

# **CONSTITUTION OF THE KOREAN SOCIETY OF CRIMINOLOGY IN AMERICA**

## **PREAMBLE**

The Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA) is a non-profit, academic organization which pursues scholarly research and professional activities in Korea-related criminology and criminal justice areas. The main goal of the KOSCA is to bring together in one multi-disciplinary society of academics, researchers, policy makers, administrators, and practitioners who are actively engaged in Korea-related research, teaching, and practice. The mission of the KOSCA is to promote comparative research studies, publications, and professional activities in the field of Korea-related criminology and criminal justice. Membership is open to all ASC and ACJS members as well as Koreans and Korean Americans.

## **I. NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION**

The name of the organization is the Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA).

## **II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

- A. To bring together in one multi-disciplinary society, Korean Americans and Koreans in America actively engaged in research, teaching, and/or practice in the field of criminology and criminal justice.
- B. To foster criminological and criminal justice scholarship, research, education, and training within academic institutions and within the divisions of the criminal justice system, including public and private agencies concerned with crime, justice, and corrections.
- C. To encourage scholarly, scientific and practical exchange and cooperation among Korean Americans and Koreans in America engaged in criminology and criminal justice.
- D. To serve as a forum for the dissemination of criminological and criminal justice knowledge among Korean Americans and Koreans in America.
- E. To conduct an Annual Meeting.

## **III. THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

- A. The Executive Board shall administer the affairs of the organization. It shall consist of the following:
  1. The elected officers, who shall be voting members:
    - a. President
    - b. Immediate Past President
    - c. Vice-President (President-Elect)
  2. The appointed officers, who shall be voting members:
    - a. Executive Director
  3. The appointed officers, who shall be ex-officio members:
    - a. Treasurer
- B. Open Meetings:

Members of the Society may attend the Executive Board Meetings without having voting rights.
- C. The Executive Board shall:
  - 1 Form the policies and practices of the Society.
  - 2 Oversee the Annual Meeting of the Society and the program for this meeting.

- 3      Oversee the budget and audits of accounts of the Society.
- 4      Oversee the publications, personnel, and committees of the Society.

- D. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of half plus one (1) of the total number of members.
- E. The actions of the Executive Board shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board, unless specified elsewhere in this document.
- F. The President, Vice-President, and Immediate Past President shall constitute an Executive Committee to act on behalf of the Executive Board, at the request of the President, in between meetings of the Board. The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Committee.

#### **IV. OFFICERS**

A. Term of Office:

Each elected/appointed officer shall serve two (2) years.

B. President:

- 1      The President shall be the Chief Executive of the Society, shall represent the Society at formal gatherings, shall preside over the meetings of the Executive Board, shall preside over the Annual Meeting, and shall appoint, subject to the approval of the Executive Board, such committees as deemed necessary.

C. Vice-President:

- 1      The Vice-President is the President-Elect, so shall become the President at the end of the Presidential term of office.
- 2      The Vice-President shall preside over the meeting of the Society in the absence of the President and shall be empowered to conduct all necessary business of the Society in the event that a vacancy exists in the office of the President, or upon the disability of the President.
- 3      The Vice-President shall chair the Publications Committee.

D. Executive Director:

- 1      The Executive Director shall coordinate the activities of Society committees and representatives, implement Board policies, oversee the operations of the Society office and staff, oversee the disbursement, investment, and accounting of Society funds, oversee the preparation of the annual budget and all other financial documents, reports, and forms, authorize payments and, with the approval of the President, enter into contractual arrangements on behalf of the Society, and oversee the management and operation of the Annual Meeting.

E. Treasurer:

- 1      The Treasurer shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Society.

F. Qualification of Officers:

Any active member of the Society in good standing shall be eligible to hold office.

- G. Any officer of the Society may be removed during his/her term by a membership referendum initiated either by three-quarters (3/4) vote of the Executive Board or by a petition of ten (10) percent of the members. Fifty-one percent of the membership shall be required to vote affirmatively for removal to occur.

- H. Current members of the Executive Board shall be ineligible to receive any awards of the Society, during their term in office.

## **V. ELECTIONS**

- A. The President with the approval of the Executive Board shall appoint a Nomination Committee of not less than three (3) members to oversee development of a slate comprised of at least one (1) nominee for the office of Vice-President. The President will designate one (1) member as Chair.
- B. Newly elected persons shall take office at the close of the Annual Meeting following their election.

## **VI. MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Active members shall be:
  - 1 Those engaged in the discipline of criminology and criminal justice, as defined in the Preamble.
  - 2 Members in good standing. In order to participate in the nominations, research grants from the KOSCA and/or voting processes of the Society, a member of the Society must be an Active, Retired, or Special member in good standing. To maintain membership in good standing, a Society member must pay annual dues for the immediately previous calendar year or the current calendar year.
- B. Student members shall be: Those studying in appropriate disciplines in colleges and universities.
- C. Honorary members shall be: Those persons who make exceptional contributions to criminology and criminal justice and are so approved by the Executive Board.
- D. Retired members shall be: Those retired persons who have been Active members for not less than ten (10) years.
- E. Special memberships shall be: Available to those who are not of Korean ethnicity/nationality and Koreans residing outside of America.
- F. Life memberships shall be: Available to those who pay \$300 one-time life membership fee. The life membership fee, however, may be subject to change by the executive board's decision.

## **VII. DIVISIONS:**

- A. Divisions may be organized to represent major professional interests that lie within the scope of the Society as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- B. A Division may be established whenever ten (10) percent or more of the members in good standing of the Society petition the Executive Board and receive Board approval.
- C. A Division shall be dissolved by the Executive Board when (a) the number of members with the Division falls below ten (10) percent of the members of the Society in good standing averaged over a two (2) year period, or (b) the Division votes to recommend dissolution.
- D. A Division shall have a chair and such officers as it may desire.
- E. A Division shall establish and maintain its own rules of procedure within the framework of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws and shall establish and set dues. Each Division shall file with the Executive Board a copy of its current Constitution, By-Laws, policies and operating procedures, as well as a list of its current officers and committees.
- F. A Division shall not enter into contracts or make public statements on behalf of the Society.

## **VIII. SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS**

The Society may publish a refereed journal (tentatively entitled *Korean Criminology and Criminal Justice*). It may also publish a newsletter. These shall be distributed to all members in good standing.

### **A. Publications Committee:**

- 1 Composition. The Publications Committee shall consist of the Vice-President as Chair and two (2) members appointed by the President, with the Editors and Editors-Elect, in years when such exist, of the journals as ex officio (non-voting) members.
- 2 Powers. The Publications Committee shall recommend to the Executive Board of the Society on such matters as editors, publishers, and publishing arrangements. It shall generally oversee the operation of the Society's publishing activities.

## **IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

A. Due notice of proposed amendments to the Constitution having been given, any section of this Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members who cast a ballot.

### **B. Procedure for Amending the Constitution**

- 1 Proposed amendments must be presented to the Executive Board which shall vote upon the amendment, and then present the amendment to the Executive Director
- 2 When presented to the Executive Director, the proposed amendment must bear the signatures of a majority of the members of the Executive Board, or alternatively, the proposed amendment must bear the signatures of ten (10) percent of the members of the Society.
- 3 The Executive Director, in collaboration with the chairs of Membership Committee and Constitution and By-Law Committee, shall notify the membership of the pending vote and shall arrange for the ballot.

C. Any By-Laws shall become effective when approved by the majority vote of the joint members of the Executive Board and Committee Chairs of the Society. At least every five years, the Executive Board will conduct a review of the Constitution, By-Laws, and Policies and Procedures Manual.