Constitution

of

The Metaphysical Society of America

Article I

The purpose of the Metaphysical Society of America is the study of reality.

The Metaphysical Society of America is a society committed to the principle that philosophical thought is open to a variety of different traditions and methodologies, and at its annual meeting, it provides a forum for the discussion of the questions that have animated philosophical debate from its inception.

This society is formed exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law).

Article II

Any person may be admitted to membership in the Society by the Council and shall continue as member so long as he or she pays the annual dues determined by the Council.

Article III

The officers shall be a president; a vice president/president elect, elected annually; a secretary, elected every three years; a treasurer, elected every three years; and six board members, elected two each year for a term of three years. In the event of a tied election, a second ballot will be held and if the vote is still tied, the Council will determine the winner. The vice president/president elect automatically becomes president in the year following the candidate's election as vice president.

The president, or in the president's absence, the vice president, shall preside at meetings of the Society and the Council. The secretary shall keep a list of members and a record of proceedings. The treasurer shall receive and disburse the Society's funds, keep a written record of receipts and expenditures, and make a report at the annual meeting. A vacancy in the presidency shall be filled by the vice president, and in any other office by a member appointed by the president. Any officer may be removed from office, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of voting members so long as votes are received from a majority of members. Anyone may propose to remove an officer and may do so via

communication with either the Council or the membership as a whole.

Article IV

The Council, consisting of the ten officers described in Article III, shall meet at such times and places as it may determine, or at special meetings called by the president. It may also conduct its business in person or by long-distance communication. At Council meetings, a majority of the Council members shall be a quorum; in all other cases, a quorum shall be responses from a majority of the Council members, received within two weeks of an inquiry's being sent to each of them. The Council shall decide, by majority vote of the quorum, all matters normally dealt with in business meetings of learned societies, except that basic policy issues, constitutional amendments, and elected officers shall be decided by a majority mailed vote conducted by the secretary or vice president. The Council shall prescribe the qualifications for membership and admit members, arrange the programs and accommodations for the meetings, and discuss and plan such other activities in accord with the purpose of the Society as it may see fit. The Council shall accept donations and authorize expenditures for the meetings of the Society and the Council and for other purposes of the Society, but no expenditures shall be authorized in excess of the funds in the treasury.

No part of the net earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and/or expenses incurred. In the event of dissolution, any remaining assets shall be distributed to organizations that are organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provisions of any future U.S. Internal Revenue law).

Article V

The Nominating Committee, composed of three past presidents, shall nominate at least two candidates for each office, and any ten members may nominate a candidate by petition. Nominations shall be sent to the secretary at least eight weeks prior to the annual meeting.

Article VI

An annual meeting of the Society, consisting of a discussion meeting and a business meeting, shall be held at a time and place determined by the members at the previous annual meeting, or by the Council. Calls for papers should be circulated at least nine months prior to the annual meeting for which the call for papers is being circulated. At least four weeks prior to the meeting, the secretary shall send each member a notice of it, including the program of the discussion meeting and an agenda of the business meeting. Special meetings of the Society for discussion may be called by the Council.

Article VII

By-laws may be proposed by the Council or by petition of any ten members, and shall be adopted if accepted by two-thirds of those replying within one month of the inquiry's being

sent out to all members.

Article VIII

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Council or by petition of any ten members, and shall be adopted if accepted by two-thirds of those replying within one month of the inquiry being sent out to all members.

Article IX

This constitution is to be binding if accepted by the majority of those voting on it within two weeks of date of mailing. Voting may take place by postal ballot, e-mail ballot, or by other means deemed appropriate by the Executive Council.

Amended 2026