Philosophy Study Association
SYMPOSION

BY-LAWS OF S.V. SYMPOSION

AS CONSTITUTED BY
IN VINO FRIGIDO CONFIDIMUS BOARD

Category 1 going back to the old formulation
Category 2 going to the new formulation
Category 3 voting in new formulation, no old formulation
Category 4 removing this by-law from the document
Category 5 by-laws in article 10 that are voted in but the article needs to be voted in
Note! In the information document you can also find the categories and which by-law is in which category

LAST REVISED November 21st 2024

Article 1 Definitions

Association:	S.V. Symposion
Executive Committee:	The Praeses, Ab Actis, and Quaestor of Symposion
Statutes:	The constitutive statutes of Symposion
Board:	The full elected board of Symposion
Chairs:	The heads of the various Committees of Symposion
Members:	Those who pay membership fees to Symposion, or have been named honorary member by the GMA
GMA:	The General Members Assembly, the main voting organ of Symposion
CoA:	Council of Advice. Advisory body of Symposion that advises and supports the board during their term
Committee:	An as-thus-instated selection of Members unified under the aim of fulfilling a task in the interest S.V. Symposion
Caretaker Committee:	An as-thus-instated selection of Members unified under the aim of maintaining basic functionality of their Committee
Public:	Possible for any of the Members to attend

Article 2 Extra-statutory duties of Association

2.1 Association is responsible for maintaining, expanding, and nourishing a large number of Members.

2.2 Association is responsible for maintaining, expanding, and nourishing an extensive catalogue of information, which has as its purpose to provide clarity to Members, structure to Chairs, and precedent to Board.

2.3 Association takes into consideration the effects that any Symposion event might have on the event space and on the environment. The Chairs are responsible to take this into consideration, and if done insufficiently, the Board will hold them accountable.

Article 3 Board

3.1 Board is elected yearly by GMA before September 30th. The election occurs by majority vote of GMA. Board may, to this end, choose to instate a formation committee, consisting of at most six of the Members, aimed at forming the next Board. Board may be a part of this formation committee and elect to have old Board members take part in this committee.

3.2 Board is responsible for convening the GMA at least four times during its term. In particular, it is necessary to hold the transfer, policy-budget presentation, check up and present the board FC. For all of these the agenda needs to be sent a week before to all members.

3.3 Board is responsible for upholding, enforcing, and preserving the integrity of these by-laws.

3.4 Board consists of Executive Committee and Assessors.

3.5 Board may, by majority vote, move to call upon Executive Committee to develop and execute plans during situations of crisis, where immediate action is necessary to preserve the integrity of the directive of Association. Executive Committee may elect not to inform Board of the content of these plans.

3.6 If Board has an appointed Assessor Intern, this Assessor is responsible for the functioning of the body of Committees, the communication between Chairs and Board, and appointment of Chairs.

3.7 If Board has an appointed Assessor Extern, this Assessor is responsible for maintaining, expanding, and nourishing communications and partnerships with parties outside of Association. As well as working with social media platforms to promote and create a database of event documentation.

3.8 If Board has an appointed Assessor Education, this Assessor is responsible for maintaining, expanding,

and nourishing the philosophical development of the Members, and to this end facilitating conversation and cooperation with the Institute for Philosophy of Leiden University

3.9 The Quaestor is responsible for properly managing the funds of Association and presenting both the budget and the realisation of the budget at a gathering of GMA.

3.10 The Quaestor shall consult with Board adequately on spending.

3.11 The Quaestor requires explicit consent by Board for spending over €200 if this spending has not been specified in a budget approved by GMA.

3.12 The Ab Actis is responsible for preserving the member registry of Association, taking minutes in Board meetings, and organisational tasks Board may deem fit to assign to them, like making reservations at locations for a variety of activities. They also are responsible to create and distribute the monthly mail.

3.13 The Praeses is responsible for maintaining and improving the functioning of the Association and shall make decisions in the interest of this directive.

3.14 The Praeses is responsible for drawing up and presenting the policy during their term and presenting it at the second gathering of GMA.

3.15 The Praeses shall ensure that Board adheres to Article 3.

3.16 The Praeses shall ensure the conservation of the mission of the Association and preserve its history.

3.17 The vote of the Praeses breaks a tie in a Board meeting.

3.18 The Praeses may not vote at a gathering of GMA.

3.19 The Praeses is not allowed to be the president of any other committee.

3.20 The Vice-Praeses is appointed by the Praeses at their first gathering of GMA as Praeses.

3.21 In the event that a Praeses cannot fulfill their duties, the Vice-Praeses will take over the necessary duties. These duties include chairing board meetings and gatherings of GMA and composing the agendas for both these meetings. The Vice-Praeses is not qualified for any other duty, even in the event of a Praeses relinquishing their position as Praeses, as new elections must then be held.

3.22 Board meetings are not Public and may occur anywhere at any time. The agenda for Board meetings are composed by the Praeses.

3.23 Board may veto any decision by its members by majority vote, except for decisions for which Board has called upon Executive Committee to make as stipulated in Article 3.5.

3.24 Board may decide to (partially) waive membership fees for any of the Members.

3.25 Board may instate or disband any Committee by unanimous vote.

3.26 Board may organise a social event every month to improve relations between the Members.

3.27 Board may alter the directive, composition, or plans of any Committee by unanimous vote, except if the plans have been determined by GMA.

3.28 Board oversees that there exists a group or person that promotes events, upholds the functionality of the website and takes care of a social media presence. The monthly mail within this promotional order will be overseen by an Ab Actis that uses it to further promote events and keep members in the know if noteworthy things occur.

3.29 Both the policy and budget of Association must be presented before the 30th of November, at a gathering of GMA.

3.30 Any Board member may quit at any time by giving notice of this decision 14 days before their official resignation. The resigning Board member is responsible for actively searching for a replacement for their position before they resign.

3.31 In the event of a Board member resigning their position before suitable replacement can be found, replacement must be found by Board within 30 days of the resignation. After having found a suitable candidate, Board shall call a gathering of GMA within 14 days, at which the new Board member needs to be elected officially as a replacement.

3.32 ~~The Board will hold a, at least, a total of 4 GMA`s throughout the year. 1) The transfer/Wissel ALV GMA 2) The policy and Budget presentation 3) A presentation on the current state of realisation of both budget and policy, as well as the presentation of the formation committee 4) The transfer GMA. During all GMA`s, members can voice reasonable feedback that the Board will have to let influence their mode of working.~~

3.33 The Board will do everything in their power to make the GMA a well attended gathering.

Article 4 Chairs

4.1 Chairs are responsible for the functioning of their Committee and shall ensure the mission of their Committee is executed.

4.2 Chairs are responsible for carrying out policy determined by GMA which relates to their Committee.

4.3 Chairs are responsible for outward communication between the Committee they head, Board, and Members.

4.4 Chairs are responsible for the work carried out in the name of their Committee.

4.5 The chair should conduct themselves in a proper manner, as they hold an exemplary and representative role for the committee members, the event that they organise and the Association at large.

4.6 Chairs may admit members to their Committee.

4.7 Chairs may bar Members from entering their Committee. If any of the Members wishes to enter anyways, they may file an objection with Board, who will decide on the admission by unanimous vote.

4.8 Chairs may eject members of their Committee from their Committee. Chairs shall inform Board of this decision at least 24 hours before making it.

4.9 Chairs are appointed by Assessor Intern, or by majority vote of Board.

4.10 Chairs may not fulfil the functions of Quaestor or Ab Actis in their Committee.

4.11 The vote of the Chairs breaks a tie in a Committee meeting.

4.12 The Chairs are selected out of the Members.

4.13 Any Chair may resign from their position at any time by providing Board with a written statement indicating this intention. The resigning Chair is responsible for finding a replacement for their position before they resign.

4.14 Chairs are expected to attend GMA`s and are, furthermore, responsible for the attendance of their committee members.

Article 5 Committees

5.1 Committees automatically become Caretaker Committees on July 1st.

5.2 Any Committee which has fulfilled its task for the year may, in the absence of objection by the Committee, be deemed as Caretaker Committees by Board.

5.3 Unless otherwise specified, the formation process of the Committees is to be completed by Assessor Intern or by majority vote by Board before October 31st. This process includes instating Members and Chairs into their Committees.

5.4 Committees have a minimum of two members.

5.5 Any Committee member may resign from their position at any time by providing their Chair with a written statement indicating this intention.

5.6 Committees have a chair, an Ab Actis, and a Quaestor. Article 5.3 does not pertain to the audit Committee.

5.7 The positions of Ab Actis and Quaestor may be held by the same person in a Committee.

5.8 Committees derive their directive from Article 5 of these by-laws, a declaration by Board, or binding decision by GMA.

5.9 Committees may decide, by majority vote, to relieve anyone of their position within the Committee. If a majority is reached, the Committee must elect a person to the empty position within seven days, if this position is the Chair, Ab Actis, or Quaestor. The Committee shall cast their votes in this election by secret ballot.

5.10 If Association has a Marketing Committee, this Committee is responsible for managing the image of Association, the various social media linked to Association, and managing the promotion of events.

5.11 If Association has an Activity Committee, this Committee is responsible for organising activities in line with the directive of Symposion as stipulated in Article 2 of Statutes.

5.12 If Association has an Education Committee, this Committee is responsible for providing the Members with philosophical and academic development by organising a variety of educational activities.

5.13 If Association has a Magazine Committee, this Committee is responsible for composing, editing, publishing and distributing the official magazine of Association.

5.14 If Association has a Radio Committee, this Committee is responsible for creating content aimed at broadening the intellectual horizons of the Members or aimed at entertaining the Members.

5.15 If Association has a Lustrum Committee, this Committee is responsible for organising one or more events to celebrate a Lustrum year of Association.

5.16 If Association has a Merchandising Committee, this Committee is responsible for creating and selling a variety of objects related to Association. This Committee's profits shall be used for the organisation of events for the Members.

5.17 If Association has a First Year's Weekend Committee, this Committee is responsible for organising the First Year's Weekend. Articles 5.1 and 5.3 do not pertain to the First Year's Weekend Committee, as its formation process is fully determined by Board or Assessor Intern.

5.18 If Association has a Dinner Committee, this Committee is responsible for hosting at least one dinner-like event for the Members.

5.19 If Association has a Study Trip Committee, this Committee is responsible for organising at least one multiple-day trip for the Members.

5.20 The Audit Committee is responsible for checking the financial decisions made by Board and inspecting the integrity of the presented realisation of the budget.

5.21 All committee members are expected to attend GMA`s.

Article 6 Formation Committee

6.1 Formation Committee is responsible for the formation process of the future Board of Symposion. This includes, but is not limited by, finding suitable candidates, promoting, holding interviews with applicants and selecting candidate Board members through voting.

6.2 Formation Committee is in charge of selecting the future Board. It is not authorized to change the number of board positions or the content of the position, which may only occur with explicit authorization from the Board.

6.3 Formation Committee shall be constituted by the Board before May, and consist of 4-6 members. Once it has been formed, its constitution is made public to all members.

6.4 Members can apply for the Formation Committee. ~~Yet, an applicant cannot themselves be applying to become a board member.~~ However, members of the Formation Committee cannot apply for a Board position.

6.5 Formation Committee cannot consist of more than 2 Board members.

6.6 The Praeses cannot be a member of the Formation Committee.

6.7 Formation Committee must consist of at least 1 CoA member if possible, who may chair the Committee.

6.8 Once formed, the Formation Committee operates independently from the Board.

6.9 Each member of the formation committee shall be present for meetings, interviews and presentations. Exceptions being other serious commitments.

6.10 The Formation Committee shall construct a proposition for the Elect Board, and send this proposition to the Board for check-up. The Board is not authorized to alter or change any of the decisions made by the Formation Committee, unless the content of the proposition goes against the guidelines states in article 6.2. If no such discrepancies are found, Board shall inform the Formation Committee as such.

6.11 The Formation committee is in charge of informing the elect Board, as well as other applicants of the state of formation.

6.12 The proposition is then, after the process stated in Articles 6.1 to 6.8, presented by the formation committee to the Members at the GMA, who shall decide through majority vote. If voted for, Candidates become the Elect Board.

6.13 Members are allowed to create a counter board and present that at the transfer GMA with or without informing the Board. There will then occur an election of either the options, voted in through majority vote.

6.14 The Elect Board must, if possible, be constituted before July.

6.15 If the Board has valid concerns on the functionality of the Formation Committee, they may vote to dismantle the Formation Committee. This may only happen through unanimity, not including the Board members in the Formation Committee.

6.16 ~~Candidates must be made aware of the process and their own position within the formation of the board.~~ Candidates must be made aware of the formation process. They have to be given a sufficient understanding of their rights to privacy, their right to be kept informed of any non-confidential information and their responsibilities to speak truthfully during interviews.

Article 7 Transparency

7.1 Board shall disclose the minutes to any of its meetings, at the request of one or more Members.

7.2 Committees shall disclose the minutes to any of their meetings, at the request of one or more Members.

7.3 GMA, CoA or Chairs may request an explicative memorandum of Board on any decision, at the request of five or more Members.

7.4 The by-laws and Statutes shall be provided at the request of any of the Members.

7.5 An Audit Committee, specified in Article 5.19 of these by-laws and Article 16.3 of Statutes, shall be formed by GMA by majority vote at a gathering of GMA.

Article 8 Code of Conduct

8.1 None of the Members shall deliberately and maliciously express themselves in a discriminatory fashion.

8.2 None of the Members shall deliberately and maliciously encourage or glorify violence or abuse.

8.3 None of the Members shall deliberately and maliciously encourage or glorify hate or rancour.

8.4 None of the Members shall deliberately and maliciously ignore the genuine wishes of any of the Members to be addressed in the manner most fitting to their identity.

8.5 All of the Members who deliberately act against Article 7 shall be subject to suspension as stipulated in Article 6.5 of Statutes.

8.6 All of the Members reserve the right to express themselves within the frame set by Article 7.

8.7 The good intention of any of the Members in their expression is always assumed. Only an abundance of evidence of malicious intent shall belie this assumption.

8.8 Article 7 is only applicable to behaviour during activities and in communicative spheres directly and

inextricably linked to Association, and to communications between Members as Members, Chairs as Chairs, and Board as Board.

Article 9 CoA

9.1 CoA is appointed by the Praeses at their first gathering of GMA as Praeses.

9.2 The CoA exists as an advisory body for both the board and general members. They are to be consulted in case doubt arises regarding Symposion matters, while also consisting of at least two specific confidential advisors for discreet matters. It is advised to have at least two confidential advisors that are male and female representing.

9.3 ~~Confidentiality is in particular defined by the listening parties pledge to keep any information private. Any breakage of this agreement will be punished in an appropriate fashion.~~

9.4 Board may call upon CoA to advise it on any decision.

9.5 CoA may not overrule a decision by Board, Chairs or GMA.

9.6 CoA consists of at least three and at most five members.

9.7 The CoA will be represented by one of their members in the formation committee.

Article 10 GMA

10.1 The Board will hold, at least, a total of 4 GMA`s throughout the year. 1) The Transfer & Realization GMA, in which the h.t. Board will present the realization of the policy & budget, as well as the transfer of the Board. 2) The policy & Budget GMA, in which the policy and budget are presented to the members. 3) The Election GMA, in which the current state of the realization of both budget and policy will be presented, as well as the presentation of the formation committee 4) The Formation GMA, in which the f.t. Board is presented and during which Members may propose a Counter Board.

10.2 During all GMA`s, members can voice reasonable feedback that the Board will have to let influence their mode of working.

10.3 The Board will do everything in their power to make the GMA a well-attended gathering.

10.4 The Agenda, by-laws, minutes from the previous GMA and any other relevant information will be distributed to the members at least 7 days before the GMA.

Article 11 Legitimacy

10.1 Having regard to Article 19.1 Statutes, the by-laws are approved by GMA.

10.2 Having regard to Article 19.1 Statutes, the by-laws are legitimately constituted with the purpose of providing rules not provided in Statutes, and any amendment to the by-laws that does not serve this purpose shall be void.

Article 12 Amendment

11.1 GMA may, by majority vote, amend this document.

11.2 GMA may, by majority vote, destroy this document.

Article 13 Effect

12 These by-laws go into effect on the 1st of January 2022.