

# **Bylaws of the European Society for Textual Scholarship**

## **1. Purpose of the Society**

The European Society for Textual Scholarship provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for the exchange of ideas and research in the theory and practice of textual scholarship.

## **2. Members**

2.1. In order to be a regular member of the Society, one must pay dues each year as determined by the Board.

2.2. Honorary Members of the Society may be elected for a specified time upon the recommendation of the Board. Honorary Members do not pay dues, but may vote in the Annual Members' Meeting.

2.3. An annual Members' Meeting shall be convened at a time and place determined by the Board.

2.4. Tasks of the Members are:

2.4.1. to receive the report by the President on the actions of the Board and the other Committees;

2.4.2. to elect Board Members;

2.4.3. to vote on a motion to award Honorary Memberships;

2.4.4. to vote on changes to the bylaws;

2.4.5. to receive a financial statement from the Board;

2.4.6. to relieve the Officers for the past year.

2.5. Votes in the Members' Meeting:

2.5.1. Each member shall have one vote.

2.5.2. There is no quorum.

2.5.3. Votes are decided by simple majority. Abstentions do not count as vote; voting in absentia or by proxy is not possible, unless explicitly permitted by the Board. In case of a tie, the president's vote counts twice.

## **3. Board**

3.1. The Board is the governing body of the Society, serving a four year period. Members may serve a second consecutive term of four years; before further terms there shall be a break of at least two years. The term starts at the first Board Meeting following the election.

### 3.2. Members of the Board are:

- 3.2.1. a maximum of 12 members, representing as many European countries as possible, elected by the Members;
- 3.2.2. a representative of the Society for Textual Scholarship (STS);
- 3.2.3. the General Editor of Variants.

### 3.3. Activities of the Board are:

- 3.3.1. participation in the Board Meeting which is to be held at least once in every 12 months, ordinarily in conjunction with the annual Members' Meeting. Additional meetings (physical or virtual) may take place as and when required by the President.
- 3.3.2. Appointing the Officers of the Society from amongst the Board Members. No person may simultaneously hold more than one office.
- 3.3.3. Appointing the General Editor and Associate Editor of Variants: the Journal of the European Society for Textual Scholarship for a period of 3 years. The General Editor and the Associate Editor may be reappointed for further 3-year terms.
- 3.3.4. Making decisions about any matters arising not contemplated by the bylaws.
- 3.3.5. Establishing and appointing other Committees or Officers if required. All actions of such Committees shall be subject to review and approval by the Board.
- 3.3.6. Receiving and discussing proposed amendments to the bylaws submitted by members of the Society. The Board shall determine whether a proposed amendment so submitted shall be presented for adoption at the annual Members' Meeting,
- 3.3.7. Deciding on matters of the annual Conference of the Society, especially:
  - 3.3.7.1. appoint a Programme Chair;
  - 3.3.7.2. approve of the Programme Committee, suggested by the Programme Chair, and delegate one member of the Board to act as Conference liaison.
- 3.3.8. Deciding on matters of the journal Variants, especially:
  - 3.3.8.1. retaining final authority over all administrative matters;
  - 3.3.8.2. serving as Editorial Board with authority over matters of prestige, academic standing and rigour, and overall quality of the journal;
  - 3.3.8.3. appointing a member to serve in the Board of the Society for Textual Scholarship (STS).

### 3.4. Decision making

3.4.1. The necessary quorum of the Board is 50% of its members.

3.4.2. Decisions of the Board shall be by a simple majority. Abstentions do not count as votes. A tie vote shall be construed as a failure to pass the measure proposed.

3.4.3. Decisions can be made via e-mail to all the Board Members. Voting may also take place virtually.

### 3.5. Election of the Board

3.5.1. Elections for new Board members must take place a minimum of three months before the Annual Members' Meeting.

3.5.2. Any member of the Society in good standing may be nominated to become a member of the Board.

3.5.3. Nominees must have the support of at least one other member of the Society. They must also submit a brief personal statement that will be included on the ballot.

3.5.4. Members have one vote each for each vacancy on the Board.

## **4. Officers of the Society**

4.1. Mandatory Officers of the Society are the President, the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Board may also appoint other non-mandatory Officers if required.

4.2. The Officers of the Society will also be the administrators of the Foundation "Variants", which holds the bank account used for all financial transactions concerning Variants, the official publication of the Society.

4.3. Activities of the President are:

4.3.1. representing the Society;

4.3.2. chairing the meetings of the Board;

4.3.3. chairing the Members' Meeting and providing a report on the activities of the Society in the last year;

4.3.4. initiating and supervising e-mail ballots.

4.4. Activities of the Secretary are:

4.4.1. maintaining all past and current non-financial records and documents of the Society, including the minutes of the Board and the Members' Meetings;

4.4.2. in the absence of the President, chairing the Board Meeting and the Members' Meeting, including delivering the yearly report;

4.4.3. organizing elections for the Board and the Editorship of Variants.

#### 4.5. Activities of the Treasurer are:

- 4.5.1. maintaining the accounts and financial records of the Society, in accordance with the decisions and policies of the Board;
- 4.5.2. maintaining the membership list and all records of past and present members;
- 4.5.3. delivering a report on finance and membership in the annual Members' Meeting.

#### 4.6. Elections of officers

- 4.6.1. The President and Secretary are appointed by the Board for a period of three years. They can be re-elected for a second term. They shall not seek re-election for a third term, but they can be elected again after a break.
- 4.6.2. To be eligible as President or Secretary, one must be a member of the Society in good standing. Additionally, the President must have previously served at least one year as a member of the Board. No person may simultaneously hold more than one office.
- 4.6.3. Elections are organized by the Secretary or an appointed deputy who is currently a member of the Board if the Secretary is a candidate for re-election. Eligible members nominate themselves for a position as Officer by sending a letter of application, together with a CV, to the Secretary or their deputy. Each member of the Board has one vote. Votes are decided by simple majority. Abstentions do not count as vote; voting by in absentia or by proxy is not possible, unless explicitly permitted by the Board. In the case of a tie for the election of Secretary or Treasurer, the President's vote counts twice; in the case of tie, for the election of President, the Secretary's vote counts twice.
- 4.6.4. The President and the Secretary are responsible for counting the votes, unless they are themselves running for re-election, in this case two other members of the Board should be chosen to take this responsibility. They communicate the results first to the candidates and then to all members of the Society.

### **5. Removal and resignation**

- 5.1. Any officer may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the entire Board.
- 5.2. The President receives resignations of Officers, Editors and Board Members and communicates them to the Board. In case the President resigns, the Secretary receives the resignation.
- 5.3. The Board may appoint someone to fulfil a vacant function ad interim, until the end of the term and next election. If more than 50% of the Board resign, elections have to be arranged for the next Members' Meeting.

## **6. Annual Conference**

6.1. The Society shall sponsor a Conference every year, at a time and place determined by the Board.

6.2. The Programme Chair(s) will have the primary responsibility for the Conference, including its organizing, hosting and financing.

6.3. The Programme Chair(s) may be assisted by a Programme Committee appointed by the Programme Chair(s).

6.4. All speakers, respondents, and chairs at the Conference must be members of the Society and must pay the registration fee, except for individuals specially invited by the Program Chair(s) in consultation with the Board.

6.5. Everybody may attend the Conference upon payment of a registration fee.

## **7. Journal**

7.1. All current members of the Society may nominate themselves for the position of General Editor or Associate Editor. Candidates must submit a CV and a statement about her/his vision for the role to the Secretary. Their candidacy must be supported by, at least, one other member of the Society.

7.2. The Editors shall be responsible for the regular publication of Variants. The Editors exert direct editorial control over the contents, subject to the advice of the Editorial Board and of the advice which they may seek from peer reviewers. The Editors may be assisted by one or more Book Review Editor(s).

These bylaws were approved by the Board on 28 April 2025, and approved by the Membership on 29 April 2025.