

## **Rules of the Alister Hardy Society for the Study of Spiritual Experience**

The Alister Hardy Society is run by the Committee of the Society, which will act and report to the Trustees in accordance with the following Rules, approved by the AHS committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2007, the Trustees on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 and the AHS membership at its AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 – amended by the Society's Committee on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012 and approved by the membership on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012. Further amended by the Society's Committee on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2013, endorsed by the Trustees on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013 and approved by the members at the AGM on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

1. The Alister Hardy Society for the Study of Spiritual Experience (AHSSSE), as a self governing branch of the Alister Hardy Trust, aims to promote and support the work of the Trust and the Religious Experience Research Centre and to disseminate the findings of such work. To this end it will seek:
  - to promote and occasionally undertake the study of spiritual and other related areas of human experience;
  - to provide a source of information regarding spiritual or religious experience;
    - to provide financial support for the work of the Trust, through subscriptions, donations, legacies and fund-raising activities;
    - to organize conferences and other appropriate activities;
    - to produce a newsletter and other publications;
    - with the agreement of the Trustees, to liaise with other appropriate organisations;
    - to provide a focal point for people and bodies interested in the study of spiritual or religious experience; to provide an information service for members of the Society; and to promote public awareness of the nature and value of such experiences;
    - to represent the views of its members to the Trustees, and to make suggestions and comments on the Trust's programmes.
2. Subject to the approval of the Trustees, local, regional or national groups of the Society may be formed. Such groups must be self-financing and set up and maintain their own bank or building society accounts, and shall maintain close links with the Committee of the Society. Group leaders (or conveners) may be elected democratically by members of their groups. Candidates for group leaders (or conveners) must be members in good standing with a minimum of 1 year's AHSSSE membership. The society may offer assistance in the setting up of such groups and assist in making contact between members. Funding to start new groups of the society *may* be available at the discretion of the Trustees and following an application submitted via the committee.
3. Membership of the AHSSSE is open to all those in sympathy with its aims and objectives. All subscribing members must abide by the rules of society and support its aims and objectives. An official complaints procedure exists to protect members and society officers and agreement to abide by this procedure is a requirement of membership. Membership will cease if subscriptions are unpaid. In addition, membership may be terminated if rules are breached. Members may vote at any General Meeting of the Society. Honorary Members may be elected at any Annual General Meeting of the Society.

4. The Society may make recommendations for approval to the Trustees regarding rates of subscription and other financial matters affecting the Society. The Society must ensure that a register is kept of names and addresses of the members which will be made available to any member upon request, subject to the provisions of the Data Protection Act, 1998.
5. The Committee of the Society shall consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Society, The Honorary Secretary (who shall be the Committee secretary), Honorary Membership Secretary and at least three and not more than six members who have been elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting. Ex-officio members will include, the Hon. Treasurer of the Trust, the Director of the AHRERC and/or a member of his or her staff. The Honorary Secretary, Honorary Membership Secretary and the elected members shall be appointed, following election, at an Annual General Meeting for a period of three years, retiring and being eligible for re-election in annual rotation. The Chair, shall be nominated by the Society and appointed by the Trustees, for a period of three years, then retiring, but eligible for re-appointment.

The Chair and Honorary Secretary shall be Trustees *ex-officio*. The Committee shall be empowered to co-opt additional members as necessary for specific meetings or periods, to appoint sub-committees, or working groups, and to delegate responsibilities as appropriate. Five members will form a quorum. In the event of a tied vote the Chair of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, an Acting Chair shall be appointed by those present at the meeting. The Committee shall meet as necessary to conduct its business, and shall be responsible for managing the affairs of the Society in such way as is most beneficial for the purposes of the Trust and Society and its Members - and shall report on its work annually to members of the Society and to the Trustees. In any dispute the decision of the Chair (and any appointed sub committee of officers) is final and binding.

6. The day to day business of the Society shall be carried out by its officers. These shall include, in addition to the Chair, the Honorary Secretary, who shall be responsible for convening the meetings of the Committee and for preparing agenda and minutes of meetings and a membership secretary who shall be responsible for maintaining membership and subscription records and filing systems, and for assisting the Hon. Treasurer of the Trust in the maintenance of accounts.
7. The Society shall comply with such financial regulations as may be issued by the Trustees. All elected officers of the Society shall be honorary appointments, though appropriate expenses may be reimbursed with the agreement of the Trustees.
8. If any local, regional or national groups of the Society depart from the aims of the Society, the Trustees may withdraw their use of the name, 'The Alister Hardy Society for the Study of Spiritual Experience'. Any remaining group funds must be returned to the Hon. Treasurer.
9. These rules may be amended by resolutions of the Society's Committee and with the approval of the Trustees and a majority of the members present at an Annual or specially convened General Meeting of the Society.

- 10.. Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given six weeks in advance of that meeting. A Special Meeting of the Society may be called by either a minimum of three Trustees, 10 Society members or by not less than 2.5 % of that membership. The minimum period of notice of a Special Meeting shall be 14 days. Nominations for the Chair, Vice-Chair, Honorary Secretary and members of the Committee shall be sent to the Hon. Secretary not less than 14 days before the Annual General Meeting.
11. Should the Society at any time be wound up, then any assets shall be vested in the Trust.

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