

NSRN Constitution

Article I: Name

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Nonreligion and Secularity Research Network (hereafter, the NSRN).

Article II: Objectives

Section 1. The NSRN is an international and interdisciplinary network of researchers. It was founded in 2008 to centralize existing research on the topic of nonreligion and secularity and to facilitate discussion in this area.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any of the purposes or objectives stated herein, the NSRN is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes. The NSRN is not organized for profit, and no part of its net earnings shall be used to benefit members, officers, directors, or other private persons, except that the NSRN be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services.

Section 3. In the event of dissolution of the NSRN, any net assets shall be distributed to one or more organizations that have established a similar exemption status as an educational or scientific organization.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. Unlike many professional and academic societies, there is no formal membership in the NSRN. The NSRN is a loose network of scholars interested in nonreligion and secularity. As a result, there is no formal list of members aside from the current members of the NSRN's Advisory Board.

Article IV: Officers and Advisory Board

Section 1. The officers of the NSRN shall be a President, an immediate Past-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a representative of the Editors of the NSRN's journal, *Secularism & Nonreligion* (Journal Representative), a representative from the Editors of the NSRN's book series (Book Series Representative), and a representative from the NSRN's website team (Website Representative). The Secretary and Treasurer positions may be held by the same person.

Section 2. In addition to the officers of the NSRN, between two and six additional individuals will make up the Advisory Board. These individuals are Advisory Board Members-At-Large, and are voting members.

Section 3. The voting members of the Advisory Board will be made up of an odd number of individuals.

Section 4. All officers and Advisory Board members will be selected by majority vote of the existing Advisory Board members, though consensus for candidates is preferred. The President of the NSRN will be selected from the existing members of the Advisory Board, though additional candidates may be considered in exceptional circumstances.

Section 5. The President of the NSRN will serve a two-year term. The term of the President begins on January 1st of even-numbered years (e.g., 2024, 2026, 2028, etc.) and ends on December 31st of the subsequent odd numbered year. The President of the NSRN cannot serve consecutive terms in office. All other officers and members of the NSRN Advisory Board will indicate on an annual basis whether they wish to continue serving on the Advisory Board. There are no term limits for Advisory Board members other than the two-year term for the President. The terms of the NSRN Advisory Board members begin on January 1st and end on December 31st, annually. If any officer or member of the NSRN Advisory Board takes part in less than 50% of the scheduled Board meetings during their term, the entire NSRN Advisory Board can vote not to renew this individual's term at its end on December 31st.

Section 6. Stephen Bullivant, Nicholas Gibson, Stacey Gutkowski, and Lois Lee may each hold in perpetuity the honorary role of NSRN Founders at their discretion. This is a non-voting position in the network. They may attend NSRN Advisory Board meetings at their discretion to provide feedback to the Board, but are under no requirement to do so.

Section 7. The President shall preside at all meetings of the NSRN. The President represents and speaks for the Network and may sign contracts and other documents on behalf of the Network. In the event of the President's death, resignation, or inability to perform the duties of the President, the Advisory Board will promptly select a new President.

Section 8. The Secretary is to record the minutes of the Advisory Board.

Section 9. The Treasurer is responsible for overseeing the finances of the NSRN. The Treasurer must annually provide a report to the Advisory Board of the financial status of the NSRN. At least one other member of the Advisory Board must have access to all NSRN financial accounts.

Section 10. The Journal Representative, the Book Series Representative, and the Website Representative will provide annual reports to the Advisory Board on their respective activities.

Section 11. Advisory Board Members-At-Large have no specific duties except to attend the Board meetings and vote on matters brought to the Advisory Board, as well as to perform such other assignments as may from time to time be given them.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1. The NSRN will hold a biennial meeting in odd-numbered years (e.g., 2023, 2025, etc.). The biennial meeting will include the transaction of business, presentation of papers, and general discussion of nonreligion and secularity.

Section 2. Planning and organization of the biennial meeting is the responsibility of the President in collaboration with the Advisory Board. The President must consult with the Advisory Board on the geographic location and/or format (in-person or online) of the annual meeting.

Section 3. The Advisory Board will schedule and announce times and places of the biennial meetings. The schedule will be announced at least a year in advance.

Section 4. The Advisory Board will meet at least once during the biennial meeting. The Advisory Board may meet additional times between biennial meetings. All such additional meetings will be called by the President of the NSRN and will take place electronically. The business of the NSRN can be conducted in electronic meetings. A majority of the Advisory Board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings.

Section 5. The officers of the NSRN Advisory Board may also authorize additional meetings.

Article VI: Publications

Section 1. The objectives of the NSRN include supporting the scholarly journal *Secularism & Nonreligion* and the book series *Religion and Its Others: Studies in Religion, Nonreligion and Secularity*, which exist for the publishing of research articles, book reviews, book manuscripts and any other related materials.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1. The Constitution may be amended, or a new Constitution adopted, if two-thirds of the Advisory Board members approve.