

BY-LAWS OF THE SOCIETY FOR WOMEN IN PHILOSOPHY UK (SWIP UK)

Current version: 31 October 2009

§1. Name and credentials

- 1.1 The Society is called the 'Society for Women in Philosophy United Kingdom' (SWIP UK).
- 1.2 SWIP UK is independent and disinterestedly self-supporting. No person or party may benefit from financial transactions that are incompatible with the purposes of the society, or profit from excessively high reimbursements.
- 1.3 The assets of the society may be used only for purposes laid down in these by-laws. Members receive no personal financial benefit from the society's assets.

§2. Aims and activities

- 2.1 SWIP UK's aims are
 - to facilitate co-operation between women in philosophy
 - to support women in philosophy
 - to promote philosophy by women, past and present
 - to foster feminism in philosophy and philosophy in feminism
 - to collect information of interest to women in philosophy
 - to raise public awareness of discrimination against women in philosophy, past and present
 - to end discrimination against women in philosophy
- 2.2 SWIP UK seeks to achieve these aims by undertaking various activities. These include:
 - holding conferences
 - offering mentoring and support for women
 - working with other organisations
 - gathering and publicising data on women in philosophy
 - lobbying
- 2.3 All activities of SWIP UK are governed by these aims and regulated by these by-laws.
- 2.4.1 SWIP UK conferences are open to all.

§3. Membership

- 3.1 Until sex equality in Philosophy in the UK is achieved, membership of SWIP UK is open only to women.
- 3.2.1 Any woman who has an interest in philosophy and lives or works in the United Kingdom can become a full member of SWIP UK. This includes both professionals and students, working within or outside of academic philosophy departments.
- 3.2.2 Applications to join SWIP UK must be made in writing to the Membership Secretary. Upon receipt of the membership fee the Membership Secretary will approve provisional membership, to be confirmed as full membership at the next Meeting of the General Assembly.
- 3.3 A woman who has an interest in philosophy and who does not live or work in the UK may apply to become an associate member of SWIP UK through a nomination process. Candidates must be nominated and seconded in writing (includes email) by any two full members of the Society. Upon receipt of the nominations and membership fee, provisional membership will be approved by the Membership Secretary, after consultation with the Executive Committee. Associate membership is to be confirmed at the next Meeting of the General Assembly.
- 3.4.1 Refusal of membership may be made on grounds that pertain to the by-laws or to the aims of the society. A decision to refuse membership may be made by the Membership Secretary, after consultation with the Executive Committee, or by a Meeting of the General Assembly, by two-thirds majority vote of members present. Any woman who is refused membership may appeal against the decision, either in person or in writing, to the next Meeting of the General Assembly, which will make a final decision by two-thirds majority vote of members present.
- 3.4.2 In the event that a woman's application for membership is provisionally approved but that full or associate membership is eventually refused, a full refund of the membership fee will be given.
- 3.5.1 Membership of the Society runs from the date of provisional approval and terminates with death, termination by member in writing, or disqualification.
- 3.5.2 Termination of membership must be declared in writing to the Membership Secretary.
- 3.5.3 Disqualification from membership on grounds that pertain to the by-laws or the aims of the Society may be decided by a simple majority of the Exec. Any woman who is disqualified from membership may appeal against the decision, either in person or in writing, to the next Meeting of the General

Assembly, which will make a final decision by two-thirds majority vote of members present.

- 3.5.4 In the event of termination or of disqualification, no portion of the annual membership fee paid for that year is refundable.
- 3.6.1 A provisional member may join the SWIP UK announcement and discussion email lists and may propose items for consideration by the Executive Committee. A full member enjoys these benefits, and in addition is entitled to stand for election to the Executive and to vote in meetings of the General Assembly. An associate member has the same entitlements as a full member, but may not stand for election to the Executive.
- 3.6.2 A full or associate member will be deemed 'lapsed' at the end of the financial year if she has not renewed her membership subscription, and until such time as she pays the subscription for the current financial year. While lapsed, she is not entitled to the benefits accruing to membership of SWIP UK but she may continue to receive SWIP UK email announcements.
- 3.7 On the first occasion that a woman attends a SWIP UK conference, she is entitled to day membership of SWIP UK. Day membership is free of charge and is obtained by registering with the Membership Secretary or her representative. A day member is entitled to attend the meeting of the General Assembly held at that conference, but she is not entitled to vote at the meeting nor stand for election to the Exec. Delegates will be informed at registration that if they wish to participate in SWIP business or join the executive, they must apply for annual membership at registration (but need not pay at that time).

§4. Fees and financial resources

- 4.1 Full and associate members of SWIP UK pay an annual membership fee. The amount of the fee, and any concessions, is to be determined by the General Assembly. The membership fee is payable to the Membership Secretary, and is renewable on the first day of each financial year.

§5. Meetings of the General Assembly

- 5.1 Meetings of the General Assembly of members of SWIP UK are held annually or at SWIP UK conferences, whichever is the more frequent.
- 5.2 Prior to any meeting of a General Assembly the Executive will issue invitations to attend to all provisional, full and associate members, in writing or by email, at least 3 weeks in advance of the date of the meeting. A draft agenda will be circulated at least 1 week in advance of the date of the meeting.

- 5.3 Minutes of each meeting of the General Assembly will be prepared and signed by the Secretary and circulated among all full and associate members within 4 weeks of the meeting taking place.
- 5.4 Voting at meetings of the General Assembly will normally be by simple majority of full and associate members present. Standard exceptions are specified in these By-laws. Further exceptions may be specified if the Exec determines that an exception is warranted.

§6. The Executive Committee

- 6.1 The Executive is composed of an uneven number of full members of SWIP UK, to a maximum of 11 members.
- 6.2.1 When a place on the Executive becomes available, a full member of SWIP UK may be elected or re-elected to the Executive by vote of full members at a meeting of the General Assembly.
- 6.2.2 The term of Exec committee membership is 3 years.
- 6.2.3 An Exec committee member may resign from the Executive by notifying the Executive in writing.
- 6.3.1 The permanent offices on the Executive are as follows: Director, Membership Secretary. Additional offices may be created, altered or removed by a simple majority vote of the Exec.
- 6.3.2 The Executive elects or re-elects by a simple majority vote, at least one woman to each office from among its elected members.
- 6.3.3 The duties of an office may be shared between two or more members of the Executive.
- 6.4 An office-holder has the authority to represent the Executive according to the remit of her office.
- 6.5.1 Offices are renewable on an annual basis, with consent of both incumbent and Exec.
- 6.5.2 An office-holder may resign from her office by notifying the Executive in writing. Under such circumstances she may either resign from the Executive Committee or remain a member.
- 6.6.1 The Executive is empowered to take decisions on behalf of the General Assembly when all of members of the General Assembly have been alerted to the decision-making process and at least two thirds of the Executive participate in the decision.

- 6.6.2 Voting by the Exec will normally be by simple majority.
- 6.7 All legal transactions and financial transactions in excess of £200 require the approval of the Executive.
- 6.8.1 A vote of no confidence in the Exec committee may only be proposed with the support of at least 20% of full members of SWIP UK. A proposal must be made in writing to the Director.
- 6.8.2 Voting on this proposal is by postal/email ballot of all full members. The vote of no confidence will be carried if a two-thirds majority are in favour of the proposal.
- 6.8.3 If a vote of no confidence is carried, elections for a new Exec must be organised immediately.

§7. The Financial Year and Annual Report

- 7.1 For the purposes of SWIP UK, the financial year runs from 1 April until 31 March the following year. Annual membership fees are renewable by the first day of the new financial year.
- 7.2 At the end of the financial year the Exec will produce an Annual Report. The Annual Report will be circulated to all provisional, full and associate members of SWIP UK and will be an agenda item for the earliest possible meeting of the General Assembly.

§8. Changes in the By-laws

- 8.1 Alterations to the By-laws require a two-thirds majority of full and associate members at a meeting of the General Assembly. The proposed changes must be circulated to all provisional, full and associate members of SWIP UK in advance of the General Assembly meeting where the vote is to be held.
- 8.2 Notification that an alteration to the By-laws has occurred must be circulated to every member of SWIP UK (including 'lapsed' members if contact details are available).
- 8.3 Dissolution of the Society can be decided only by an extraordinary meeting of the General Assembly convened specifically for this purpose, with a three-fourths majority of full and associate members who are either present at the meeting or give written consent.