

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE LINGUISTICS OF ENGLISH

CONSTITUTION

I. Name and Objective

1. This Society will be known as the International Society for the Linguistics of English (ISLE).
2. The objective of the society will be to advance and promote research and teaching of the linguistics of English and of the forms and functions of the English language, in all its varieties, both now and in the past.

II. Membership

3. Any person may become a member of the Society by contacting the Secretary and by paying dues.
4. Only members may vote, hold office in the Society, or present a paper at the Triennial Conference.
5. Only members may present material to the webmaster for posting on the ISLE website
6. There will be the following classes of membership: regular, student, postdoctoral researcher, and emeritus.

III. Meetings

7. The Society will hold a Triennial Conference, which will bring those working on contemporary English together with those working on the history of English.
8. There will be a Business Meeting of the Society during the Triennial Conference.

IV. Officers

9. There will be the following officers of the Society elected by the membership: a President, a President-elect, the immediate past President, three Vice-presidents, and a Secretary. The President and President-elect will serve for a term of three years each, from one ISLE Conference to another. The Vice-presidents and the Secretary may be elected for no more than two three-year terms. The President will preside at the meetings of the Society, serve as chair of the Executive Committee, and appoint a Webmaster, a Treasurer, a Nominating Committee, and such standing and ad hoc committees as the officers deem necessary. The President-elect will stand in for the President on occasions when the President is unavailable and will take office as President at the end of the business meeting at the Triennial Conference.

Each Vice-president is charged with promoting information-sharing and dissemination in a different division of the Society: a research division, a teaching division and a professional division. Each Vice-president is also charged with managing prizes in his or her domain. The Vice-president for research is charged with helping English language and linguistics researchers and teachers to support existing work and to promote new topics to include in their home institutions and conferences. The Vice-president for teaching is charged with helping to promote English language and linguistics curricula in universities, colleges, and schools. The Vice-president for

the profession is charged with helping to promote the public understanding of English language and linguistics world-wide, and with encouraging the development of workshops for post-graduate students and postdoctoral researchers on professional issues. The Secretary is charged with conducting elections via the web, soliciting nominations for membership of the Nominating Committee and for Webmaster and Treasurer, keeping the minutes of the Society, and presenting a report to the business meeting of the Triennial Conference.

10. The Webmaster is charged with maintaining and updating the website. The website for the Society will be hosted by an institution of higher education.

11. The Treasurer is charged with soliciting funds for support and maintenance of the website, and for receiving, banking, and disbursing funds, and has fiscal responsibility for dues.

V. Committees

12. There will be an Executive Committee of the Society consisting of the elected Officers, and also the Webmaster, and Treasurer, both of whom are appointed. On the advice of the membership, the Executive Committee is charged with selecting the Webmaster, Treasurer, and the members of the Nominating Committee for appointment by the President. It is also charged with developing policy for the Society, reviewing the budget and financial policies, and calling for proposals to host the Triennial Conference.

The Executive Committee will manage the affairs of ISLE between Triennial Conferences and may co-opt other members at its discretion. It may also set up sub-committees when it considers that they are required.

Only elected officers have the right to vote on matters that come before the Executive Committee.

13. There will be a Nominating Committee consisting of five members who represent the interests of members world-wide. The Nominating Committee will nominate two persons for election to each of the following positions: the President-elect, the three Vice-presidents, and the Secretary. Nominees must agree to be nominated for the position in question. The Nominating Committee is responsible for presenting the slate to the Executive Committee for approval prior to election.

14. There will be a Web-site Committee which is advisory to the Webmaster. The committee will be chaired by the Vice-president for the profession and will include at least one student representative.

15. There will be a Finance Committee which is advisory to the Treasurer. The Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary, and appointed by the President.

16. When appropriate, there will be a Prize Committee which is advisory to the Vice-president responsible for prizes. The Committee will be chaired by the relevant Vice-president, and appointed by the President.

VI. Elections

17. Elections will be conducted by electronic ballot. This ballot will be available on the web not less than eighteen months in advance of the Triennial Conference. To be valid, votes from members must be received by the Secretary no later than twelve months prior to the Triennial Conference.

VII. Dues and contributions

18. Regular members will pay dues to the Society by March 31st. These are to be collected by the Treasurer. The amount of this subscription is to be approved by the Executive Committee. The Society is free to obtain other contributions.
19. Dues for students will be waived on presentation of evidence of student status.
20. Dues for postdoctoral researchers and emeriti will be reduced by 50% on request.

VIII. Amendments

21. Any proposed amendments to this Constitution must be submitted via the Secretary. They will be considered by the Executive Committee and submitted to the members for vote at the time of the regular election for officers. An amendment must have the approval of two-thirds of the members voting.

BYLAWS

Bylaws pursuant to membership

1. Members will have an interest in English language or English linguistics research and teaching.
2. Any student may become a member if enrolled as a candidate for a degree in a recognized institution of higher education. Secondary/high school students may also become members, if their application is supported by a letter of recommendation from a school adviser.
3. Membership will cease when a member submits his or her resignation to the secretary in writing, or owes the Society more than two years' dues.
4. At least one author of any abstract submitted to the Program Committee must be a member of the Society.
5. No material will be uploaded to the website without the approval of either the Vice-president for the profession or the Webmaster.

Bylaws pursuant to meetings

6. Eighteen months after the Triennial Conference, the Secretary will send out a call to the membership for proposals to host the next but one conference. The Executive Committee will select two sites prior to an e-mail vote by the membership before the immediately upcoming conference.

Bylaws pursuant to committees

7. Committee members will normally serve one three-year term, renewable once.
8. Prize committees may consult specialists. These specialists must be members of ISLE.

Bylaws pursuant to officers

9. All sums collected by and on behalf of ISLE will be sent to the Treasurer who will deposit them into a bank account to be determined by the Executive Committee. Each Vice-president is responsible for disbursement of special funds for prizes in his or her domain. Disbursement of other funds is the responsibility of the Executive Committee. Financial matters concerning the organization of conferences are the responsibility of the host institution.

10. The Treasurer will present to the Executive Committee at the beginning of every calendar year, and no later than January 15th, an account of the financial transactions carried out in the Society's name in the previous year. The Treasurer shall also present a summary of the financial transactions carried out in the Society's name at the Business Meeting of the ISLE Conference.

11. The Vice-presidents will present to the Executive Committee at the beginning of every calendar year, and no later than January 15th, an account of Prizes in their domain conferred in the previous year. They will also present a summary of Prize transactions carried out in the Society's name at the Business Meeting of the ISLE Conference.

12. The Secretary will solicit nominations for the Nominating Committee, the Treasurer, and the Webmaster from the membership at large no more than six months after the Triennial Conference. The President will appoint Nominating Committee members no more than one year after the Triennial Conference. Appointment of other committees will be made on the advice of the Executive Committee.

13. In the event that the President should be unable or unwilling to serve the full term, the President-elect will become President.

14. In the event that any other officer is unable or unwilling to serve during his or her term, the Nominating Committee will be reconvened to recommend to the Executive Committee one or more individuals as an interim replacement. The Executive Committee will vote on the recommendation and the President will appoint the interim officer. The Nominating Committee will then be charged with nominating two members for election in the normal manner.

Bylaws pursuant to elections

15. The Nominating Committee will solicit from the membership at large suggestions for members to be considered for the slate of officers within twelve months of the Triennial Conference.

Bylaws pursuant to dues

16. Dues may be paid annually, or triennially.

17. Waivers of dues for regular members may be obtained under special circumstances of currency difficulties.

18. Applications for waivers, whether for students, for regular members with currency difficulties, or for reductions for postdoctoral researchers and emeriti should be sent to the Treasurer.

19. Dues will be used primarily to support and maintain the website and to support waivers and reductions of dues.

Amendments to bylaws

20. Any proposed amendments to these bylaws must be submitted to the Secretary. They will be submitted to the Executive Committee, and then to the members for vote during the Business Meeting at the Triennial Meeting of the Society. An amendment must have the approval of a majority of the members voting at the Business Meeting.