

Constitution of the Division on Queer Criminology

- I. Name, Purpose, & Objectives
 - A. The name of this division is The Division on Queer 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.
 - B. The Division on Queer Criminology (DQC) aims to advance theory, knowledge, policy, and practice in the fields and academic disciplines of criminal justice and criminology, with particular attention to the needs of LGBTQIA2 people, queer communities, and their allies and advocates. The Division supports the goals of reducing harm, promoting equity, advancing civil rights, and increasing personal and public safety. It is committed to advancing scholarship, science, and teaching that interrogates, disrupts, or re-imagines binary and colonial constructs of sex, gender, sexuality, and human identity and their relation to crime, law, and legal systems in the U.S. and across the globe.
 - C. The objectives of the Division are to 1) encourage study in and the development of queer criminology, 2) connect faculty and student scholars studying queer criminology to enhance and improve research, 3) connect researchers with policymakers in order to make meaningful change for LGBTQIA2 communities, and 4) promote inclusive pedagogy and share promising teaching strategies to better inform students on issues relevant to LGBTQIA2 populations.
- II. Membership
 - A. Membership in this Division will be open to all ASC members in good standing.
 - B. A Division member in good standing is one who is current in their ASC and Division dues.
 - C. Membership of the Division shall be divided into two categories: (1) full members and (2) student members:
 1. Full membership is open to any non-student member of ASC.
 2. Student membership is open to any graduate or undergraduate student enrolled at an institution of higher education and who is a student member in good standing of the ASC.
 - D. Annual dues for all categories of the Division membership shall be set by the Executive Board of the Division. Dues shall be payable annually in concert with the dues of ASC.
 - E. Full members in good standing will be considered eligible to vote, to serve as officers, and to serve on committees as stipulated in this Constitution, By-Laws, and/or the Division's Policies and Procedures.
 - F. Student members in good standing will be considered eligible to vote on all Division matters. They may serve as the Student Executive Counselor on the Executive Committee and may serve on all Division committees.
- III. Governance
 - A. Executive Board

1. There will be an Executive Board consisting of the Division Chair/Co-Chairs, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, Chair-Elect or Vice-Chair Elect and Three (3) Executive Counselors.
 2. The Division Chair will chair and convene the Executive Board.
 3. A quorum of the Executive Board shall consist of one-half of the voting members plus one.
 4. The Duties of the Executive Board include:
 - a) Establishing policies for the Division with majority vote;
 - b) Provide advice and decide on the budget for the Division;
 - c) Approve committees and committee chairs;
 - d) Decide the amount of division dues for regular and student membership.
- C. Officers
1. Chair
 - a) The Chair will provide executive direction for the Division and will preside over Division meetings.
 - b) The Chair or their designee will serve as the liaison with the ASC Annual Meeting Program Chair to ensure the inclusion of panels relating to issues on queer criminology in the program.
 - c) The Chair or their designee will oversee the development of sessions organized by the Division at the ASC Annual Meeting (i.e., thematic panels, roundtables, lightening sessions, author meets critic sessions, etc.).
 - d) The Chair or their designee shall bring issues regarding queer criminology, as decided by the Division, to the attention of the ASC Executive Board and/or appropriate ASC committees for their consideration.
 - e) The Chair will appoint all committees and committee chairs, with the approval of the Executive Board.
 - f) The Chair or their designee shall schedule, reserve a space, and facilitate the Division's annual membership meeting, which will be held at the American Society of Criminology annual conference.
 - g) The Chair will prepare the agenda for the annual membership meeting.
 2. Vice-Chair
 - a) 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.
 - b) The Vice-Chair will assist the Chair in matters of the Division.
 3. Secretary/Treasurer
 - a) The Secretary/Treasurer will keep the records and minutes of the Division meetings.
 - b) The Secretary/Treasurer will manage the membership list for the division, including the email/contact system for members.
 - c) The Secretary/Treasurer will maintain a separate account in the ASC treasury for the Division. The Secretary/Treasurer will inform the Division

membership of the Division's balance, debts, credits, etc., at the Division's Annual Membership Meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer will notify the Executive Board of any financial issues that arise between Annual Membership Meetings.

d) With the Chair's approval, the Secretary/Treasurer will coordinate all purchases for the Division, including, for example, annual meeting supplies and receptions, etc.

4. Executive Counselors

a) There will be three (3) Executive Counselors for the Division. Two (2) Counselors will be selected from the full members and one (1) from the student members.

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

D. Elections Qualifications

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

E. Term Length¹

1. The Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary/Treasurer, and Executive Counselors will serve a two-year term, with the exception of the first term for the Vice-Chair and two Executive Counselors who will serve a one-year term.

2. Board terms will be staggered. The Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and student member of the Executive Counsel will be elected in odd years. The Vice-Chair and two Executive Counselors will be elected in even years.

E. Nominations

1. The Nominations Committee shall oversee the development of a slate of officers for the Division election as outlined in the By-Laws.

F. Term of Office

The term of office for each incoming officer will begin at the close of the Annual Division meeting following their election. Elected officers may serve a maximum of two full 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.

G. Officer Vacancies

Vacancies that 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 the 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.

¹ In the 2023 elections, the DQC Executive Board voted and agreed that we would have a one-time departure from Section E (Term Length) in our Constitution. Section E is comprised of two points. Because our first elections were held in 2022 (not 2021), we were unable to adhere to point #1, Section E. Instead, we opted to adhere to point #2, Section E for the 2023 elections in which the Chair, Secretary/Treasurer and student member of the Executive Counsel were elected.

In the event there is a vacancy for the officer position of Chair, the Vice-Chair will assume the role of Chair until the next election.

IV. Policy Statements

- A. Policy statements can be made by the Division as a whole. Such statements require a majority vote of the members in good standing who vote in the said election. Such an approved statement would carry the byline, Approved by the Division of Queer Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. The Division membership may not make policy statements on behalf of the Executive Board.
- B. Policy statements can be made by the Executive Board of the Division if the proposed policy statement receives a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. That would require a vote of five (5) members as the Executive Board membership currently stands. Such an approved statement would carry the byline, Approved by the Executive Board of the Division of Queer Criminology of the American Society of Criminology. The Executive Board may not make policy statements on behalf of the Division.

V. Amending the By-Laws

- A. Proposed changes to the By-Laws may be either:
 - 1. Submitted to the Constitution and By-Laws Committee by any Division member in good standing for review, or
 - 2. Proposed to the Division Executive Board by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, or
 - 3. Proposed by a member of the Executive Board.
- B. At least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board in two consecutive Board meetings can amend the By-Laws.
- C. Approved changes in the By-Laws shall take effect immediately following approval.

VI. Amending the Constitution

- A. Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed (in writing and submitted to the Division Chair) by any member of the Division, by the Executive Board, or by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, but all such proposed amendments may only go forward as a qualified amendment under one of the following three (3) conditions:
 - 1. The proposed amendment receives the written support of one-fifth (1/5) of the Division members in good standing;
 - 2. The proposed amendment comes from the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

3. The proposed amendment is introduced at the Division's Annual Meeting and receives at least a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of those members in good standing who are present at the Division's Annual Business Meeting.
- B. A qualified amendment will be placed on a ballot and approved when it receives at least a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of the Division members in good standing who vote in the said election
 - C. The voting protocol shall include the following provisions:
 1. The Division Chair will prepare the ballot and oversee the operational aspect of the vote.
 2. The qualified amendment shall be voted on utilizing electronic ballots.
 3. Full Division members in good standing have at least forty (40) days to cast their ballots.
 4. Ballots will be counted/votes verified, by at least two (2) Executive Board members.
 5. The results of the vote will be reported to the Division Chair(s) and Executive Board of the Division prior to the next Annual Division meeting.
 6. The results of the vote will be announced in a timely fashion, typically via email and/or on the Division webpage, and other media outlets as the Division Chair deems appropriate.
 - E. An approved amendment shall take effect at the conclusion of the first annual meeting of the ASC following the Division vote on the amendment, or six (6) months after approved by the Division membership, whatever comes first.
 - F. Amendments are subject to the approval of the ASC Executive Board.