PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY BYLAWS

ARTICLE I — NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 — Name: The name of the organization shall be The Philosophical Society. It shall be a society incorporated under the standards of Brigham Young University-Idaho.

Section 2 — Purpose: The purpose of this Society is:

• To increase the skills and abilities of students interested in philosophy by practicing and exercising critical and philosophical thinking, and by informing and introducing those new to the study of philosophy to the methods of philosophy as an academic and personal discipline.

• To provide an avenue of learning for faculty and the University at large, and to encourage interdisciplinary dialogue on relevant philosophical topics so as to create a University-wide forum.

• To promote discourse with other institutions of higher learning by promoting debate and an exchange of ideas with professors and students of other Universities.

• To provide a safe, wholesome atmosphere for individuals to discuss philosophical topics with students of common interests, and form friendships based on the love and pursuit of wisdom.

• To promote a spirit of intellectual modesty, humility, gratitude, obedience, and frugality among society members.

ARTICLE II — MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 — Eligibility for membership: All students enrolled at Brigham Young University-Idaho are eligible for membership.

Section 2 — Assumption of membership: Those eligible for membership may assume membership by signing into the roll at any society meeting.

Section 3 — Rights of members: Each member shall be eligible to cast his or her vote in society elections, and to hold offices in the Society Council.

Section 4 — Resignation and termination: Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the secretary. There is no formal termination of membership. However, a society member who is actively promoting a spirit of intellectual arrogance, a lack of appreciation, and a spirit of entitlement among members, or who is repeatedly abusive toward other members, may be informally asked not to attend society meetings.

ARTICLE III — MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section 1 — Regular meetings: Regular meetings of the members shall be held weekly during the semester, at a time and place designated by the President of the Society.

Section 2 — Election meetings: An election shall take place in the last month of each semester; the specific date, time and location of which will be designated by the President. At the election meeting, the members shall elect directors and officers of lower offices, receive reports on the activities of the
society, and determine the direction of the society for the coming semester. Officers will be elected by a simple majority vote of members present at the meeting.

Section 3 — Special meetings: Special meetings may be called by the President, the Vice President, the Advisor, or by a majority of the members of the society.

Section 4 — Notice of meetings: Members will be notified of upcoming meetings via email, Facebook page and announcements at society meetings.

Section 5 — Voting: All issues to be voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of members present at the semester meeting.

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS

Section 1 — Terms: All officers shall serve one semester in their current office, and are not eligible for re-election to the same office.

Section 2 — Presidency

Section 2.1 — Role and Size: The presidency is responsible for overall policy and direction of the society, and delegates responsibility of specific operations to members of the Society Council elected by popular vote. The Presidency shall have 2 members; The President and Vice President.

Section 2.2 — Meetings and notice: The Presidency shall meet with the Society Council weekly, and as needed, at an agreed upon time and place, to discuss the operations of the Society.

Section 2.3 — Elections and Procedures: The presidency operates by rotating positions, which will take place at the end of each semester. The rotation will proceed as follows: Existing Vice President to become President. Professors teaching courses in the philosophy discipline shall be responsible for nominating at least 3 new candidates for the Vice-President position. The new Vice-President will then be appointed by the current Presidency.

Section 2.4 — Responsibilities: The president is primarily responsible for the overall planning and function of the society. All officers of the presidency have day-to-day responsibilities for the organization, including carrying out the society’s goals and policies. The President and Vice President will attend all society meetings, report on the progress of the organization, answer questions of the society members and carry out the duties required.

Section 2.4.1 — Duties of the President:

• Direct the operations of the Society Council.
• Work in consultation with the Society Council to plan and organize topics for Symposia and the Agora for the following semester.
• Supervise arrangements for professors to speak at the Symposia and the Agora for the following semester.
• Lead and conduct Society meetings.
• Lead and conduct voting procedures.
• Hold members of the Society Council accountable for the performance of their duties.

• Work with the Vice-President to plan society socials.

Section 2.4.2 — Duties of the Vice President:

• Organize Student Skills and Workshop presenters.

• Assist the president in the planning and organization of the Symposia and Agora for the following semester.

• Schedule meetings for the following semester.

  • Work with the President to plan society socials.

Section 2.5 — Requirements for Office: Candidates for the presidency must meet all of the following requirements:

• Be enrolled as a student at BYU-Idaho.

• Be a matriculated student for each of the semesters serving in the presidency.

• Reside in Rexburg for each of the 2 semesters serving.

• Have attended at least 8 society meetings in their most recent semester in Rexburg.

• Be recommended by a faculty member who teaches a philosophy course or courses.

Section 3 — Society Council

Section 3.1— The Society Council is comprised of the following offices:

Section 3.1.1 – Secretary

• The Secretary sends out a weekly email to announce the date, time, location, and format of society meetings.

• The Secretary prepares an agenda, in consultation with the President, for each meeting of the Society Council.

• Prepare a roster of society members and keep track of attendance at weekly society meetings.

Section 3.1.2 — Treasurer

□ Secures funding from the University.

□ Records, documents and seeks reimbursement (if necessary) for all Society expenses.

Section 3.1.3 — Director of Advertising

• Responsible for all advertising, including, but not limited to: Bulletin Board, Facebook page, Language of Letters weekly email, Get Connected booths and screen advertisement.
Section 3.1.4 — Director of the Symposium

- Collaborates with the President and/or Vice President in planning the Symposium.
- Invites and corresponds with the professors to be presenting.

Section 3.1.5 — Director of the Agora

- Collaborates with the President and/or Vice President in planning the Agora.
- Invites and corresponds with the professors to be presenting.

Section 3.1.6 — Special Projects Manager

- The Special Projects Manager is not elected in the election meetings, but is to be appointed by Presidency and ratified by the majority vote of society members present in the next society meeting.
  - A Special Projects Manager is only appointed in the event that the Presidency, in consultation with the Society Council, determines to institute a special project. A special project would be any event or service of the society which does not fit into the regular meetings and services as required by the bylaws of the society.

Section 4 — Election: Members shall be elected to the Society Council by a simple majority vote of members present at the election meeting. Members of the Society Council are elected for their specific positions for the upcoming semester only, but may be re-elected for other offices the following semester. Members may only serve in one office at a time.

Section 5 — Impeachment and Resignation:

Section 5.1 — Any officer, whether in the Presidency or in the Society Council, who determines that he or she will be unable to perform their duties may resign from office at any time.

Section 5.2 — The members of the Society, including, but not limited to the Presidency, reserve the right to call for an impeachment of any leader in office. If any member of the Presidency, or the Society Council fails to uphold and perform their duty, an immediate vote to withdraw may be held, after council with the Society Advisor. The individual in consideration may attend the voting and speak in their own defense. However, if the verdict is reached that an impeachment is necessary, the vote will be carried out. If the vote is in favor of the impeachment, it will take effect immediately.

Section 5.3 — In the event that a member of the Society Council resigns, or is impeached, an election is held in the next society meeting to elect a society member to that office according to a majority vote of those society members present at the meeting.

Section 5.4 — In the event that a member of the Presidency resigns, or is impeached, the current Secretary assumes the position of Vice President. If the secretary who assumes the Vice Presidency is unable to serve as President in the next semester, then he or she and the outgoing president are to appoint both a President and Vice President according to the procedure outlined in Article IV section 2.3.

ARTICLE V -- Amendments
These bylaws may be amended when necessary only with approval and assistance of the Advisor of the Society. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Presidency and Advisor.

Passed by unanimous vote of attending members at the Semester Meeting on September 16, 2015.