

CONSTITUTION FOR THE DIVISION OF EXPERIMENTAL CRIMINOLOGY¹

I. Name of the Organization:

The name of the organization is The Division of Experimental Criminology. The Division is a constituent unit of the American Society of Criminology [hereinafter ASC] and will function in accordance with the Constitution, bylaws and policies of the ASC.

II. Purposes and Objectives

- A. To advance the development of experimental criminology and to increase awareness of randomized experiments in crime and justice,
- B. To aid in the improvement of experimental methods in criminology and to facilitate and encourage research employing experimental methods,
- C. To bring together ASC members interested in discussing and supporting experimental research,
- D. To facilitate and encourage interaction and dissemination of experimental research among ASC members, practitioners, funding agencies, policy-making bodies, and other relevant groups, and
- E. To organize and promote ASC conference sessions related to issues in experimental research.

III. Membership:

Membership in this Division will be open to all ASC members in good standing. A member in good standing is one who is current in their dues. Members who have paid Divisional dues will be considered eligible for voting at Divisional meetings, for the election of Divisional officers and to hold office.

IV. Executive Board

There will be an Executive Board comprised of the Division's current officers, immediate past Chair and three Executive Counselors. This Board will form policies for the Division, provide advice and decide the budget for the Division and approve committee chairs. The Division Chair will convene the Executive Board.

¹ The original constitution was drawn on January 1, 2012. Per the approval of the DEC membership and with the approval of the ASC board, this constitution reflects changes made in December, 2013. Please see specific footnotes for changes made and original wording.

V. Officers

A. Chair

1. The Chair will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
2. The Chair or their designee will serve as liaison with the ASC Annual Meeting Program to ensure the inclusion of panels relating to issues on corrections and sentencing in the program.
3. The Chair or their designee shall bring issues regarding research using experimental methods, as decided by the Division, to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and to appropriate ASC committees for their consideration.
4. The Chair will appoint all committees and committee chairs, with the approval of the Executive Board.

B. Vice-Chair

1. The Vice-Chair will preside over Division meetings in the absence of the Chair and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Division if the office of Chair is vacant or if the Chair is unable to serve.
2. The Vice-Chair or their designee will be responsible for assistance to, and oversight of, the Newsletter Committee.

C. Secretary/Treasurer

1. The Secretary/Treasurer will keep the records and minutes of the Division.
2. The Secretary/Treasurer will record minutes of each meeting of the Division and will forward a copy to each member of the Executive Committee and the Newsletter Committee Chair for publication in the next issue of the Division newsletter.
3. The Secretary/Treasurer will remain in contact with the Treasurer of ASC who will maintain a separate account in the ASC treasury for the Division. The Secretary will inform Division membership of the Divisions balance, debts, credits, etc. at the Divisions Annual Membership Meeting. The Secretary will notify the Executive Board of any financial issues that arise between Annual Membership Meetings.

D. Executive Counselors:

1. There will be three Executive Counselors, elected in alternating years.

2. Executive Counselors will assist the Chair with executive decisions for the Division, and each will chair at least one committee of the Division.

VI. Elections

A. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Counselors will serve a two-year term. Elections of all Officers shall occur every two years.²

B. Nominations:

The Executive Board will appoint a Nominations Committee consisting of two members in good standing of the Division. The Committee will receive names in nomination for each office to be filled the following year. From these names, the Nominating Committee will select two names to be included on the ballot for each office. These names will be forwarded to the ASC Executive Office for inclusion on the Division ballots.

C. Qualifications:

Nominees and elected officers must be members in good standing of the Division.

D. Term of Office:

The term of office for all officers and Executive Counselors will be two years. The term of office of each incoming officer will begin with the close of the Divisions Annual Membership Meeting following their election. Elected officers may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms in the same office. Upon completion of the second consecutive term of office, a person must wait for a period of at least one full term before running again for the same office.

E. Procedure:

Names of those nominated will be placed on the Division ballot and sent to all members in good standing by the Executive Office of the ASC. Completed ballots will be returned to the ASC Executive Office and counted by ASC staff. The ASC Executive Office will notify the Division Chair of the election results. Results will be published in the Division Newsletter.

F. Vacancies:

² Per the approval of voting members of the DEC, this clause was amended from its original wording, "The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Counselors will serve a two-year term. Elections of Officers shall be staggered in the following manner: Year One elections will be held for Chair, Vice-Chair, and one (1) Executive Counselor. Year Two (or alternating year) elections will be held for Secretary and two (2) Executive Counselors." This was changed because the first Executive Board agreed to serve two years, which rendered the staggering of elections of specific officers unnecessary.

Vacancies which occur during the term of office for the Vice-Chair, Secretary or Executive Counselor of the Division, shall be filled until the next election by appointment of the Chair, with the approval of the Executive Board. Vacancies may be filled at any time, and shall be filled for the remainder of the term of office.³

VII. Amending the Constitution and Bylaws:

A. Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Division, but all such proposed amendments may only go forward under one of the following conditions:

1. The petitioner receives the written support of one-fifth of the Division membership in good standing;
2. The proposed amendment is introduced at the Divisions Annual Membership Meeting, and receives a two-thirds affirmative vote of those present to refer the proposal to a Constitutional Revision Committee; or
3. The Executive Board creates a Constitutional Revision Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws and to make appropriate recommendations.

A proposal for amendment which meets any of the requirements above shall be determined to be qualified by the Executive Board.

B. An amendment will be approved after due notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution have been given to the members, and with two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members who cast a ballot.⁴

C. Approved amendments shall take effect immediately following the next annual membership Meeting. Amendments are subject to the approval of the ASC Executive Board.

³ The amendment to Section VI(A) rendered the clause "Vacancies may be filled in either Year One or Year Two elections" obsolete. It was replaced with this sentence.

⁴ After approval of the ASC Board during its meeting in October, 2013 and approval of the DEC membership, this amendment clause was changed to reflect the wording used in the ASC constitution. The wording that was struck was "An amendment will be approved when it receives a two-thirds vote by mail ballot submitted to Division members in good standing. The results will be reported to the Executive Board no later than the next Annual Membership Meeting."