



THE SOCIOLOGIST OF SCIENCE

SPECIAL ISSUE - JUNE 1975

This special issue is prompted by the activity of the organizing committee of the Society for Social Studies of Science (tentative name). Below and on page 4 appear letters from Warren Hagstrom, Nicholas Mullins, and Jerry Gaston, respectively, which outline some procedural matters. Pages 2-3 contain the proposed Charter of the Society. It was prepared in draft form on 22 May 1975 in Washington, D.C., by the organizing committee, consisting of Jonathan Cole, Jerry Gaston, Warren Hagstrom, James McCartney, Robert McGinnis, Nicholas Mullins, and Arnold Thackray. It should be noted that Article V.C. was dissented from by Jonathan Cole and James McCartney. The organizing committee was in consensus on all remaining articles.

Even though the meeting of the Society will be held in conjunction with that of the American Sociological Association, it is hoped that non-sociologists will attend, especially since the XIV International Congress of Historical Sciences is meeting simultaneously in San Francisco. For those who will be unable to attend the Society meeting but have recommendations to make about the Charter, please contact any member of the organizing committee by early August.

To the Editors:

The committee drafting the proposed Charter for the Society for Social Studies of Science nominated me to chair the meeting in San Francisco on 26 August 1975 at 4:30PM in the Sir Francis Drake Hotel (consult the final program for the specific room). I shall chair the meeting unless a majority of those attending vote otherwise. I will suggest that the meeting be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

The agenda for the business meeting is as follows: 1) adoption or rejection of the proposed Charter, which will be open to amendment, 2) election of officers, 3) motion for the Society to assume publication of The Sociologist of Science, currently being published by the Research Program on Social Analyses of Science Systems at Cornell University, 4) discussion of appropriate activities to be undertaken by the Society.

Warren Hagstrom
University of Wisconsin

CHARTER
SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL STUDIES OF SCIENCE

I. PREAMBLE

This organization is called the Society for Social Studies of Science. Its purpose is to promote research, learning and understanding in the systematic social analysis of science. The Society is an independent organization which cooperates with other organizations having similar interests.

II. ORGANIZATION

A. Membership.

Membership in the Society includes all scholars interested in the social and policy aspects of science who have paid their current dues.

B. Offices and Election.

1. The Society has the following elective officers: a president, a secretary-treasurer, and five other council members. The terms of office (except as noted in II.B.10 below) are: president--two years; secretary-treasurer--three years; council members--two years.

2. A majority of the voting members of the council constitutes a quorum. Voting members of the council consist of the elected officers. Ex-officio members of the council, as specified below, are non-voting members.

3. A nominating committee consisting of the president as chair and four other members of the Society designated by the president, no more than two of whom are officers, shall present to the Society at least six months before the annual meeting at least one nominee for each office to be filled.

4. Further nominations by petition signed by five members shall be presented to the president at least four months before the annual meeting.

5. Election shall be by mail ballot, the results to be announced at the annual meeting.

6. The retiring president shall serve for two years as an ex-officio council member, but shall be otherwise ineligible for election in that period.

7. Three members of the council shall be elected in odd-numbered years, two and the president in even-numbered years.

8. All nominees must be members of the Society.

9. If any elective office becomes vacant, the council shall appoint a replacement who will serve until the next annual election, at which time a person will be elected to serve out the remainder of the term.

10. The meeting of the Society to ratify this Charter will elect officers who will serve staggered terms as follows:

a) a president--one year

b) a secretary-treasurer--three years

c) the three nominees for council receiving the most votes--two years

d) the two other nominees for council elected--one year

This election by secret ballot will take place immediately following the ratification of this Charter also by secret ballot. Results will be announced at the end of the business meeting.

III. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. The President.

The president of the Society or a designated member of the council shall preside at all meetings of the Society and the council. The president also is responsible for the program at the annual meeting.

B. The Secretary-Treasurer.

The secretary-treasurer shall keep the records of the Society and shall receive and have custody of funds of the Society. The accounts shall be subject each year to an audit by members chosen by the president of the Society or by a certified public accountant. At the end of each three-year term the accounts must be audited by a certified public accountant. The secretary-treasurer shall perform such other duties as the council shall assign.

C. The Council.

The council shall set membership dues and have control and management of the funds of the Society. It shall act as a committee on time and place of meetings, and perform such other duties as the Society may delegate to it. The council may adopt any rules and regulations for the conduct of its business not inconsistent with the Charter of the Society. The council will regularly communicate its actions to the membership.

IV. COMMITTEES

The council shall recommend standing committees to the Society membership for its approval or rejection in annual meetings. Proposals for changes in the standing committee structure may also be moved by any member of the Society in annual meetings. Officers of the Society may be appointed by the president to sit as ex-officio members of any committee.

The president may appoint ad hoc committees as circumstances dictate or the council recommends. With the approval of the president, committees may be established that include non-members.

V. ACTIVITIES

A. Meetings.

The annual business and other meetings of the Society shall be held at such time and place as are determined by the council. Adequate notice of such time and place shall be given to members of the Society. Special meetings of the Society may be called by action of the council. Meetings of the council shall be called by the president or at the request of a quorum of the council.

B. Publications.

The Society, acting through the council, will seek to publish appropriate literature (including a newsletter) for distribution to the membership and for sale to non-members.

C. Facilitation of Research

The Society, acting through the council, may facilitate work to meet its objectives by receiving and disbursing funds, possibly in cooperation with other organizations. The council must seek approval of the membership--a majority of those voting at an annual meeting or by mailed ballot--for projects involving sums greater than \$50,000 or projects involving smaller sums which, because of their implications for the Society, the council feels merit such approval by the membership.

VI. AMENDMENTS

Proposed amendments to this Charter may be submitted at any time by any member to the council of the Society for consideration at its next meeting. Recommendations of the council shall be reported at the annual business meeting of the Society and such recommendations shall be approved, revised or rejected by majority vote at that meeting. Recommendations, if approved, shall be put to a mail ballot of the Society for ratification by a majority of those voting.

VII. RATIFICATION

This Charter has been ratified by the founding members of the Society for Social Studies of Science at San Francisco, California, on 26 August 1975.

To the Editors:

The two suggested major offices of the Society for Social Studies of Science are those of the president and the secretary-treasurer. The president will serve one year and then continue as an ex-officio member of the council. The secretary-treasurer will serve three years.

I believe that Robert K. Merton should be elected first president of the Society. His stature and interdisciplinary interests make him a unique choice for the office.

The location of the newsletter, mailing lists, and other paraphernalia of office work suggests that Robert McGinnis be elected the first secretary-treasurer.

Nicholas Mullins
Indiana University

To the Editors:

Those who have been concerned with the establishment of the Society for Social Studies of Science agree that its membership should include a broad spectrum of scientists, historians, philosophers and others who should have a clear voice in its affairs. Therefore, I think it quite desirable that non-sociologists be elected to the council and will nominate historians of science Derek J. de Solla Price and Arnold Thackray for the council.

Jerry Gaston
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