

Veritas Society By-Laws

Charter

The VERITAS SOCIETY (hereafter called the SOCIETY), a community education outreach program sponsored by BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY, is an organization of individuals whose purpose is to foster a commitment to and enjoyment of lifelong learning. To this end, the SOCIETY strives to provide opportunities for intellectual growth, cultural enrichment, and lasting fellowship, by offering its members non-credit courses, seminars and discussion programs, study-related field trips, and various social activities. Emphasis is placed on making the learning experience pleasant and enjoyable, in an agreeable academic environment.

The VERITAS SOCIETY is affiliated with the Road Scholar Institute Network and operates as a Lifelong Learning Institute affiliate.

As such, it has a unique identity and purpose within BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY and operates under the Academic Affairs Division, with its own formal By-Laws, Policies and Procedures, and Job Descriptions in support of that identity and purpose.

I. Membership

- A. Membership in the VERITAS SOCIETY is open to anyone in compliance with the membership section of the Veritas Society Policies and Procedures.
- B. Membership fees are assessed at the level required for the organization to be fully self-financing.
- C. Members are encouraged to take an active part in planning and managing the SOCIETY and to share their knowledge and skills with other members, by

their involvement in volunteer roles outlined in the Veritas Membership Handbook.

- D. The Betts Meehan Lifetime Membership is awarded by the Board to individuals who have presented a minimum of ten (10) courses for the VERITAS SOCIETY.

II. Board of Directors

- A. Activities of the VERITAS SOCIETY shall be overseen by a Board of Directors. Only members of the SOCIETY who have paid membership fees for at least one term within the last academic year are eligible for election to the Board. Directors are required to (1) remain members throughout their terms; (2) regularly attend meetings of the full Board; and (3) maintain membership in one or more of the Standing Committees (see Sec. IV). Failure to fulfill these responsibilities may result in removal from the Board of Directors by vote of the Directors.
- B. The Board of Directors is composed of up to eighteen (18) members, including the BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY – VERITAS SOCIETY Liaison. The UNIVERSITY – VERITAS Liaison is not eligible to serve as President or Vice-President of the Board, but is a voting member of the body.
- C. Directors serve without monetary compensation from the SOCIETY and without legal liability to, or on behalf of, the SOCIETY.
- D. The officers of the Board of Directors are President, Vice-President, and Secretary.
- E. The general powers and duties of the Board are to:

1. Ensure that all actions of the SOCIETY are consistent with the policies of BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY.
2. Seek specific review and endorsement of these By-Laws, and of significant changes to them by the President of the UNIVERSITY or his/her designated representative.
3. Foster the implementation of the SOCIETY'S Charter.
4. Enforce the provisions of the By-Laws.
5. Appoint committees and delegate appropriate powers to such committees as required to support the Board in the discharge of its responsibilities.
6. Hold regular elections.
7. Coordinate the development of, review, and approve as appropriate (a) financial reports; (b) membership fees; (c) curricula and non-course offerings; (d) course presenters and discussion leaders; (e) facilities and administrative support plans; (f) membership drives; and (g) programs to promote the SOCIETY to the community and prospective members.
8. Monitor the SOCIETY'S performance relative to its plans and purpose, and redirect effort, if warranted.
9. Report, as appropriate, the activities of the SOCIETY to BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY.
10. Maintain effective liaison with the Road Scholar Institute.

11. Perform such other duties and tasks as may be necessary to assure the proper functioning of the SOCIETY.

F. The Board of Directors meets at least once each term. In order to conduct business, a quorum consisting of more than half of Board membership must be present, either in-person or virtually.

G. The Board acts by simple majority vote.

H. Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to all members of the SOCIETY.

III. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. All active SOCIETY members are eligible for nomination as Director and the term of office is two years. The term of office starts June 1 and ends May 31 of the second year. To the extent practical, approximately one-half of the Director's terms expire each year. Directors may stand for reelection an unlimited number of times.

B. Annually, the Vice President appoints, from the Board's ranks, a-Nominating Committee which (1) solicits nominations for directorships from the general membership, and (2) presents a slate to the membership for election as Directors by secret ballot. Elections are held during the spring term. The elections may be held either electronically or via paper ballot.

C. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary are elected for two-year terms from members of the Board by secret ballot of the Board. A nominating committee, appointed by the President, solicits candidates for the officers from the incoming Board during the Spring Term Election, for these

Executive Board officers, may be held at the Spring meeting or a specially called meeting in May.

D. Vacancies on the Board are filled at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

E. Immediate Past President may remain on the Board of Directors, ex-officio, for one year in an advisory capacity to the incoming President or may run for election in a director position.

IV. STANDING COMMITTEES

A. Committees are designated by the Board of Directors and are responsible to the Board in all respects.

B. Standing committees include (1) Curriculum, (2) Field Trips, (3) Lunch and Learn, (4) Membership, (5) Newsletter, (6) Production, (7) Promotion, (8) Special Events, (9) Volunteers. Each committee is chaired by a member of the Board who is appointed to that position by the President with approval of the Board of Directors. Committee membership is open to all active SOCIETY members, with the broadest possible participation encouraged.

C. Organizational structure and operating procedures for the individual committees is self-determined.

V. AMENDMENTS AND TERMINATION

A. These By-Laws may be amended by two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors unless judged by the President and Vice-President of the Board to be of such significance as to warrant the additional review and endorsement of Bellarmine University.

B. VERITAS SOCIETY exists at the pleasure of BELLARMINE
UNIVERSITY. Accordingly, authority to terminate the SOCIETY rests
solely with the UNIVERSITY.

Revised November 18, 2022