

# **Society of Professional Journalists University of Southern Indiana Chapter**

## **Constitution and By-Laws**

### **Article One – Official Name**

The official name of the organization is the University of Southern Indiana Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

### **Article Two – Purpose**

This organization is dedicated to the perpetuation of a free press as the cornerstone of our nation and our liberty. It is a journalist's role to keep the American people well informed in an accurate, comprehensive, timely and understandable manner.

The purpose, therefore, is: 1. To promote this flow of information; 2. To encourage a climate in which journalism can be practiced freely and fully; 3. To stimulate high standards and ethical behavior in the practice of journalism; 4. To foster excellence and encourage diversity among journalists; 5. To inspire successive generations of talented individuals to become dedicated journalists, and 6. To maintain constant watch in protection of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States of America.

### **Article Three – Membership**

- A. Membership in this organization is open to all University of Southern Indiana students with commitment to communications and Journalism.
- B. Candidates for membership shall be in good academic standing, demonstrating professional goals in the field of interest.
- C. Membership will not discriminate against anyone regardless of sex, race, nationality or handicap. The chapter may initiate qualified students from colleges and universities that have no campus chapters.
- D. The application procedure entails the filling out of a membership form and paying the required dues.

### **Article Four – Officers**

- A. Officers and their duties shall be as follows:
  1. President shall be the presiding officer and shall administer all business of the society as provided for by the SPJ national bylaws.
  2. Vice-President shall perform the duties of the president in the president's absence, and shall assist in coordinating all functions of the organization.
  3. Secretary shall serve as corresponding and recording secretary, keeping minutes of all meetings and contact with members through mailings, etc.
  4. Treasurer shall be the coordinator of the chapter's monetary funds, collect all dues and countersign, with the President or Adviser, all financial transactions.
- B. Selection Process
  1. Officers. Any good standing member desiring to run for an office shall be nominated by current members and apply to the Executive Board. In case of a lack of applicants, the Executive Board shall act as a nominating committee to find one member to run for each office.

2. Committee Membership. Any member who shall apply to the Executive Board. A chairman of the committee will then be elected by that respective group.
  3. Elections will occur the fourth week in March before the end of the spring semester.
  4. Officers may be removed from office and members may be terminated by a 90 percent vote of all members on the membership list and at least one-half of the other officers.
- C. Adviser
- The faculty adviser(s) shall be voted for approval as part of the spring elections held by the chapter. The adviser(s) may be removed from the chapter by a vote of 75 percent of the members, which would require a new ballot for election of adviser(s). The faculty adviser(s) shall voice opinion in the guidance of SPJ, but shall have no vote.

### **Article Five – Executive Board**

The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, two Members-at-Large and chairpersons of the Fundraising, Freedom of Information, Diversity, Programming, Social and Publications committees.

### **Article Six – Meetings**

- A. The regular meetings for SPJ shall be held at least eight times a school year.
- B. A quorum shall consist of a simple majority vote of the membership plus one officer.
- C. The meetings will be presided over by the President and Adviser. In the event of the President's absence, the Vice-President will preside.

### **Article Seven – Committees**

- A. The following committees shall be formed:
  1. Fundraising - shall determine needs for facilities and programs seeking venues of monetary funding.
  2. Freedom of Information - shall be responsible for informing the community and keeping them aware of their rights as citizens under the FOI law.
  3. Diversity
  4. Programming
  5. Social - shall be responsible for coordinating social events designed to promote unity within the organization.
  6. Publications - to keep the chapter informed of events both present and future. Used for correspondence with other chapters, members and the university population.
- B. To become part of a committee, a member must sign up with the interest group of the member's choice. In addition, the member must attend all committee meetings as designated.

### **Article Eight – Finances**

Dues shall be paid by all members after elected to the chapter. The treasurer shall be responsible for collecting paid dues. Dues shall be set up, discussed and determined by the

Executive Board according to the needs of SPJ with planned activities and approval by majority vote of the Society for each semester.

**Article Nine – Amendments**

Constitutional Amendments must be submitted, in writing, at a regular or special meeting of the Executive Board. These then shall be voted on at the subsequent meeting. In adopting the amendment, a vote of two-thirds of membership is necessary.

**Article Ten – Ratification**

This constitution shall become valid upon approval by the Executive Board.

REVISED AND APPROVED: APRIL 1, 2004