

Constitution of Ball State University Society for Earth-based Religions

Article I: Name

Section 1:

The name of this organization shall be Ball State University Society for Earth-based Religions

Section 2:

In any official or unofficial documents, the organization may be referred to as Society for Earth-based Religions, SER, or BSU SER.

Article II: Purpose

BSU SER exists to:

1. Provide a non-threatening, supportive environment for practitioners of earth-based religions, pagans, and others of like mind to exchange ideas, practices, and beliefs.
2. Promote understanding, acceptance and tolerance of and between all spiritual paths.
3. Provide education for the Ball State University community concerning all matters regarding practitioners of earth-based religions, pagans, and those that hold similar spiritual beliefs.
4. Provide information about earth-based religion and pagan activities and events to members as well as the community in general.
5. Establish ties with other earth-based religious and friendly groups.
6. Find other students of like mind.
7. Provide support for individuals who are victims of religious intolerance.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Non-Discrimination Clause

BSU SER will not base membership on or deny membership to anyone for reasons of race, sex, religion, color, national origin, sexual orientation, physical or mental handicap, age, political affiliation, socioeconomic status, or status as a military veteran.

Section 2: Membership Eligibility

Membership is limited to BSU students, faculty, and staff members.

Section 3: Dues

Members are required to pay yearly dues, if any are applicable, at the time that they seek membership.

Section 4:

Members should be objective and have a sincere interest in earth-based religions, paganism, or similar paths.

Section 5:

Membership is granted to eligible persons that apply for membership.

Section 6:

- a) Members must attend at least one-third of all meetings in a semester, or expire from membership. Dues, if applicable, will not be refunded to such individuals.
- b) Members will be moved to inactive status upon missing four consecutive meetings. Inactive members may not vote except in elections.
- c) Inactive members will be restored to active status upon attending two consecutive meetings.
- d) Individual exceptions may be granted by the President to members who are studying abroad or otherwise may not attend in connection with Ball State.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1: Responsibilities of the President (Chieftain)

1. Preside at all general meetings, events, activities, and executive council meetings.
2. Act as the official contact for SER.
3. Appoint needed committees or temporary officers.
4. Plan general meetings.

Section 2: Responsibilities of the Vice President (Seer)

1. Assist president.
2. Preside in the case of Presidential absence.
3. Organize all advertising and outreach.
4. Help plan general meetings.

Section 3: Responsibilities of the Secretary (Scribe)

1. Maintain records of all meetings, events, and activities within the SER Archives.
2. Write and distribute a weekly newsletter listing past and upcoming events.
3. Maintain a membership list, including moving members to inactive status.
4. Help plan general meetings.

Section 4: Responsibilities of the Treasurer (Steward)

1. Receive and handle all incoming and outgoing funds.
2. Provide the membership with a record of all monetary transactions at regular intervals.
3. Organize fund-raising events.
4. Inform Scribe of dues paid by members.
5. Help plan general meetings

Section 5: Responsibilities of the Member's Advocate (Guardian)

1. Maintain order at meetings.
2. Hear concerns from members who wish to remain anonymous and relay them to the proper officer.
3. Ensure a private meeting space.
4. Help plan general meetings

Section 6: Responsibilities of all Officers

1. Work together with members to establish acceptable general meeting times.
2. Attend all general meetings with the exception of 3 excused absences.
3. Establish regular executive board meeting times no more than 2 weeks apart.
4. Attend all executive board meetings with the exception of 2 excused absences.
5. Establish amount or existence of dues.

Article V: Executive Council

Section 1: Council Membership

The Executive Council shall consist of the following elected officers:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Secretary
4. Treasurer
5. Member's Advocate

Section 2: Elections & Terms of Office

The term of office for all Executives shall be for one year, from the beginning of the Summer semester until the end of the following Spring semester.

Nominations for all executive positions shall be held at the third to last meeting of the spring semester. All nominees shall be required to present a platform to the assembled members for each position they run for at the following meeting. Election shall require a majority vote among all members present.

In the event of a tie, each nominee shall present a summary of their platform, followed by a re-vote. If they remain tied, the current Executive Counsel will confer and vote to break the tie.

Section 4: Vacant Executive Positions

Vacant executive council positions will result in nomination and election of a member to fill that position. If no member is nominated to the position, the current officers will equally divide the responsibilities of that position between them.

Section 5: Removal of Officers

Officers may be removed from office for insufficient or improper fulfillment of official duties, as well as excessive absences. Removal shall require a motion with specific accusations of offenses during a general meeting, with the option of defense of such accusations at the next general meeting. Such motion must be made at least one week prior to voting, and be passed by a majority vote of an official quorum present at the time of voting. The method of voting for all motions of officer removal shall be by secret ballot.

Article VI: Meetings

Meeting time, duration, frequency, and day should be established by executive board members after careful consideration of input provided by members. If no majority vote can be reached, the Executive Counsel shall weigh the choices of meeting times as determined by what is best for majority of the members.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the BSU SER in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution.

Article VIII: Amendments

Amending the constitution of BSU SER shall require:

1. Motion during general meeting time to amend the current constitution.
2. Notification of motion to amend and provision of proposed amendment text to all members at least one week before voting.
3. An affirmative vote from two-thirds of all current members. Persons whose membership falls under Article III section 6b must submit a vote by e-mail from a Ball State Account to SER@bsu.edu no later than one hour before the scheduled meeting for it to be counted.
4. Insertion/deletion of proposed text and parenthetical documentation of voting date, if the amendment is adopted.

Article IX: Finances

Section 1:

The necessity and amount of dues will be decided by the executive board and ratified by a simple majority of members present at the first normal business meeting of each year. If applicable, dues will be collected annually from all members.

The collection of dues shall be handled by the Treasurer and the recording of such payments shall be made by the current Secretary.

Section 2:

All spending of club monies shall require a majority vote of an official quorum present at a general meeting. The Treasurer shall distribute an itemized budget of all monies to be spent at least one week prior to voting.

BSU SER Bylaws

Article I: Member/Attendee Behavior

Attendees will hereby be defined as any individual willingly involved in any BSU SER activity, meeting, or event.

All members and attendees shall respect the right to anonymity of all members and attendees of events or meetings. No member or attendee shall divulge name or contact information of anyone affiliated with the group without express permission from that person. However, sharing of group information, such as official email address and meeting/event times/locations, is allowed and encouraged.

All members and attendees shall behave in a respectful, peaceful manner at all events and meetings. Speech and actions at meetings should never be used to willfully do harm to any individual or group, present or absent. Using SER to evangelize pagan or other views, religious or non-, is inappropriate.

Any person accused of being in violation of these rules will be evaluated by the Executive Council. If that person is found to be in violation of these rules, any Officer may submit a motion to suspend or ban him/her from future meetings, with specific accusations of offenses, with the option of defense of such accusations at the next general meeting. Such motion must be made at least one week prior to voting, and be passed by a majority vote of an official quorum. The method of voting for all motions of suspension or banning shall be by secret ballot. Dues, if applicable, will not be refunded to any individuals removed in this fashion.

Article II: Quorum

Issues given to members to vote upon, except constitutional amendment, shall require the presence, within a general group meeting, of at least one-third of the total current members to hold any executive power. This group of present members must reach a majority vote on the given issue or the issue goes to the faculty advisor to decide. If one-third of the membership is not available for voting, the issue must be postponed until a later time.

Article III: Amendment

Amending the bylaws of BSU SER shall require:

1. Movement during general meeting time to amend the current constitution.
2. Notification of all members of movement to amend at least one week before voting.
3. Provision of proposed amendment text to all members at least one week before voting.
4. A majority vote by an official quorum present at the time of voting. Persons whose membership falls under Article III Section 6b must submit a vote by e-mail from a Ball State Account to SER@bsu.edu no later than one hour before the scheduled meeting for it to be counted.
5. Insertion/deletion of proposed text and parenthetical documentation of voting date, if the amendment is adopted.