

The Fiber Society, Inc.

Constitution and By-Laws

Article I. Name and Objective

1. The name of this society shall be "The Fiber Society, Incorporated," hereinafter referred to as "the Society."
2. The objective of the Society shall be the advancement of scientific knowledge pertaining to fibers, fiber-based products, and fibrous materials.
3. The Society shall not engage in any business or commercial activity for monetary profit. None of the income or property of the Society shall ensure to the benefit of any member of the Society by reason of such membership.

Article II. Membership

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of persons actively engaged in research on, or other scientific study of, the production, properties, processing, and use of fibers, fiber-based products, and fibrous materials, or otherwise qualified to contribute to the objective of the Society.
2. Honorary membership in the Society may be extended to persons who have made outstanding contributions to the science or technology of fibrous materials. Honorary Members shall be exempt from annual dues and shall have all of the privileges of members except voting and holding office. If they were regular members of the Society before their election to honorary membership, the latter restriction shall not apply.
3. A member in good standing in the Society shall, upon recommendation of the Governing Council, be designated as an Emeritus Member with all the privileges of membership, without payment of dues, provided the member has reached the age of 65 or retired from gainful occupation, and provided that at least one of the following conditions is fulfilled:
 - a. The individual was a founding member of the Society, or
 - b. The individual has been a dues-paying member for at least 25 years and served as a member of the Governing Council.
4. A member in good standing in the Society for at least 10 consecutive years, who has reached the age of 65, and is retired from gainful employment, shall be designated as a Retired Member with all the privileges of membership, without payment of dues.

Article III. Officers

1. The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.
2. The Officers shall have such duties and exercise such powers as is customary and not otherwise prescribed or provided for in this Constitution or in any By-Laws of the Society.
3. The President and Vice-President shall take office at the end of the calendar year in which they are elected and shall hold office for one year. The President and Vice-President may be candidates for reelection for a second consecutive term only, and the President shall not be a candidate for the office of Vice-President.
4. The Secretary and Treasurer, or the combined Secretary-Treasurer, shall be elected from and by the membership, for terms of five years. The Secretary and Treasurer shall take office at the end of the calendar year in which they are elected. If and when possible, the terms of the Secretary and the Treasurer shall be staggered by two years to promote orderly transitions. The Governing Council is charged to modify the duration of a term in order to achieve a two-year stagger.

The Secretary and Treasurer may not serve more than two consecutive terms. The terms may be terminated in less than five years either upon the request of the current office holder or upon the recommendation of 75 percent or more of the Governing Council membership. In the latter case, the Governing Council shall show just cause for such action and seek approval for the action at a meeting of the members of the Society.

Article IV. Governing Council

1. There shall be a Governing Council of the Society to consist of the Officers, six elected Councilors, and the retiring President, who serves for one year as a seventh Councilor.
2. Councilors shall be elected from and by the membership in the same manner and at the same time as the Officers. Councilors shall hold office for three years and shall not be candidates to succeed themselves. Two Councilors shall be elected each year and the new Councilors shall take office at the end of the calendar year in which they are elected.
3. The Governing Council shall have general management and supervision of the affairs of the Society, and full control of the Society's property and assets. The Council shall carry out and enforce the provisions of this Constitution and of any By-Laws of the Society, shall authorize all purchases and contracts, shall cause the accounts of the Treasurer to be audited annually or more often, and shall take such other actions for the proper management of the Society as it may deem best.

4. The Governing Council shall, from time to time, propose for the consideration of the Society such By-Laws and revisions thereof as may be desirable for the guidance of the Society's activities.
5. The Governing Council shall act as, or may designate, a Membership Committee. The Governing Council may appoint any Council member to the Membership Committee. The Committee will have the authority to act on the Governing Council's behalf and will have the power to admit members to The Fiber Society, as long as decisions made by the Committee are reported to the Governing Council at its next meeting. Criteria for membership must be approved by the Governing Council, and only the Governing Council shall have the authority to expel a Society member.
6. The Governing Council shall establish such committees as may be advisable to aid in the conduct of the affairs of the Society. The Governing Council may define the duties, powers, and tenure of any committees, and may review any committee action. The President may, with the approval of the Council, appoint and remove the members of any committee, and shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.
7. The Governing Council may fill a vacancy occurring in any office, and may appoint an acting officer in cases of disability of an office holder.

Article V. Assessments

1. The Governing Council shall propose a schedule of annual dues, and, from time to time, may propose revisions thereof, for the consideration of the membership.
2. All other assessments shall be levied against the membership only with the concurrence of a two-thirds majority, with at least 50 percent of the membership casting votes.

Article VI. Meetings and Elections

1. The Governing Council shall arrange an Annual Meeting of the Society, preferably in connection with a technical conference. At this meeting, reports on the status of the Society shall be presented, Officers and Councilors for the ensuing year shall be elected, and other necessary or customary business shall be transacted.
2. Special meetings of the Society may be called at any time by the President, and shall be called at any time on the written request of three members of the Governing Council, or of 10 members. Notices of meetings and the conduct of meetings shall be in accordance with customary rules. The attendance of 15 members shall constitute a quorum.
3. All matters, unless otherwise provided in this Constitution, shall be settled by majority vote of the members present.

Article VII. Interpretation and Amendment

1. Questions that arise regarding the interpretation of this Constitution or of the By-Laws shall be addressed by the Governing Council.
2. This Constitution may be amended or repealed with the approval of two-thirds of the members present at a meeting of the Society, provided that the general nature of the proposed action has been set forth in the call for the meeting that must occur at least 30 days before the next annual meeting of the Society, or with the approval of two-thirds of the members voting on a letter ballot distributed by the Secretary to all members in good standing, provided that ballots are completed and returned by at least 50 percent of those members in good standing.
3. The By-Laws of the Society may be repealed, revised, or extended by a decision of the Governing Council, and all changes to the By-Laws must be reported to the membership at the next general meeting.

By-Laws

Section I. Objectives

The objectives of the Society shall be:

- a. To advance scientific knowledge pertaining to fibers, fiber-based products, and fibrous materials by sponsoring technical meetings (conferences, symposia) in the spring and fall of each year, and a program of lectures by relevant scientists at academic institutions.
- b. To encourage the participation of the entire scientific community related to the advancement of the science, engineering and technology related to fibrous materials by making participation in the technical meetings open to nonmembers. On an informal basis, nonmember scientists will be invited to attend meetings and present papers of interest.
- c. To encourage basic or applied science (engineering and technology) students to consider the field of fiber and fiber-based product related sciences (engineering and technology) as a profession by permitting students to attend technical meetings without payment of registration fees; they may, however, be assessed the costs of food, beverages, and receptions associated with the conferences or symposia.
- d. To recognize outstanding achievement in basic and applied fiber science (engineering and technology) at the graduate student level by holding an annual competition for the best paper by a student. The Student Paper Competition and Award Committee will judge submitted papers. Using a process approved by the Governing Council, the best paper will be awarded a monetary prize.
- e. To recognize distinguished professional achievement in basic and applied fiber science (engineering and technology) by awarding each year a distinguished

achievement award to a scientist who is under 40 years of age at any time during the year the award is given. The appropriate Awards Committee shall recommend the winner. Upon approval by the Governing Council, the award will be made and the winner shall receive a monetary prize and a plaque with a suitable inscription.

- f. To honor persons who have made outstanding contributions to the science, engineering, and technology of fibers, fiber-based products, and fibrous materials by the award of Honorary Membership. Honorary Members shall pay no membership dues and shall receive a suitably inscribed plaque.
- g. To recognize an outstanding contribution to the science, engineering, and technology of fibers, fiber-based products, and fibrous materials by awarding the Founders' Award to a professionally active scientist, regardless of age. Each award will be presented in honor of a founding member or of an honorary member of the Society. The Founders' Award Committee shall recommend the winning candidate(s) to the Governing Council. Upon approval by the Governing Council the winner(s) shall receive a monetary prize and a plaque with a suitable inscription.

Section II. Membership

- 1. The Governing Council shall prepare minimum requirements for membership for its own guidance and for the information of prospective members, and shall require written applications and sponsorships.
- 2. The Governing Council may, for due cause and after opportunity for hearing, expel any member from the Society. Causes for expulsion shall include repeated neglect to participate in the affairs of the Society, arrears, and grossly unbecoming professional conduct. The Governing Council shall accept the resignation of any member in good standing.

Section III. Meetings, Conferences, and Symposia

- 1. Technical meetings, conferences, or symposia shall be held at least once a year.
- 2. Technical sessions of the Society's conferences shall be conducted in an informal manner, subject only to requirements of order and decorum.
- 3. Papers, statements, and opinions presented before the Society shall be given no publicity except in accordance with the expressed desire of the author. With the authors' concurrence, a book of abstracts (extended or otherwise) of oral and poster presentations shall be printed for distribution at the Conference, and may subsequently appear on the Society's web page.
- 4. Representatives of the technical press may attend a meeting or conference of the Society only on individual invitation by the Governing Council, but such invitation and attendance shall convey no right to publication of material presented by any author or discussor.
- 5. The Governing Council may authorize the Secretary, in consultation with program chairs or co-chairs, to establish registration and other ordinary fees

connected with meetings (conferences, symposia) in order to defray the actual or estimated costs of such meetings. Such fees shall be assessed against the participants at that meeting, except that Emeritus and Honorary Members shall be assessed only the costs associated with food, beverages, and receptions held in connection with the meeting (conference, symposium). Meeting participants who have been members of the Society for at least 10 consecutive years and have retired after the age of 65, or are unemployed, shall be assessed ancillary costs such as those associated with food, beverages, and receptions held in connection with the meeting (conference, symposium).

Section IV. Guests

1. The contribution of nonmembers to the objective of the Society through their participation as guests in its technical activities shall be encouraged.
2. Persons desiring to participate as guests in a Society affair, or members desiring to introduce such persons, shall apply for an invitation in such way as the Governing Council may prescribe.

Section V. Publications

1. The presentation of any technical or scientific material before the Society shall give the Society no rights to the publication of such material, and shall in no way influence the desires of the author(s) with regard to publication, unless, at the time of request for papers for a technical session, the Society solicits approval of prospective authors for publication in connection with a specific event or meeting.

Section VI. Cooperation with Other Societies

1. Insofar as may be compatible with the objective of the Society, the activities of the Society shall be directed in such a manner as to cooperate with the activities of other scientific, technical, or professional groups whose interests are related to those of the Society.

Section VII. Dues and Arrears

1. The annual dues of the Society shall be payable in advance on the first of each calendar year. The Treasurer shall suitably bill each member for dues, and members whose dues are unpaid after the first meeting or conference in any year may be judged in arrears. Members elected by the Council at a spring and fall meeting are subject to dues for the current year, but shall not be judged to be in arrears if payment is made before December 31.

2. The Governing Council may decide the conditions constituting arrearage in respect to assessments other than annual dues.
3. The Governing Council may, for cause, remit the annual dues of any member.
4. On termination of membership through any cause, no rebate of annual dues shall be made, and no rebate of other assessments shall be made except at the direction of the Governing Council. Termination of membership shall operate as release of all rights and title to and interest in the property and assets of the Society.

Section VIII. Financial Operations

1. The fiscal year of the Society shall extend from January 1 to December 31.
2. The Treasurer shall handle the funds of the Society in accordance with prudent practice, utilizing recognized banking facilities for such portion as may be practicable, and shall present a complete record of receipts and disbursements of the preceding year for the examination of an auditing committee before the annual meeting.
3. The Treasurer shall make all disbursements from the Society's general fund. Disbursements shall be made only on presentation of vouchers signed by anyone delegated by the Council to make a specific purchase and stating clearly the reason for disbursement. If for any reason the Treasurer cannot perform his duties, the Secretary shall make any necessary disbursements until the Treasurer can resume his duties.
4. The Treasurer shall be bonded for an amount to be determined by the Governing Council. Bond shall be furnished by a firm approved by the Governing Council.

(Revised, Effective October 2007: FS Governing Council.)