

INTERNATIONAL POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION¹

ARTICLE 1: MISSION

Section 1.1: Positive psychology is the scientific study of what enables individuals and societies to thrive. The mission of the International Positive Psychology Association (IPPA) shall be:

- To advance the scientific study and ethical application of positive psychology.
- To facilitate collaboration among researchers, teachers, students, and practitioners of positive psychology around the world and across academic disciplines.
- To share the findings of positive psychology with the broadest possible international audience.

ARTICLE 2: ACTIVITIES

Section 2.1: The activities of the Association shall include sponsoring periodic international and regional conferences, establishing committees or working groups for the study of relevant issues, disseminating information through printed, electronic and multimedia communications, and such other activities as may be approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 2.2: The administrative language shall be English, but with the approval of the Board of Directors, additional languages may be permitted for presentations at the IPPA international and regional conferences, at the discretion of the conference organizing committee.

ARTICLE 3: GOVERNANCE

Section 3.1: The Board of Directors determines Association policies and has final authority over the affairs of the Association.

Section 3.2: The Council of Advisors, which shall include up to 50 members, elects the Board of Directors, and provides advice to the Board of Directors on a variety of matters relating to the mission of the Association.

Section 3.3: This Constitution, along with whatever amendments are approved, shall be the governing document for the Association. Association Rules may also be adopted by the Board of Directors to provide guidance in the operation of the Association.

¹ Includes amendments approved by the Board of Directors in July, 2019.

ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

Section 4.1: Membership shall be open to individuals and organizations who support the mission of the Association.

Section 4.2: Individual members of the Association shall be scholars, researchers, practitioners, students, or other individuals dedicated to the scientific study and evidence-based, ethical application of positive psychology and related fields. Individual membership shall include two categories: Members and Student Members.

Section 4.3: Student Members shall be students enrolled full-time and in good standing within an accredited, University sponsored, degree-granting program. Students must provide verification of student status (e.g., a copy of a current student ID card and/or transcript) to info@ippanetwork.org in order to join and/or renew at this membership level.

Section 4.4: Organizational members of the Association shall be regional, national, or international organizations with values and purposes consistent with those of the Association. Organizational membership shall include two categories: Institutional Membership for primarily non-profit organizations and Corporate Membership for for-profit organizations. The Board of Directors shall establish the policies governing participation of these member organizations in the activities of the Association.

Section 4.5: An Awards Committee appointed by the Board of Directors may nominate as Fellows distinguished individuals who have made substantial contributions to positive psychology. A Fellow is granted dues-free Membership in the Association.

Section 4.6: All fees, including annual membership dues and any other fees required for participation in Association activities, shall be approved by the Board of Directors. At its discretion, the Board of Directors may provide discounts to certain types of members (such as students and citizens of developing countries) as well as opportunities for any members to become benefactors of the Association through special contributions.

ARTICLE 5: SUSPENSION OR TERMINATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 5.1: Membership in the Association may be suspended temporarily or terminated permanently by (a) resignation, (b) non-payment of dues, or (c) by a decision of the Board of Directors in the best interests of the Association. An individual whose membership has been suspended or terminated shall be notified, and may appeal that decision in writing to the Board of Directors.

Section 5.2: Fellow status in the Association may be suspended temporarily or terminated permanently by (a) resignation, or (b) by a decision of the Board of Directors in the best interests of the Association. An individual whose Fellowship has been suspended or terminated shall be notified, and may appeal that decision in writing to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATIONS

Section 6.1: The Board of Directors may accept, as an Affiliate Organization, any regional, national, or international organization with values and purposes consistent with those of the Association. Affiliate organizations may, through an agreement with the Board of Directors, participate in IPPA activities.

ARTICLE 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 7.1: The Board of Directors shall have final authority over the affairs and funds of the Association.

Section 7.2: The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, President Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, four At-Large Members, Executive Director (non-voting, except to break a tie vote), and any additional Members (non-voting) appointed by the Board of Directors for specific functions. Voting members of the Board of Directors shall be *ex-officio* voting members of the Council of Advisors; the Executive Director shall be an *ex-officio* member of the Council of Advisors (but shall vote only when necessary to break a tie vote). Members of the Board of Directors must be Members in good standing of the Association.

Section 7.3: The terms of office are as follows: The President, President Elect, and Past President serve for two years and are not eligible for re-election. The Secretary, Treasurer, and At-Large Members serve for four years, and may be re-elected. For the 2019 election only, one of the At-Large members shall be elected to a one-year term, one to a two-year term, one to a three-year term, and one to a four-year term. This will inaugurate an ongoing system in which one At-Large member's term ends every year. The Executive Director is appointed by the Board of Directors for a two-year term, and may be appointed for additional terms by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.4: The Board of Directors may appoint one or more additional non-voting members to the Board of Directors for a limited term to carry out specific functions needed by the Association. Such additional officers shall serve for the period approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 7.5: The Board of Directors shall communicate to the Council of Advisors on an annual basis the state of the Association and the general actions it has taken on its behalf.

ARTICLE 8: COUNCIL OF ADVISORS

Section 8.1: The Council of Advisors shall include up to 50 members (in addition to *ex officio* members) generally representing the Association's international membership. The selection of the Council of Advisors shall prioritize participation by leading international scholars and also include respected positive psychology practitioners and dedicated students. Members of the Council of Advisors must be Members in good standing of the Association.

Section 8.2: The regular term of office for each member of the Council of Advisors shall be four years, at which time the member shall be eligible for reelection. Elections shall be staggered in such a way that the terms of roughly half of the members shall end every two years. The Nominating Committee shall be empowered to create special two-year terms, as needed, to ensure that a roughly equal number of positions expire every two years.

Section 8.3: The Council of Advisors shall review the annual reports of activities provided by the Board of Directors, giving advice to the Board of Directors on the reports and on any other matters on which they are consulted.

Section 8.4: The Council of Advisors shall elect the members of the Board of Directors in regular elections. In the event of a mid-term vacancy that needs to be filled, the Council of Advisors shall hold a special election.

Section 8.5: The Board of Directors and the presidents of divisions (including the Student Division) shall be *ex officio* voting members of the Council of Advisors.

ARTICLE 9: ELECTIONS

Section 9.1: Officers. The Council of Advisors shall elect a President Elect, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and four At-Large Members. Those officers, along with the President and Past President, the Executive Director, and any additional officers approved by the Board of Directors for specific functions, shall comprise the Board of Directors. The President Elect shall not be from the same continent as the President. Voting members of the Board of Directors shall come from at least three continents.

Section 9.2: Council of Advisors: New members of the Council of Advisors, as well as those standing for reelection, shall be elected by the current members of the Council of Advisors.

Section 9.3: Nominations. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a Nominating Committee comprised of members of the Board of Directors and/or the Council of Advisors to prepare a list of nominees to be considered for reelection or for filling vacancies on the Board of Directors and the Council of Advisors.

Section 9.4: Voting. The vote for the election or reelection of members of the Board of Directors (as described in Section 9.1 above) and the Council of Advisors (as described in Section 9.2 above) shall be made by secret electronic ballot by the Council of Advisors. Elections are not officially complete unless each member has had a reasonable opportunity to engage in the voting process, and a quorum of members (50% plus one) have voted.

ARTICLE 10: DIVISIONS

Section 10.1: Divisions may be organized to represent major scientific and professional interests within the Association. All division members must be members of the Association.

Section 10.2: A division is established when these conditions are satisfied: (a) the Board of Directors recommends a new division and the leaders of the new division are selected and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors, OR (b) whenever 50 or more members petition for a new division, the Board of Directors approves, and the leaders of the new division are selected and subsequently approved by the Board of Directors. Divisions must comply with the IPPA Constitution and Association Rules. A division may be dissolved by the Board of Directors when the number of members in the division falls below 25 members, when the division no longer meets the needs of the Association, if the division fails to comply with the IPPA Constitution or Association Rules, or when the division votes to recommend dissolution.

Section 10.3: A division shall have a President and a Secretary and such other officers as it may determine. Each division may draw up and maintain its own Bylaws and Division Rules as long as they are consistent with IPPA's Constitution and Association Rules and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 10.4: The President of each division shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Council of Advisors.

Section 10.5: Primary support from Divisions shall come from the Association in the form of access to existing operational and administrative resources. In addition to this, on an annual basis, and in an amount to be determined each year by the Board of Directors, the Association shall make funds available to

supplement division dues or other revenues generated by divisions that support their operations and activities. Divisions may apply for some or all of these funds by submitting a detailed proposal and budget to the Divisions Committee, which shall select proposals for final approval by Board of Directors. Funds for approved projects shall be distributed to the divisions by the Executive Director.

Section 10.6: In each year, and no later than March 1, each division shall submit to the Board of Directors a report that covers the activities of the Division during the preceding year. The Executive Director shall notify all Divisions of the report deadline no later than January 10. No distribution of funds shall be made to a division that has not submitted its report for the previous year.

ARTICLE 11: MEETINGS

Section 11.1: The Council of Advisors shall meet regularly at each World Congress of Positive Psychology. Special meetings of the Council of Advisors may take place at such other times as determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 11.2: The Board of Directors shall meet face to face at each World Congress on Positive Psychology and at each European Conference on Positive Psychology (or at some other mutually agreeable time and place). Additionally, it shall meet, at the discretion of the President, as often as is needed to manage the business of the Association. These additional meetings may be face to face, electronic, or by teleconference.

ARTICLE 12: FINANCES

Section 12.1: Payment of expenses shall be made by the Executive Director or his or her designee who shall have the power to receive funds, to open banking accounts, to sign checks in the Association's name, and, with the approval of the Board of Directors, to make appropriate investment of the Association's funds. Oversight of the Association's financial activity is the responsibility of the Treasurer, and shall minimally include timely review and approval of quarterly financial reports. In the absence of the Executive Director, the President or Treasurer are authorized to approve payment of funds in the Association's name.

ARTICLE 13: LIFE OF THE ASSOCIATION

Section 13.1: The life of the Association shall be indeterminate. The Association may be chartered, registered or otherwise certified in various countries, but shall have a Secretariat at a fixed location to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 13.2: The termination of the Association can only be determined by a three quarter majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 13.3: The Board of Directors, if considering termination of the Association, shall seek comments from the Council of Advisors and the general membership at least six months in advance on the advisability of doing so.

Section 13.4: If the Board of Directors should decide to terminate the Association, it may allocate the net assets of the Association to one or more public bodies recognized as being in the public interest and pursuing aims consistent with those of the Association, provided that the Board of Directors approves through a three quarter majority vote. Announcement of such a decision must be made to the membership at least 90 days prior to termination.

ARTICLE 14: AMENDMENTS

Section 14.1: Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by members of the Board of Directors or the Council of Advisors, or by any Fellow, Member, or Student Member of the Association. Amendments approved by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors shall become part of this Constitution.