

GOOD PRACTICE: LEARNED SOCIETIES¹

As national bodies with some influence, especially when it comes to philosophy conferences and journals, learned societies are well placed to make a concrete difference to the representation of under-represented groups in philosophy. We suggest that learned societies adopt the following policy.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Learned societies should ensure that a reasonable proportion of people from under-represented groups are nominated for positions on their executive committees and for official positions (President, Secretary, etc.).

CONFERENCES

1. Where learned societies organize their own conferences and seminar series, they should follow the relevant Good Practice recommendations on Conferences and Events (see above).
2. Where learned societies distribute funding to others to organize conferences and seminar series, they should make it a requirement of funding that the conference organizers should follow the relevant Good Practice recommendations on Conferences and Events (see above).
3. Learned societies should consider adopting a formal policy on chairing seminars/conference sessions for their own events and/or for those that they fund. See again the Good Practice recommendations on Conferences and Events, for some specific proposals you might consider implementing.
4. Learned societies should monitor the proportion of people from under represented groups speaking at conferences and seminar series that they fund. Where a conference or seminar series manifests an obvious imbalance, the learned society should make enquiries about the steps taken to promote representation, in order to satisfy themselves that appropriate steps were taken by the organizers.

¹ This section has been taken from the BPA Good Practice Scheme on Learned Societies available at: <https://bpa.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Learned-societies.pdf>