All candidates must meet requirements for membership status and field/discipline, if applicable. The names of all valid candidates shall be transmitted to the Secretary-Treasurer who shall have an election ballot prepared including all candidates of both categories and a blank space for each vacancy to provide for write-in candidates. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute the official ballot to each eligible Full or Emeritus Member not less than twelve weeks before the Annual Meeting. To be valid, each ballot must be properly marked and received by the Secretary-Treasurer not less than eight weeks before the Annual Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise the validation and counting of all ballots. In the case of election of Councillors-at-Large, where there may be more than one position to be filled, the individuals receiving the highest number of votes will be elected. For elections where a single individual is to be elected and no individual receives failure to secure a majority of the votes cast for an Officer or Councilor, a run-off election will be held. The Secretary-Treasurer shall have a run-off election ballot prepared containing for each such position the two candidates having the highest number of votes. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute the official run-off ballot to each eligible Full or Emeritus Member not less than six weeks before the Annual Meeting. To be valid, each run-off ballot must be properly marked and received by the Secretary-Treasurer not less than two weeks before the Annual Meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise the validation and counting of all run-off ballots. The results shall be reported to the membership no later than at the Annual Meeting. [Allows full use of electronic communication. Clarifies procedure for elections with more than one position to be filled, i.e., for which a run-off is not required.]
2. If a vacancy in any elective office or position, except that of President, Vice-President/President-Elect, Secretary-Treasurer, or Editor-in-Chief occurs between Annual Meetings, the Council shall appoint an interim successor for a term expiring at the time of the business session of the next Annual Meeting. The vacancy will then be filled following the usual processes for such appointments. If a vacancy occurs in the office of President, the Vice-President/President-Elect shall act as President until the next election is held. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President/President-Elect, the Vice-President-Elect shall act as Vice-President/President-Elect until the next election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-President-Elect, both a Vice-President/ President-Elect and a Vice-President-Elect will be chosen at the next election. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Secretary Treasurer, the Secretary-Treasurer Elect (if already elected) shall act as Secretary-Treasurer. If a vacancy occurs in the office of Editor-in-Chief, the Council shall appoint an interim successor for a term expiring at the time of the business session of the next Annual Meeting. At the discretion of the Council a special election may be conducted to fill a vacancy. Individuals elected to fill a vacancy via a special election shall serve for the remainder of the original term.

3. ~~Members of the Board of Editors shall be appointed or removed by simple majority vote of the Council on recommendation by the Editor-in-Chief.~~ [Addressed in IV.6]

## ARTICLE VI - Duties

1. The duties of the President, the Vice-President/President-Elect, the Past President, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Editor-in-Chief are those customarily performed by such officers, unless otherwise directed by the Council. The Vice-President-Elect assures a smooth presidential succession, and, with the Past President, assists the Vice-President/President-Elect in the organization of the Annual Meeting, and serves as otherwise directed by the Council. These six individuals, plus a Secretary-Treasurer-Elect when that office is filled, shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Society. Council may delegate to this committee such powers and authority as it sees fit. Decisions of the Executive Committee that are not pre-authorized by the Council are subject to final approval by the Council.
2. The duties of the Council shall be:
  - (a) To serve as the Board of Directors of the Corporation.
  - (b) To administer all funds of the Society and to make appropriations for the necessary expenses of the Society.
  - (c) To establish annually the dues for members.
  - (d) To take such action as seems desirable and appropriate to promote the objectives of the Society. In performance of these actions Council shall follow commonly accepted principles of leadership, including but not limited to ethics, confidentiality, conflict of interest, and professional conduct.
  - (e) To appoint a Financial Audit Committee consisting of three members. The Committee shall annually conduct, in cooperation with the Secretary-Treasurer, an audit of the financial accounts of the Society and report their findings to Council.
  - (f) To appoint a Membership Committee consisting of at least one member representing each of the fields/disciplines of biology, chemistry, epidemiology, medicine, and physics; plus at least physics, one chemistry, one biology, one medicine, and two at-large members. [Inclusion of epidemiology representative] The Membership Committee shall examine the eligibility of applicants for membership and ~~to~~ report its findings to the Secretary-Treasurer consistent with the instructions given in the By-Laws.
  - (g) To appoint a Nominating Committee consisting of one member representing each of the fields/disciplines of biology, physics, one chemistry, epidemiology, medicine, and physics one biology, one medicine, plus and two2 at-large members. Each Member of this Committee shall be appointed for a one-year term only, but he/she may be reappointed. [Inclusion of epidemiology representative]
  - (h) To establish and foster representative publications as they become desirable.
  - (i) The Council may, if it deems necessary, contract with an association management company, and/or appoint an Executive Director with appropriate compensation to assist in handling the affairs of the Society.
  - (j) To appoint such other committees as are necessary and charge them with specific tasks.
  - (k) All members of committees shall be appointed for a one-year term; but may be reappointed. [Functional change to improve use of committees.]

## ARTICLE VII - Quorum

~~Eight-Nine~~ voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum. Fifty voting Members shall constitute a quorum in order to take official action at~~for~~ all business meetings of the Society. [Quorum was not adjusted last time size of Council was expanded – now requires at least 50% of Council, even when there is a Secretary-Treasurer-Elect. Clarification that a quorum for business meeting requires voting members if official actions are to take place. However, the mandated annual Business meeting can still occur even if a quorum is not achieved – necessary to transition Officers, Councillors, etc.]

## ARTICLE VIII – Contingency Procedures

Circumstances beyond the control of the Society may preclude adherence to the procedures outlined in the Constitution and in the Bylaws. Situations include (but are not limited to) cancellation or postponement of the annual meeting, failure to achieve a quorum at a required meeting, delays in scheduled communications to the membership. In the event of such an extraordinary circumstance, this Article authorizes the Governing Council to take whatever steps are necessary to deal with the emergency. While it is recognized that it may not be possible to adhere to the mandated policies and procedures, it shall be a guiding principle that the spirit and intent of the Constitution and Bylaws will be followed as much as possible.

If it is necessary for Governing Council to initiate contingency procedures, the membership shall be informed as soon as feasible via notification(s) that should include the events requiring the contingency procedures, what decision was made and the rationale for it, and what is planned to deal with the situation.

## ARTICLE IX - Amendments

No part of this Constitution shall be amended or annulled except by formal proposal of an Amendment, followed by opportunity for discussion at an Annual Meeting and by a ballot conducted either by mail or electronically. Proposal of an Amendment may be made on behalf of the Council, or by petition to the President signed by at least ten Members. The Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute the proposed Amendment to all Members of the Society no less than three weeks before an Annual Meeting and opportunity shall be given for discussion in the meeting. Not more than eight weeks after this meeting the Secretary-Treasurer shall again distribute the Amendment in its final form to all Members of the Society, accompanied by a ballot for voting on each amendment, either separately or as a composite, by all Full or Emeritus Members. To be valid, each ballot must be properly marked and received by the Secretary-Treasurer within four weeks of the time of distribution. The Secretary-Treasurer shall supervise the validation and counting of all ballots. The Secretary-Treasurer shall promptly report the outcome to the Council and the membership. Adoption of a proposed Amendment shall require the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting and shall become effective as soon as the Secretary-Treasurer distributes the results to the membership.