

**BYLAWS
of the
CENTER FOR COMMUNAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN INDIANA
including
PREAMBLE, MISSION STATEMENT, AND VISION STATEMENT**

PREAMBLE

(Memorandum Authorizing the Creation of the Center for Communal Studies)

Indiana State University – Evansville

Inter-Departmental Memorandum

Date: July 26, 1976

To: Donald E. Pitzer, Professor of History

From: Robert L. Reid, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Subject: Center for Communal Studies

Your proposal to establish a Center for Communal Studies at ISUE has been approved by the Administrative Council and President Rice. It will be reported to the Board of Trustees at its next meeting. As indicated in your request, the Center will be an agency of the Division of Social Science and operate in conjunction with the ISUE Regional Archives.

Dr. Miller, Chairman of the Division of Social Science, has designated you as Director of the Center and authorized you to proceed with the selection of a University-wide Executive Committee and a nation-wide Board of Advisors for its administration. Secretarial and other services in support of the Center and its activities will be provided through the Division beginning with the fiscal year, July 1, 1976.

In part, the creation of the center is to satisfy the November 1975, request of the National Historic Communal Societies Association that ISUE provide it with an administrative base. Therefore, we look forward to the relationship which the Center will have with that organization. In this regard, the Center will be expected to co-sponsor the annual Historic Communal Societies Conference and operate as a clearinghouse and repository for information, research, archival materials, and publications regarding past and present communal societies. In addition to buttressing your own communal societies course (History 319), we hope that the Center will eventually be able to hold seminars and institutes and conduct tours to historic and living communes in the United States and abroad. We encourage you to cooperate with other centers and repositories to promote the study and preservation of communal societies.

If I can be of further assistance, please feel free to call me.

Signed: Robert L. Reid

Cc: President David Rice, Daniel Miller, Josephine Elliott

MISSION STATEMENT

The Center for Communal Studies encourages and facilitates scholarship and public understanding of communal groups, intentional communities, and utopias past and present, here and abroad.

VISION STATEMENT

To cultivate an understanding of the communal, utopian impulse and its potential to enrich the human experience.

BYLAWS

University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies
Approved by the Center Board of Advisors on October 9, 2015
to supersede all previous bylaws and revisions

ARTICLE I: IDENTIFICATION

Section 1 – Name

The name of the Center shall be the University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies (USI-CCS).

Section 2 – History and Purpose

The Center for Communal Studies (CCS) was founded by Donald Pitzer in 1976 at Indiana State University-Evansville—now the University of Southern Indiana (USI)—to operate as a clearinghouse for information and a repository for research materials to advance scholarship of communal groups past and present. The Center organizes conferences in conjunction with the Communal Studies Association (formerly National Historic Communal Societies Association); collects writings, histories, and primary source materials for preservation; encourages and facilitates scholarship, meetings, historic preservation, and public understanding of historic and contemporary intentional communities. The Center’s research capabilities are enhanced by its special relationship with the Communal Studies Collection in the USI Special Collections Department of the David L. Rice Library and with Historic New Harmony, which is an outreach program of USI in the Harmonist and Owenite village of New Harmony, Indiana. The Center has an abundance of programming resources from its contacts with historic communal sites, contemporary communities, and organizations that study utopian groups, including the Communal Studies Association, International Communal Studies Association, Fellowship for Intentional Community, Society for Utopian Studies, and others. The Center’s website serves scholars, students, and the interested public. The Center annually awards prizes for the best undergraduate and graduate student papers on historic or contemporary communal groups, intentional communities, and utopias. The Center annually awards a research travel grant to fund research in the Communal Studies Collection at USI’s David L. Rice Library and at the Center.

ARTICLE II: DIRECTOR, BOARD OF ADVISORS, MEETINGS, AND VOTING

Section 1 – Director and Board of Advisors

Director: The Director is appointed by the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts from the Liberal Arts faculty. Faculty interested in the directorship apply to the Board of Advisors who shall forward the recommendation to the dean. The Director of the Center for Communal Studies is the permanent Chair of the Board. The Director issues an annual report by the end of the spring semester and fulfills the purposes identified in Article 1, Section 2.

Board of Advisors: The Board is an advisory body. Board membership shall be determined by invitation of the current Board and is immediately effective. Vacancies and new positions on the Board are filled by invitation and approved by a majority of the Board. The Board consists of no less than eight (8) members, and no upper limit of members. Board members serve renewable, staggered, four-year terms.

Permanent Members of the Board: The Center Director, the David L. Rice Library Archives Librarian, and a representative from Historic New Harmony are Permanent Members of the Board.

Ex-Officio Members of the Board: The Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, the Director of the David L. Rice Library, and the Chair of the History Department are Ex-officio Members of the Board.

Section 2 – Voting

Board Members shall have the right to one vote on each issue. The Roster of Permanent, Elected, and Ex-officio Board Members shall serve as the voting list for the Board. The Roster of Permanent, Elected, and Ex-officio Board Members will be kept in the office of the USI Center for Communal Studies and updated after each Board meeting by the Center's staff.

Section 3 – Quorum

A majority of Board Members participating at any meeting of the Board in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of affairs.

Section 4 – Meetings and Minutes

Board meetings normally are held twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring, to conduct the Board's affairs. The Director chairs meetings and the Administrative Assistant takes minutes. Any special meetings are called by the Director or two (2) other Board Members with ten (10) days' notice. The Director reviews the minutes, which are approved at the next meeting of the Board. The meetings are conducted using *Robert's Rules of Order* in its most recent edition.

ARTICLE III: GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1 – Waiver of Notice

Should any provisions or portions of these Bylaws be held unenforceable or invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions of these Bylaws shall be unaffected by such holdings.

Section 2 – Adoption of Bylaws

These Bylaws are effective upon their approval by a majority of the Board voting at an official board meeting in person or by proxy and supersede all previous bylaws and revisions.

Section 3 – Amendment of These Bylaws

Amendment of these Bylaws is possible only by a majority vote of the Board in a meeting with a quorum present in person or by proxy, and only provided notice of the specific amendment proposal has been presented to each Board Member no less than thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. The amendment is adopted by a majority of the Board voting at a meeting in person or by proxy.

Approved by the Board of Advisors of the Center for Communal Studies on October 9, 2015 and revised January 27, 2022