

**BYLAWS OF THE RHETORIC, CULTURE, AND ADVOCACY INTEREST
GROUP WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**

Approved February 23, 2019

ARTICLE I—PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy 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 Rhetoric, Culture, and Advocacy Interest Group is to advance the understanding of communication issues regarding rhetorical theory, rhetorical criticism, and rhetorical praxis. 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 convention of the WSCA.

ARTICLE IV—OFFICERS/ELECTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Section 1. The officers of the Division shall be a Chair, Vice-Chair, Immediate Past Chair, and Secretary.

Section 2. Elected Committee members shall be two At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee.

Section 2. Upon election by the Interest Group at its annual meeting, the Vice-

Chair will serve a one-year term beginning at the WSCA convention the following year. The next year, the Vice-Chair will succeed to the office of Chair. The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for representing the Interest Group at the Legislative Assembly, for planning and conducting the next annual business meeting, and attending convention-planning meetings during the convention in the subsequent year (upon his/her ascension to Chair).

Section 3. The Vice-Chair shall become Chair at the beginning of the business meeting in the year that follows his/her year as Vice-Chair. The Chair shall serve for one year. This officer shall promote the submission of program ideas and/or competitive papers to the Interest Group, coordinate the review process for competitive papers and panels, plan the Interest Group's program for the next annual WSCA convention, and ensure that the work of the Interest Group (including preparing annual reports and budget requests) is completed. The Chair shall also serve as a representative of the Interest Group on the WSCA Legislative Assembly.

Section 4. The out-going Chair shall be responsible for presenting such competitive awards as may be authorized by the Interest Group at the annual meeting.

Section 5. The Secretary shall serve a two-year term, which will begin at the beginning of the business meeting in the year following his/her election. The Secretary is responsible for preparing and distributing minutes of the business meetings and submitting a copy of the minutes to the Executive Director no later than one month after the meeting. The secretary will keep all correspondence in a binder to be passed on to the new secretary.

Section 6. At-Large Members of the Nominating Committee will serve a one-year term that ends at the WSCA annual conference the year following their election. Members of the nominating committee are charged with soliciting and presenting a diverse slate of candidates for election to vacant officer positions at the Interest Group annual business meeting

Section 7. The Immediate Past Chair will serve as a member of the Interest Group Nominating Committee. Members of the nominating committee are charged with soliciting and presenting a diverse slate of candidates for election to vacant officer positions at the Interest Group annual business meeting

Section 8. When necessary, the Immediate Past Chair will serve on the WSCA Nominating Committee.

Section 9. In the event an officer is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities for whatever reason, they shall notify the other officers and members of the WSCA Executive Council immediately. The remaining officers of the Interest Group shall appoint a replacement until a replacement can be duly elected.

ARTICLE V—ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominations for offices that become vacant shall be solicited by the Nominating Committee and at the Interest Group business meeting, including Vice-Chair (annually), Nominating Committee At-Large members (annually), and Secretary (bi-annually). The Nominating Committee will coordinate nominations, with additional nominations accepted from the floor. The election of all officers shall be conducted at the Interest Group's annual meeting.

Section 2. Balloting shall be conducted at the annual Interest Group meeting with ballots counted by the officers, and results will be announced at that time.

Section 3. A majority vote of those members in attendance at the annual Interest Group meeting at the WSCA annual convention shall be sufficient to elect officers/committee members for vacant positions.

ARTICLE VI—COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Nominating Committee will be a permanent committee comprised of the Immediate Past-Chair and two At-Large Members elected by the interest group. The Nominating Committee's task is to solicit and present a diverse slate of candidates for officer positions opening at the next annual conference.

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

ARTICLE VII—PAPER AND PANEL REVIEW PROCESS

Section 1. The Chair shall select at least 2-3 reviewers depending on reviewer availability and number of submissions (2 minimum, 3 optimal) from a list circulated at the annual business meeting asking for volunteers from the Interest Group membership or recruited by the chair.

Section 2. In the case of a split decision between reviewers the Chair will assign an additional reviewer to adjudicate a decision. If no additional reviewer is available, the Chair may serve as a tiebreaker.

Section 3. Papers shall be assigned to eliminate institutional bias and provide random readership. Papers shall be evaluated by an anonymous review process.

Section 4. Reviewers shall be responsible for reviewing competitive paper and panel submissions and for responding about the quality of submissions in a timely manner to the Chair.

ARTICLE VIII—AWARDS

Section 1. At the annual WSCA meeting, the Interest Group will recognize the Top Student Paper, the Top Debut Paper, and the Top Three/Four papers in the Interest Group, as determined by their rankings in the competitive paper submission process.

Section 2. At each chair's discretion (contingent upon availability of funds), the Top Student Paper award recipient may receive a monetary award from the Interest Group. The remainder of the award recipients shall receive certificates.

ARTICLE IX—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 edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE X—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 ten 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 at the annual Interest Group meeting.