

Professional  
Development  
Committee

# Society of Biblical Literature

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This document describes the role and activity of the Professional  
Development Committee.

**Handbook**

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## **Mission**

The Professional Development Committee (PDC) is concerned with career issues throughout the life cycle of the Society's members both within and beyond the classroom.

## ***Description***

With assistance and coordination from the Executive Office (EO), the PDC addresses the variety of needs that arise throughout the career life cycle of all the society's members. The committee meets in-person at the Annual Meeting and holds periodic conference calls throughout the year to conduct its business. The committee works with the EO, Council, and other committees to set policy and procedures related to the professional concerns of Society members.

## ***Responsibilities***

Responsibilities include (but are not limited to):

- Focus on all aspects of the career landscape and life cycle, including the ways in which our members' identities and personal lives intersect with their careers.
- Develop resources for members in all institutional locations.
- Educate members regarding professional issues, especially when new concerns arise (e.g., the rise of adjunct positions over tenure track, cultural taxation, retirement planning in a depressed economy).
- Liaise with various member committees (e.g., Underrepresented Racial and Ethnic Minorities in the Profession Committee, Status of Women in the Profession Committee, Student Advisory Committee, etc) on projects that cross interests.
- Advocate with other organizations on behalf of the interests and needs of members.

## **Principles**

The committee strives for diversity across the career life cycle and across the types of institutions represented by SBL members. Its members should possess administrative skills, broad perspectives on the status of the profession, and innovative and insightful ways to help move forward and assist the membership. They should also be committed to the following principles.

### *Breadth and Diversity*

Members of SBL work in a variety of capacities and settings, not just as faculty in traditional higher education institutions. They also represent a great many concerns on issues such as degree-seeking, hiring, tenure, advancement, age, gender and sexuality, access, advocacy, and more. The committee must bear this breadth and diversity in mind and balance its efforts accordingly.

### *Collaboration and Facilitation*

The committee's purview is broad, and it cannot achieve its mission alone. At its core the committee is inclined toward collaboration with other committees and members and member groups in order to facilitate the development of and access to needed resources.