

CHARTER – Rev. 11/27/00  
Rice University

SCIENTIA  
An Institute for the History of Science and Culture  
Founded by Salomon Bochner

This Institute was conceived by Salomon Bochner and Albert van Helden in 1980. This charter outlines the nature and constituency of the institute.

1. Purpose: To promote scholarship and research in the general area of history of science and culture for the benefit of the university and Houston community.
2. Membership: There will be two categories of membership in Scientia. First there will be members who will be members of the Rice faculty, or under exceptional circumstances, of the wider Rice community, and will be chosen for their distinction, their ability to transcend their specific scholarly or scientific field, and their interest in the history of science and culture interpreted in a broad sense. Second there will be fellows who will be chosen from Rice University or the wider Houston community. New members and fellows will be chosen carefully by the current members according to guidelines which will be allowed to evolve with the gradual growth of the institute. There shall be no upper limit on the number of Members and Fellows. Rather, the size of the Membership rolls should reflect the current goals and activities of Scientia. To ensure regular evaluation of the state of Scientia membership, there shall be a permanent Membership Committee with a rotating membership, whose job it shall be to recruit new members and to present candidates for membership annually in the Spring.

One of the members will be chosen to be Director, who will be responsible for implementing the policy for Scientia which will be established by the members. The members and fellows together will constitute the core of Scientia. In addition one may appoint Visiting Fellows from time to time to augment the core group.

3. Terms of Appointment: The Members will be chosen on a long range basis compatible with a given Member's appointment as a faculty member at Rice. The Fellows will have term appointments, and policy for this will be formulated with the evolution of Scientia. The Director will be appointed by the Provost with the advice and recommendation of the Members.
4. University Facilities and Funding: Scientia will be provided with funding as available, office and library facilities, and other support from the University in accordance with the activities of the institute as is determined in an annual review with the Provost's office. The Director of Scientia will be responsible for providing a recommended budget to the Provost each year and will be responsible for expenditure of funds and for the maintenance of the research and lecture program of the institute.
5. Activities:

1. Scientia will sponsor the Bochner Lectures which will be given once or twice a year by a distinguished scholar who will give a university-wide lecture on a subject relating to the general purpose of Scientia and this can be interpreted quite broadly.
2. Scientia will sponsor, on a regular basis during the academic year Scientia Colloquia to be held by members and fellows of Scientia as well as visiting scholars and scientists from other institutions. These lectures will pertain to the general purpose of the institute and will be open to the university public.
3. There will be formal and informal meetings of the members and fellows for the purpose of exchanging views on topics of current interest. This is the type of meeting initiated by Salomon Bochner in the first meetings of Scientia.
4. The members of Scientia will meet from time to time to formulate policy for the institute, which policy will be carried out by the director with the help of members or committees of members which will be appointed for specific purposes.
5. Scientia will seek funding and will organize conferences relating to the general program of the institute and for the advancement of knowledge at Rice.
6. Scientia will sponsor a publishing program to be carried out in conjunction with established publishers for the purpose of disseminating information relating to the lectures and conferences sponsored by the institutes.
7. Scientia will interact with the research and teaching in the university on a basis of mutual interest. There will be no course of instruction or major at either the undergraduate or graduate level as a formal part of Scientia.