

Constitution
World Education Research Association (WERA)
Accepted Revision, October 2017

PREAMBLE

The World Education Research Association (WERA) aims to advance education research as a scientific and scholarly field. WERA is committed to working together through international and reciprocal collaborations of associations to address such issues as building capacity and interest in education research, advancing education research policies and practices, and promoting the use and application of education research around the world. Fundamental to WERA as a community of non-profit, education research associations is to share skills, strengths, and sensitivities and build upon the diversity of traditions, languages, and critiques to transcend what any one association can accomplish in its own country, region, or area of specialization. WERA also wants to include individual researchers and other research institutions and organizations that share these goals. WERA operates with this criterion in setting priorities and taking on projects, programs, or other activities. WERA is situated to promote and stimulate such a world-wide perspective and is committed to doing so to promote excellence and inclusiveness in education research and thereby serve the public good around the world.

ARTICLE I. DEFINITION, PURPOSES, OBJECTIVES, AND LEGAL VENUE

Section 1. The World Education Research Association (WERA) is an international, non-profit, non-governmental association of associations established for scientific and scholarly purposes. WERA also includes non-profit institutions and individuals similarly dedicated to scientific and scholarly pursuits.

Section 2. The purposes of the World Education Research Association are world-wide in scope and grounded in comparative and international scholarly aspirations. They are:

1. to advance education research as a field of scholarly inquiry worldwide,
2. to build and expand capacity to undertake education research on a global scale,
3. to facilitate international exchange and co-operation in education research,
4. to communicate and disseminate education research across countries, regions, and diverse scholarly communities,
5. to advance research policies and practices of international scope and relevance,
6. to promote open inquiry in the pursuit of education research worldwide,
7. to raise awareness of the conditions that foster or constrain education research around the world, and
8. to foster the use and understanding of education research internationally.

Section 3. The domicile of WERA is the place in which the Secretary General is based. WERA is chartered in the District of Columbia, United States of America.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP IN WERA

Section 1. WERA consists of two types of memberships: (1) Governing Association Membership, and (2) Affiliate Membership. The latter includes Association-in-Formation

Membership, Institutional Membership, and Individual Membership. Members in good standing shall have fulfilled their financial obligations to WERA.

Governing Association Membership

National/Country Education Research Associations, Regional Education Research Associations, and International Specialty Education Research Associations are eligible for Governing Association Membership.

- 1.1 National Education Research Associations are country-level associations. Admission of a country-level association to membership in WERA shall not constitute recognition of its political but only of its scientific status.
- 1.2 Regional Education Research Associations are associations that cover a geographic region. Regional associations span more than one country.
- 1.3 International Specialty Education Research Associations are international research associations that specialize in particular research topics within education research.

Affiliate Membership

Individual Membership. Individual scientists, scholars, students, and other professionals engaged in education research or committed to the production or utilization of sound knowledge related to education are eligible for individual affiliate membership.

Institutional Membership. Non-profit research centers and institutions, higher education institutions, and other research organizations that foster and support education research or are committed to the production or utilization of sound knowledge related to education are eligible for institutional affiliate membership status.

Association-in-Formation Membership. Associations-in-Formation as national, regional, or international specialty associations in education research are eligible for Affiliate membership. Associations-in-Formation members may seek Governing Association Membership status in WERA when they are formally constituted.

Section 2. Application and Approval of Membership

2.1 Applications by education research associations for Governing Association Membership in WERA may be made to the Secretary General. The application shall be considered and approved by the Executive Committee and finally approved by the WERA Council. In exceptional circumstances, Council can consider Governing Association Membership for education research associations that are not easily classified according to the categories set forth in Article 2, Section 1.

2.2 Applications for affiliate membership in WERA may be made to the Secretary General. The application shall be considered and approved by the Executive Committee.

2.3 Applications for Institutional Membership may be made by non-profit research centers and institutions, higher education institutions, and other research organizations may be made to the Secretary General. The application shall require review and approval by the WERA Council for that entity to become an institutional member.

2.4 Applications for Individual affiliate membership in WERA may be made by individuals who certify upon application to a commitment to the goals and purposes of WERA and the standards of professional conduct affirmed by WERA.

Section 3. Rights and Duties of Membership

3.1 Governing Association members shall have all of the rights and duties of membership. Governing Association members appoint representatives to WERA Council, pay a fee on a scale determined by the WERA Council, have voting rights, are eligible to advance candidates who are members of a WERA Governing Member association for elected or appointed office, and assume other such duties and responsibilities as specified by the WERA Council.

3.2 Affiliate membership members shall benefit from and contribute to the exchange of ideas and information about education research in their nation, region, or specialty field. Affiliate membership members have no voting rights and pay a fee on a scale determined by the WERA Council. As Associations-in-formation, they may observe meetings of the WERA Council.

3.3 Affiliate membership shall benefit from and contribute to participating in the exchange of ideas and information about education research and have opportunities to engage in the programmatic activities of WERA. Individual and institutional affiliate members have no voting rights and pay a fee on a scale determined by the WERA Council. Individual affiliate members can only stand as candidates for a WERA office if they are a member of a WERA Governing Association.

ARTICLE III. GOVERNANCE

WERA shall be governed by a Council and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall constitute the Officers of WERA. All officers of WERA are elected by the WERA Council.

Section 1. The Officers of WERA shall consist of the Executive Committee comprised of a President, a President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, and a Secretary General. The President-Elect shall succeed the President at the close of a Council meeting after two years.

Section 2. The President shall serve as Chair of the Council and of the Executive Committee. If the President is absent, or the Office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President. The Executive Committee is authorized to hold an election by mail (including electronic mail) to fill other vacancies on the Executive Committee and to make interim appointments until an election is conducted.

Section 3. The Secretary General shall execute the decisions of Council and the Executive Committee, serve as secretary-treasurer, and manage the administrative, financial, and programmatic operations of WERA. The Secretary General shall be responsible for administrative or secretariat functions.

Section 4. The President-elect and Vice President shall be elected for terms of two years by the WERA Council. Past Presidents are not eligible to be nominated to serve a

second term as President-elect. The Vice President may be nominated to serve a second term as Vice President. The Secretary General shall be elected to serve a term of four years and is eligible for re-election for one successive term. Except for the Secretary General, the terms of office shall be from July 1 until June 30 after two years.

Section 5. A nomination process shall be determined by the WERA Council. It shall be guided by principles of inclusiveness among its members in nominating candidates for office. Any individual who is a member of a Governing Association Member association is eligible to be nominated for office.

Section 6. Elections for Officers shall take place by the Council by March 1 in the year of an election. The Secretary General, acting on behalf of the Executive Committee, shall direct the election process beginning with a formal announcement and call for nominations at least six months prior to the election. The election shall be open and transparent and be conducted in a manner (such as electronic balloting) to be determined by the Executive Committee. In electing officers, each member of Council shall have a single transferable vote.

ARTICLE IV. COUNCIL

Section 1. The Council consists of elected officers and representatives chosen by the Governing Association Members of WERA. All members of WERA Council shall be voting members.

Section 2. Each member association in good standing shall appoint one representative to the Council and have one vote in Council deliberations and elections.

Section 3. At any meeting of Council, an alternate member may represent a member association in good standing and shall be entitled to exercise votes in Council on behalf of that association.

Section 4. The Council shall elect the Officers of WERA according to the procedures set forth in Article III, Section 5.

Section 5. Meetings of Council shall take place on a regular basis on a schedule and at a place or in a manner to be determined by Council. The Secretary General shall apprise all Council members of meetings and agendas.

Section 6. Council shall have the authority to introduce and approve initiatives, activities, and programs consonant with the purposes of WERA.

Section 7. A majority of Council members present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum. Actions of Council shall require majority approval of those present at a meeting, with the exception of amendments to the Constitution which shall require a two-thirds majority of all members of Council. Council may vote on an action by mail (including by electronic means) as long as Council members unanimously agree to do so.

ARTICLE V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers of WERA, who shall serve according to terms of office set forth in Article III, Section 3.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall fill vacancies on the Executive Committee in accordance with Article III, Section 2.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall act on behalf of the Council in between meetings of Council and make all decisions necessary for WERA's operations and the realization of its purposes. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to implement programs and policies of WERA and undertake activities consonant with the purposes of WERA. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to establish special or temporary committees, task forces, or study commissions that advance the purposes of WERA; specify the charge and purposes of such bodies; and require their reporting back to the Executive Committee or Council.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall submit an annual report to the Council, including a financial report, on WERA and shall report to Council on important new trends or developments in education research as a field. The Executive Committee shall prepare the agenda for meetings of the Council, recommend policies that require Council action, and provide guidance to Council on any changes to the fees assessed for membership.

Section 5. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall take place on a regular basis on a schedule and at a place or in a manner to be determined by the Executive Committee, including by telecommunications or electronic means. Meetings of the Executive Committee shall take place at least twice each year. The Secretary General shall apprise all Executive Committee members of meetings and agendas.

ARTICLE VI. MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Council shall establish the fee rates for membership. Between meetings, Council may alter fee rates in accordance with the procedures set forth in Article IV, Section 7. In exceptional cases, the Executive Committee may approve a temporary reduction in the fees of a member association until such time as Council reviews and establishes the fee rate. Fees may apply to governing and affiliate memberships.

ARTICLE VII. LANGUAGE

The language for administrative purposes is English.

ARTICLE VIII. AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended by a two-third vote the Governing Association Members, provided that written notice of the proposed change has been endorsed by at least half of the members of Council and the amendment has been distributed to all members at least sixty days prior to the vote.

ARTICLE IX. DISSOLUTION

In case of the dissolution of WERA voted and agreed upon by at least two thirds of the Council, the available funds shall be given by the Executive Committee to one or more scientific or scholarly institutions.

Official Establishment of WERA

The World Education Research Association (WERA) was established after ratification by 27 education research association according to the terms of governance of each of the founding associations. The founding associations are listed below along with the dates of approval.

Association

Official Approval Date

AMENDMENTS:

September, 2011

Article III, Section 4

Article III, Section 6

Article IV, Section 5

March, 2014

Preamble

Article I, Section 1

Article II, Section 1

Article II, Section 2

Article II, Section 3

Article III, Section 5

Article IV, Section 1

Article VIII

October, 2017

Article II, Section 1

Article II, Section 2

Article III, Section 3