

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE
MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE**

NATURE AND PURPOSE

The Minnesota Center for Philosophy of Science (hereafter MCPS) is an independent research unit of the College of Liberal Arts of the University of Minnesota. It has a Director, Administrator, Executive Committee, Governing Board, Fellows, and Affiliates. MCPS publishes *Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science* (hereafter *Minnesota Studies*) and includes a suite of offices and a library in Heller Hall on the West Bank campus. MCPS was founded in 1953 by Herbert Feigl.

The mission of MCPS is to promote excellence in research and training in philosophy of science, related empirical studies of science, and science itself. Its primary objectives are: (1) to maintain Minnesota's preeminence in the philosophy of science and use this standing to lead philosophy of science in new directions, as well as have an impact on the direction of science itself by influencing scientists' reflective understanding of scientific inquiry and knowledge; (2) to nurture a multiplicity of intellectual groups that transcend the boundaries between philosophy and the sciences, and to use these groups to advance research, graduate training, and undergraduate education at the University of Minnesota; and (3) to conduct local and international research projects, the most important results of which are published in journals and anthologies, including *Minnesota Studies*.

INTELLECTUAL ACTIVITIES

Research Groups. MCPS promotes excellence in research and training by hosting several research groups, such as the Biological Interest Group, the Early Modern Interest Group, the Foundations Interest Group, and the Physics Interest Group. These groups are open to interested faculty, postdoctoral fellows and graduate students at the University of Minnesota, as well as faculty from area colleges and universities. Undergraduates may participate by invitation. The activities of these groups feeds into other activities such as MCPS colloquia, workshops, and visiting scholar and graduate student programs. Interests groups are inherently multidisciplinary and include participants from a variety of departmental and collegiate units.

Colloquia. Talks are organized and funded by MCPS at its convenience, and as funding permits, to advance research and training at the University of Minnesota, to draw the attention of prominent outside scholars and scientists to important research being done at the University of Minnesota, and to bring scholars, scientists, and students together from throughout the University of Minnesota, as well as area colleges and universities.

Workshops. MCPS brings together leading researchers, advanced graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows from around the world to conduct collaborative research projects. These projects are typically facilitated through the organization of one or more

workshops. Since these workshops are organized as intensive research sessions, attendance can be restricted to those who are invited to collaborate on a particular research project.

Visiting Scholar and Visiting Graduate Student Program. MCPS hosts visiting scholars, scientists, postgraduate fellows, and graduate students to visit the University of Minnesota for different periods of time (as set out in the section on constituents).

Minnesota Studies in the Philosophy of Science (*Minnesota Studies*) is the official publication series of MCPS: it contains research conducted and supported by MCPS, and is edited by its Fellows and invited guest editors for the University of Minnesota Press. It is administered by an Editorial Committee of Fellows consisting of the Director and the editors of any volumes projected or in preparation, as well as an Editorial Board composed of scholars and scientists at the University of Minnesota and other institutions. The University of Minnesota Press contract for a particular volume is signed by the Director and the editor(s) of the volume, and requires prior approval by the Editorial Board. Royalties from sales of the series are the property of MCPS and are deposited in an MCPS fund.

CONSTITUENTS

There are five categories of persons attached to MCPS: Resident Fellows, Postdoctoral Fellows, Graduate Student Fellows, Affiliates, and Members Emeriti. In addition, MCPS appoints Visiting Fellows, Visiting Postdoctoral Fellows, Visiting Graduate Student Fellows, and Honorary Undergraduate Fellows.

Resident Fellows must hold relevant PhDs and regularly participate in the activities of MCPS by contributing to at least one research group, attending talks and other MCPS events, and possibly organizing and collaborating in workshops. Resident Fellows are elected by the Executive Committee for terms of five years. Terms may be renewed.

Postdoctoral Fellows are recent PhDs and regularly participate in the activities of the MCPS by contributing to at least one research group, attending talks and other MCPS events. They normally reside at MCPS for periods ranging from one to three years. Nominations for Postdoctoral Fellows can be made by Resident Fellows. Postdoctoral Fellows are appointed by the Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for terms of one to three years. Terms may be renewed, but cannot add up to more than three years.

Graduate Student Fellows are students currently enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Minnesota and regularly participate in at least one research group and attend talks and other MCPS events. Nominations for Graduate Student Fellows can be made by Resident Fellows. Graduate Student Fellows are elected by the Executive Committee for terms of up to one year. Terms may be renewed.

Affiliates are normally faculty at the University of Minnesota and area colleges and universities who attend MCPS activities and support its mission. Nominations for

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Affiliates can be made by Resident Fellows. Affiliates are elected by the Executive Committee for terms of up to five years. Terms may be renewed.

Members Emeriti include former MCPS members and Governing Board members who have formally retired from the University of Minnesota. They are entitled to participate in the activities of MCPS by contributing to research groups, workshops, institutes, and conferences, and in other ways by invitation.

Visiting Fellows are normally faculty from other institutions who hold a relevant PhD and reside at MCPS for periods ranging from one month to one year. Visiting Fellows regularly participate in at least one research group and attend talks and other MCPS events. Visiting Fellows are appointed by the Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for terms of up to one year. Terms may be renewed.

Visiting Postdoctoral Fellows are trainees currently holding postdoctoral fellowships, but not at the University of Minnesota. They normally reside at MCPS for periods ranging from one month to one year. Visiting Postdoctoral Fellows regularly participate in at least one research group and attend talks and other MCPS events. Visiting Postdoctoral Fellows are appointed by the Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for terms of up to one year. Terms may be renewed.

Visiting Student Fellows are students currently enrolled in a graduate program not at the University of Minnesota and normally reside at MCPS for periods ranging from one month to one year. Visiting Student Fellows regularly participate in at least one research group and attend talks and other MCPS events. Visiting Student Fellows are appointed by the Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, for terms of up to one year. Terms may be renewed.

(Honorary) Undergraduate Fellows are undergraduates who have been invited to attend a research group and attended regularly for at least one semester. Undergraduate Fellows are nominated by Resident Fellows and the honor is bestowed by the Director in consultation with the Executive Committee.

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

Director. The Director is the chief administrative and budget officer, whose duty is to insure that MCPS carries out its activities in a manner consistent with its Mission. To this end the Director schedules and chairs meetings of the Executive Committee and Governing Board, supervises the MCPS office and Administrator, solicits and disburses funds, and carries out duties associated with selecting, electing, appointing, and hosting Fellows. Nomination is normally made by members of the Governing Board. The Director is nominated and elected by the Governing Board for a term of five years. Terms are renewable. If the Director is temporarily disabled or goes on leave, an Acting Director is nominated by the Executive Committee and elected by the Governing Board to serve during the period of absence.

Executive Committee. The Executive Committee is composed of the Director and two to four Resident Fellows actively involved in MCPS Programs. The Executive Committee actively works with the Director to help MCPS carry out its activities in a manner consistent with its Mission. The Executive Committee normally meets once per month throughout the academic year and committee members take on significant tasks such as running the speaker program, soliciting funds, and hosting Visiting Fellows. The Executive Committee also carries out special duties associated with selecting, electing, and appointing Fellows, as set out in the Constitution. Members of the Executive Committee are nominated by the Director and elected by the Governing Board for terms of two years. Terms are renewable.

Governing Board. The Board is composed of eight to twelve current faculty members of the University of Minnesota and are normally Resident Fellows. The Board governs MCPS; it reviews the activities and practices of MCPS to insure that it carries out its Mission. This includes but is not limited to: (a) participating in the evaluation of MCPS activities and voting on proposals at business meetings, (b) providing consultation and assistance to the Director, (c) voting on proposed changes to the MCPS constitution, and (d) electing its Director, Executive Committee, and Governing Board members. The Board normally meets once per year. Members of the Board are nominated by members of the Executive Committee or Governing Board and elected by the Governing Board for terms of up to five years. Terms are renewable.

Board Meetings. MCPS Board Meetings—including those regarding policies, plans, appointments, elections, activities, programs, and solicitation and use of funds—are normally held in real time. An agenda is announced to the relevant portion of the constituency at least one week in advance of the meetings. Changes in the Constitution require a two-thirds majority of the Governing Board and elections require a two-thirds majority of the Executive Committee or Governing Board; all other actions require a simple majority. Elections may be held electronically. Absent members are polled if necessary to obtain a majority. Written minutes of each meeting are kept and distributed as appropriate. Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be circulated at least one month prior to the meeting in which they are to be considered.