

Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry
By-Laws
Revised, December 2011 by membership vote
Adopted 2/28/07 by membership vote

I. Name and Purpose

The name of the organization shall be The Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry. Its purpose shall be to establish and maintain regular means of communication among social scientists studying Jewry. It shall do this through academic sessions, the preparation and dissemination of appropriate materials, and the regular communication of relevant information.

II. Membership

There shall be four classes of members:

- (1) Regular Membership shall be available to all those professionally engaged in and/or interested in teaching and/or research related to the social scientific study of Jewry.
- (2) Student Membership shall be available to matriculated students at institutions of higher learning who are especially interested in the social scientific study of Jewry
- (3) Emeritus Membership shall be available to people who are retired from their primary place of employment, who maintain an interest in the social scientific study of Jewry and would like to receive the materials of the Association.
- (4) Institutional Membership shall be available to institutions who would like to aid in the sponsorship of the activities of the Association and be so listed on the Association's materials.

III. Governance

A. Organizational Authority

The Executive Board shall have authority to implement policy and to supervise the program and administration of the Association. It shall also have authority to define issues of basic policy, which shall be referred to the membership in a referendum. It shall have authority to interpret the by-laws.

B. The Executive Board

The Executive Board shall comprise: the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer, the editor of *Contemporary Jewry*, the editor of the ASSJ newsletter, five members-at-large, each of whom shall have one vote, and a non-voting graduate student member selected by the President. Ex-officio non-voting members will include: the immediate past president, an Israeli representative, and a European representative. It may include other Board members as deemed appropriate by the President and/or the Executive Board.

1. The duties of the President shall be to facilitate activities of the Association, lead policy-making discussions or delegate leadership of same, represent the Association in public venues, sign official documents of the Association, and assume any other administrative duties as necessary. The President is also responsible to appoint Board members representing international interests. The President shall see that the business of the Association conforms to the By-Laws.

2. The Vice President will assist the President in governing the Association, including representation of the Association in public venues, leading the Association in selected projects and activities.
3. The Secretary will be responsible for correspondence, official records of the association, and the content of the web page.
4. The Treasurer will manage the finances of the Association, including keeping track of all income and expenditures, signing official checks. The Treasurer will make an annual report to the Executive Board.
5. Members-at-large will assist in deciding policy matters, activities of the Association, membership recruitment, approve the financial reports, advise the officers about official business, and help to develop the Association.
6. Ex-officio members will assist in discussing policy matters, and serve as liaison to and from their special constituencies.

C. Terms of Office

The President, the Vice President, Secretary, and members-at-large shall serve for terms of two years; no one may succeed him(her)self in these offices more than once consecutively. Terms of office count from the first elected term. The Treasurer shall serve for terms of two years each without limit. Terms of the members-at-large shall be staggered.

E. Vacancies

If a vacancy occurs midterm in the presidency, the Vice President shall succeed to that office. All other vacancies mid-term shall be filled by the Executive Board until the next regular election at which time the office shall be filled through election by the membership.

F. Powers

The powers of all officers shall be those normally associated with their respective offices, subject to the final authority of the Executive Board. The signatures of the President and/or the Treasurer shall be required on checks and other legal documents, but the Vice President may sign in the temporary absence of either of those two officers.

G. Manner-of Election

Elections shall be by mailed or online ballot to all Regular and Student Members on or before the first of December of each year for the offices to be filled in that year, and the newly elected officers shall take office at the first Annual Meeting of the Association following the election. The ballot shall include at least one nominee and a blank space for each office to be filled and voting shall be by office. Nominees shall be selected by a Nominating Committee comprised of a board member who is not standing for reelection who appoints two other members, subject to approval of the President.

H. Meetings

There shall normally be one meeting of the Executive Committee each year, and additional meetings may be called by the President or by three members of the Executive Board. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall normally be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Association for Jewish Studies, although other venues are possible. Meetings may be held by telephone conference call or electronic means as well as in person.

IV. Amendments

An amendment to these by-laws may be proposed by either two-thirds of the Executive Board or written petition of thirty per cent of the membership. Adoption shall require a two-thirds vote of the regular and student membership who vote in a mailed or on-line referendum for adoption. Electronic mail may be used for the voting.

V. Dissolution

Upon the dissolution of the Association for the Social Scientific Study of Jewry, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.