

**Charter of the Association for  
Practical and Professional Ethics  
adopted December 27, 1990  
revised February 28, 1998**

I. Purpose

A. The Association is committed to encouraging interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching of high quality in practical and professional ethics by educators and practitioners who appreciate the theoretical and practical impacts of their subject.

B. To advance this broad purpose the Association

1. facilitates communication and joint ventures among centers, schools, colleges and individual faculty concerned with the interdisciplinary study and teaching of practical and professional ethics
2. supports efforts of colleges and universities, centers, professional associations, and local, state and national governments that seek to foster curricular development and scholarly research on ethical issues.

II. Functions

A. The Association holds an annual conference for persons sharing the Association's commitment to interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching of ethics. The conference

1. is planned by the Association staff and the executive committee with topics to include discussion of normative issues, questions of pedagogy, and standards for professional conduct, including standards for the field of applied and professional ethics.
2. is at least two, but no more than three days in length; there is a reasonable registration fee for the conference with an appropriate reduction in fee for Association members.
3. results from a widely advertised call for papers. Submitted abstracts and/or papers will be reviewed for appropriateness of content and approved by a program committee selected by the executive secretary at the delegation of the executive committee.

B. The Association produces a series of printed bulletins, maintains a list of members with their affiliations and declared areas of expertise, facilitates electronic and other communication among members.

III. Administration

A. Both organizations and individuals in the United States and other countries are eligible to join the Association.

1. Day to day administration of the Association shall be carried out by a paid Executive Secretary accountable to the executive committee.

B. An executive committee of not more than 12 members shall have the authority to make decisions and policies of the Association subject to review by the membership at the annual meeting. The Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the Association except where otherwise specified. One half of the Executive Committee will constitute a quorum for official business.

1. Members of the Executive Committee shall be nominated by a nominating committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, and presented to the annual meeting, where additional nominations may be proposed from the floor.

2. Members shall serve terms of four years staggered so that at least one-fourth of the membership is elected at each annual meeting. In making nominations the nominating committee shall take into consideration

- (a) the importance of the interdisciplinary nature of the Association;
- (b) representation of ethics research centers involved in the Association;
- (c) representation of individual scholars in the Association; and
- (d) other pertinent concerns.

3. The founding members of the Executive Committee shall be Sissela Bok, Daniel Callahan, Deni Elliott, Robert Fullinwider, Amy Gutmann, Stephen Kalish, Michael Pritchard, Henry Shue, David H. Smith, Nicholas Steneck, Dennis Thompson and Vivian Weil, with David H. Smith serving as chair.

IV. Amendments

Amendments to this charter shall be proposed by the Executive Committee or by vote or petition of one-quarter of the membership. A vote of two-thirds of those present at a duly called annual meeting, or one half of the membership by mail ballot, shall be necessary for approval of the Amendment.