

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

(Revised on February 3, 2022; Effective August 31 2022)

## **PREAMBLE**

The Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA) is a non-profit, academic organization which pursues scholarly research and professional activities in criminology and criminal justice areas among Koreans, Korean Americans, or those who are interested in Korea-related research in criminology and criminal justice areas. The main goal of the KOSCA is to bring together in one multi-disciplinary society of academics, researchers, policymakers, administrators, and practitioners who are actively engaged in research, teaching, and practice. The mission of the KOSCA is to promote comparative research studies, publications, and professional activities in the field of criminology and criminal justice. Membership is open to all – who are interested in the field of criminology and criminal justice, particularly in Korea-related or a comparative study between the United States and the Republic of Korea (Korea, hereafter).

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

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

## **II. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To bring together in one multi-disciplinary society, KOSCA members actively engaged in research, teaching, and/or practice in the field of criminology and criminal justice.
2. 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.
3. To encourage scholarly, scientific and practical exchange and cooperation among KOSCA members engaged in criminology and criminal justice.
4. To serve as a forum for the dissemination of criminological and criminal justice knowledge among KOSCA members.
5. 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
      - i. Immediate Past President shall perform as an auditor.
    - c. Vice-President (President-Elect)
  2. The appointed officers, who shall be voting members:
    - a. Treasurer
    - b. Secretary (this position can be created if needed)

- B. The Executive Board shall:
  - a. Form the policies and practices of the Society.
  - b. Oversee the Annual Meeting of the Society and the program for this meeting.
  - c. Oversee the budget and audits of accounts of the Society.
  - d. Oversee the publications, personnel, and committees of the Society.
- C. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of half plus one (1) of the total number of members.
- D. The actions of the Executive Board shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Board, unless specified elsewhere in this document.

#### **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 oversee the publication of newsletters (i.e., *The Korean Criminologists*).

##### **D. Executive Director**

1. The Executive Director shall coordinate the activities of Society committees and representatives, implement Board policies, with the approval of the President, enter into contractual arrangements on behalf of the KOSCA, and oversee the management and operation of the Annual Meeting.
2. The Executive Director shall play an administrative role in an Annual meeting and moderate the Annual Meeting and other KOSCA events.
3. The Executive Director shall document the Executive Board meetings and is responsible for archiving the Society's documents.
4. The Executive Director shall serve as a communication channel to the members.

##### **E. Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer shall serve as the Chief Financial Officer for the Society.
2. The Treasurer bears the following responsibilities: 1) Open the initial bank account for the KOSCA, 2) Manage the bank account and membership fees, 3) Work with Certified Public Accountants to ensure all tax returns are accurate and filed on time, and 4) Assist on accounting for research projects/reports.

##### **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 Student member in good standing.
3. To maintain membership in good standing, a Society member must pay annual dues for 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. 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.

F. A Division shall not enter into contracts or make public statements on behalf of the Society.

G. Division Chairs shall be responsible for reporting their Division activities to the Newsletter (twice a year).

## **VIII. NEWSLETTERS**

The Society shall publish its newsletters (i.e., *The Korean Criminologists*). These shall be distributed to all members in good standing.

### **A. Newsletter Editorial Team:**

1. Composition. The Newsletter Editorial Team shall consist of the Editor-in-Chief and members of the editorial team. The Editor-in-Chief may appoint an editorial team member, with the approval of the President. The Vice-President shall oversee the publications of the newsletters.
2. Responsibilities. The Newsletter Editorial Team shall publish the Society's newsletters twice a year. The final production of every newsletter shall be approved by the President.

## **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 amendment 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 and By-Laws.