

8. International Society for the Study of Human Ideas on Ultimate Reality and Meaning

The Society is an international and interdisciplinary association of scholars and interested men and women who support the activities of URAM Research, publishing URAM Journal, organizing Biennial and Regional Meetings, presenting URAM Awards, editing URAM Newsletter, promoting subscriptions and financial participation in URAM Research. It was founded by Dr. Thomas L. Gilbert, Physics Department, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne, IL, 60439, USA, August 21, 1985.

Membership is open to all who support the purposes of the society and are dedicated to maintaining high scholarly standards. Participation by individuals of all beliefs, cultures, religions, and scholarly disciplines is encouraged. The basic annual membership fee of Canada \$35.00 includes subscription to the journal. A reduced fee of \$10 Canadian is applicable to those who would otherwise be unable to join. It is offset by voluntary contributions from other members.

The yearly subscription to URAM journal is a membership fee. Failing subscribing carries with it the suspension of membership. Membership can be renewed by renewing subscription.

The activities of the Society include promoting publication of the journal and URAM Newsletter, keeping the international and interdisciplinary nature of the Research as well as the planning and preparing an Encyclopedia of Human Ideas on Ultimate Reality and Meaning. Further activity will be promoting reflective, analytic, structural, and systematic research on concepts of ultimate reality and meaning based on the articles already published in the journal. Finally, if the Association of Concern for Ultimate Reality and Meaning fails to provide an editor, and becomes incapacitated to support URAM journal, the International Society has the right to keep URAM Research alive, inheriting the obligations and rights proper to the Association.

Organizations

The Society is organized into four research divisions--Humanities and the Arts, Philosophy, Religion, and Science--in order to encourage and coordinate activities in different disciplines and fields of scholarship. A member of the Society may join one or more research divisions or remain a member-at-large.

The Society is structured separately into regional divisions in order to facilitate personal contacts and collaboration at regional meetings. The organization into regions is determined by the number and distribution of members and may change with time. The initial regional structure is Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania, Central and South America, Europe and North America. Members are encouraged to join a regional division, or to organize new regional divisions that encompass smaller areas, but may remain members-at-large.

The governing council of the Society consists of elected officers (president, vice-president, treasurer and nominating committee chairman), the most recent past-president, elected councilors (one from each research, support, and regional division, and three councilors-at-large), and officers appointed by the president with concurrence by elected members of the governing council. Election is secret, held during the biennial meeting. Simple majority is sufficient for any office.

Each division has divisional officers and a divisional council elected by members of the division.

The president of each division serves as a councilor on the governing council.

Biennial meetings of the Society are held in August of odd numbered years in Toronto, Canada, to provide an opportunity for members from all parts of the world to meet together and exchange ideas. These meetings consist of symposia, research sessions, and business meetings of the Society and the election of the essential officers.

Essential officers are indispensable for administrating the Society. Research (Humanities, Philosophy, Religion and Science) and Regional Councilors (Africa, Asia, Australia and Oceania, Central and South America, Europe and North America) are dependent on the available number membership pool.

Essential Officers are four: President, Vice-president who is also President Elect for the coming term, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer.

Symposia are organized to present topics of general interest to all members and encourage discussion and exchange of ideas between different disciplines. Research sessions are for presentation of papers that explore specific topics in greater depth and are intended for publication in the URAM journal. The affairs of the society are reviewed, and newly elected officers are installed at the business meetings.

Regional meetings are organized by the division in order to supplement the biennial meeting and enable participation and exchanges of ideas without traveling long distances.

Membership applications and additional information may be obtained from the president of the Society.

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(or the Editor of the URAM Journal, Prof. David J. Leigh, English Dept., Seattle University, 901 12th Ave., Seattle, WA USA. Email: dleigh@seattleu.edu)

The Presidents of the International Society since its foundation were the following

1985-1987	Tibor Horvath
1987-1989	Stanley Grean
1989-1991	Raymond Macken
1991-1993	David Leigh
1993-1995	Peter Morgan
1995-1997	Anthony J. Blasi
1997-1999	Thomas Krettek
1999-2001	Alan R. Utke
2001-2003	Louise Sandarari
2003-2005	Stephen Modell
2005-2007	Ronald Glasberg
2007-2009	Fred Wilson
2009-2011	Lisa O'Neill
2011-2013	Russell Sawa
2013-2015	Peter B. Ely

