

**BY LAWS**  
**THE LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL INTERACTION INTEREST GROUP**  
**WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**  
**(approved February, 2005)**

**ARTICLE I – PURPOSE**

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Language and Social Interaction Interest Group of the Western States Communication Association.

Section 2. The authority of this organization shall be derived from the Bylaws of the Western States Communication Association, and its powers and procedures are those prescribed therein.

Section 3. The basic purpose of the Interest Group is to promote the understanding and development of speech, language, and social interaction processes. Pursuant to that goal, the Interest Group will exercise a major role in the program planning of the annual WSCA Convention; conduct activities as determined by the membership of the Interest Group; and represent the interests of the Interest Group membership in the Legislative Council of WSCA.

**ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. Membership in this Interest Group is open to any member of the Association who is interested in promoting the Interest Group's purposes.

Section 2. The full membership of the Interest Group shall be those individuals who are members in good standing of WSCA and who indicate their wish to be affiliated with the Interest Group on their WSCA membership application or renewal, and/or so advise the Executive Secretary of the Western States Communication Association.

**ARTICLE III – MEETINGS**

An annual business meeting shall be held at the time and place of the annual convention of the WSCA.

**ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 1. The officers of the Interest Group shall be a Chair, Chair-Elect, and Secretary.

Section 2. The Chair shall serve for one year. This officer shall, in cooperation with the officers and any appropriate committees, plan the Interest Group's programs for the annual WSCA convention, and present such competitive awards as may be authorized by the Interest Group. The Chair's other responsibilities include: presiding at business meetings of the Interest Group, preparing annual reports and budget requests in such form

and manner as the WSCA Legislative Council prescribes, and serving as a representative of the Interest Group on the Legislative Council of the Association.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect will serve a one year term, then succeed to the office of Chair. This officer shall assist the Chair with coordinating the review of papers and other program submissions.

Section 4. The Secretary will serve a one year term, then succeed to the office of Chair-Elect. This officer is responsible for preparing minutes of the business meetings and assisting with coordinating the review of papers and other program submissions.

Section 5. In the event an officer is unable to fulfill her/his responsibilities for whatever reason, the remaining officers of the Interest Group shall appoint a replacement until such time as a replacement can be duly elected.

## **ARTICLE V – ELECTIONS**

Section 1. The election of Secretary, who will then succeed to the office of Chair-Elect and then to Chair, will be conducted at the Interest Group's annual meeting. Nominations may be solicited prior to the meeting, and additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Section 2. Balloting will be conducted at the annual Interest Group meeting with ballots counted by the Chair-Elect and Secretary, and results will be announced at that time.

Section 3. A majority vote of those members attending the annual Interest Group meeting at the WSCA Annual Convention shall be sufficient to elect officers for vacant positions.

## **ARTICLE VI – COMMITTEES**

Section 1. A Review Committee will be selected by the Chair to reflect the diversity of interests of Language and Social Interaction scholars.

Section 2. Special committees may be formed by the Chair, or by the majority vote of the Interest Group. Special committees shall be given specific duties, and a specific date for a final report.

## **ARTICLE VII – AWARDS**

Section 1. At the annual meeting, the Interest Group will present awards for Top Student Paper and Top Debut Paper in Language and Social Interaction, as determined by their rankings in the competitive paper submissions.

Section 2. Monetary awards for Top Student Paper and Top Debut Paper will be given. The amount of these awards will be equal, and the total monies given will be determined by money raised from donations by past Interest Group Chairs.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

All meetings of the Interest Group, its committees or other subsidiary bodies, shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current editions of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

#### **ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the officers, by a majority of the Interest Group membership at the annual Interest Group meeting, or by a petition addressed to the Chair and signed by twenty-five members of the Interest Group.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to a ballot of members present at the annual Interest Group meeting.

Section 3. These Bylaws shall become effective after ratification by a majority vote of the Interest Group members at the annual meeting.