

**BY-LAWS**  
**OF**  
**THE RHETORIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA**

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**Revised February 2023**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Article I NAME ..... 1

Article II PURPOSES..... 1

    Section 1. Not For Profit..... 1

    Section 2. Purposes..... 1

    Section 3. Rules..... 1

    Section 4. Conflicts of Interest ..... 2

Article III REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT .....4

    Section 1. Registered Office and Agent.....4

Article IV MEMBERS .....4

    Section 1. Classes of Members..... 4

    Section 2. Voting Rights.....4

    Section 3. Resignation .....4

    Section 4. Termination of Membership .....4

Article V MEETING OF MEMBERS.....4

    Section 1. Annual Meeting ..... 4

    Section 2. Special Meeting ..... 4

    Section 3. Place of Meeting..... 4

    Section 4. Notice of Meetings .....4

    Section 5. Informal Action by Members .....5

    Section 6. Quorum..... 5

    Section 7. Proxies ..... 5

Article VI OFFICERS .....5

    Section 1. Officers..... 5

    Section 2. Election, Appointment and Term of Office.....5

    Section 3. Vacancies..... 6

    Section 4. President ..... 6

    Section 5. President Elect ..... 6

    Section 6. Immediate Past President.....6

    Section 7. Executive Director ..... 6

    Section 8. Membership Officer ..... 6

    Section 9. Digital Communications Officer... ..6

    Section 10. Outreach Officer... ..6

    Section 11. Transformative Justice Officer ... ..6

    Section 12. Director of Event Sponsorships and Ads ... ..7

    Section 13. Public Humanities Officer... ..7

Article VII BOARD OF DIRECTORS ..... 7

    Section 1. General Powers.....7

    Section 2. Composition, Tenure and Qualifications .....7

    Section 3. Elections .....7

    Section 4. Regular Meetings..... 7

    Section 5. Special Meetings..... 8

Section 6.	Notice .....	8
Section 7.	Quorum.....	8
Section 8.	Manner of Acting .....	8
Section 9.	Informal Action by Directors .....	8
Section 10.	Removal.....	8
Section 11.	Vacancies.....	8
Section 12.	Compensation .....	8
Article VIII COMMITTEES .....		8
Section 1.	Steering Committee of the Board .....	8
Section 2.	Nominating Committee .....	9
Section 3.	Awards Committee .....	9
Section 4.	Publication Committee.....	9
Section 5.	Institute Steering Committee.....	9
Section 6.	Committee on Inclusion, diversity, Equity, and Access .....	9
Section 7.	Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interorganizational Cooperation.....	9
Section 8.	Career Development Committee.....	9
Section 9.	Finance Committee .....	10
Section 10.	Membership Committee.....	10
Section 11.	Committee on Committees.....	10
Section 12.	Other Committees.....	10
Section 13.	Chairperson.....	10
Section 14.	Vacancies.....	10
Section 15.	Quorum .....	10
Section 16.	Rules .....	10
Article IX AWARDS .....		11
Section 1.	Charles Kneupper Award .....	11
Section 2.	The Gerard A. Hauser Award .....	11
Section 3.	Other Awards.....	11
Article X AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS .....		12
Section 1.	Affiliate Organizations .....	12
Article XI CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS .....		11
Section 1.	Contracts.....	12
Section 2.	Checks, Drafts, Etc .....	12
Section 3.	Deposits .....	12
Section 4.	Gifts .....	12
Article XII BOOKS AND RECORDS .....		12
Article XIII FISCAL YEAR.....		12
Article XIV WAIVER OF NOTICE.....		13
Article XV AMENDMENTS TO BY-LAWS .....		13
Article XVI INDEMNIFICATION.....		13

## **ARTICLE 1.**

### **NAME**

The name of the corporation shall be The Rhetoric Society of America (hereinafter referred to as the Corporation). Official use of the Corporation's name shall be made only through the authority of the Board of Directors or the President.

## **ARTICLE II.**

### **PURPOSES**

Section 2.01 Not For Profit. The Corporation is organized under and shall operate as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and shall have such powers as are now or as may hereafter be granted by the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended.

Section 2.02 Purposes. The purposes of the Corporation are charitable and educational in nature. The Corporation was formed to educate members and the public about the knowledge of rhetoric and promote the research, dissemination and education of rhetoric. Specifically:

- (a) The purposes of the Corporation shall be to gather from all relevant fields of study, and to disseminate among its members, current knowledge of rhetoric, broadly construed; to identify new areas within the subject of rhetoric in which research is especially needed, and to stimulate such research; to encourage experimentation in the teaching of rhetoric; to facilitate professional cooperation among its members, to organize meetings at which members may exchange findings and ideas; and to sponsor the publication of such materials dealing with rhetoric. These are the exclusive purposes of the Corporation and they shall be accomplished by the Corporation only in a charitable manner.
- (b) The Corporation will sponsor the publication of its official journal, Rhetoric Society Quarterly (hereafter referred to as RSQ).
- (c) The Corporation will sponsor a biennial conference called The Rhetoric Society of America Conference (hereafter referred to as the Conference). The President-Elect is the Conference Director and is in charge of running the Conference. Conference sites shall be selected at least four years in advance by the Board of Directors upon recommendation by the Steering Committee.
- (d) In years when the Conference is not held, the Corporation shall sponsor a working meeting where junior and senior scholars join in a study of selected topics in rhetoric. This meeting shall be called the Rhetoric Society of America Institute (hereafter referred to as the Institute). The board shall select sites and the President shall appoint Institute Steering Committees at least two years in advance of each Institute.

Section 2.03 Rules. The following rules shall conclusively bind the Corporation and all persons acting for or on behalf of it:

- (a) No part of the net earnings of the Corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, officers, or other private persons, except that the Corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for

services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these by-laws, the Corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law) or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

- (b) Upon the dissolution of the Corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the Corporation, dispose of all the assets of the Corporation exclusively for the purposes of the Corporation in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable, educational, religious, or scientific purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provision of any future federal law), as the Board of Directors shall determine. Any assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the court of common pleas of the county in which the principal office of the Corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.
- (c) The Corporation shall not adopt any practice, policy or procedure which would result in discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, citizenship, or veteran status.

#### Section 2.04 Conflicts of Interest.

- (a) Definition of Conflicts of Interest. A conflict of interest will be deemed to exist whenever an individual is in the position to approve or influence policies or actions of the Corporation which involve or could ultimately harm or benefit financially: (i) the individual; (ii) any member of the individual's immediate family (spouse, parents, children, siblings, and spouses of these individuals); or (iii) any organization in which the individual or an immediate family member is a director, trustee, officer, member, partner or more than 10% shareholder. Service on the board of another not-for-profit corporation does not constitute a conflict of interest.
- (b) Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest. A director or officer shall disclose a conflict of interest: (i) prior to voting on or otherwise discharging duties with respect to any matter involving the conflict which comes before the Board of Directors or any committee thereof; (ii) prior to entering into any contract or transaction involving the conflict; (iii) as soon as possible after the director or officer learns of the conflict; and (iv) on the annual conflict of interest disclosure form. The Executive Director of the Corporation shall distribute annually to all directors and officers, a form soliciting the disclosure of all

conflicts of interest, including specific information concerning the terms of any contract or transaction with the Corporation and whether the process for approval set forth in Section 4 of this Article II was used.

- (c) Approval of Contracts and Transactions Involving Potential Conflicts of Interest. A director or officer who has or learns about a potential conflict of interest should disclose promptly to the Executive Director of the Corporation the material facts surrounding any actual or potential conflict of interest, including specific information concerning the terms of any contract or transaction with the Corporation. All effort should be made to disclose any such contract or transaction and have it approved by the Board of Directors before the arrangement is entered into.

Following receipt of information concerning a contract or transaction involving a potential conflict of interest, the Board of Directors shall consider the material facts concerning the proposed contract or transaction including the process by which the decision was made to recommend entering into the arrangement on the terms proposed. The Board of Directors shall approve only those contracts or transactions in which the terms are fair and reasonable to the Corporation and the arrangements are consistent with the best interests of the Corporation. Fairness includes, but is not limited to, the concepts that the Corporation should pay no more than fair market value for any goods or services which the Corporation receives and that the Corporation should receive fair market value consideration for any goods or services that it furnishes others. The Board of Directors shall set forth the basis for its decision with respect to approval of contracts or transactions involving conflicts of interest in the minutes of the meeting at which the decision is made, including the basis for determining that the consideration to be paid is fair to the Corporation.

- (d) Validity of Actions. No contract or other transaction between the Corporation and one or more of its directors or officers, or between the Corporation and any other corporation, firm, association, or other entity in which one or more of its directors or officers are directors or officers, or have a substantial financial interest, shall be either void or voidable for this reason alone or by reason alone that such director or directors or officer or officers are present at the meeting of the Board of Directors, or of a committee thereof, which authorizes such contract or transaction, or that the director's or officer's votes are counted for such purpose, if the material facts as to such director's or officer's interest in such contract or transaction and as to any such common directorship, officership or financial interest are disclosed in good faith or known to the Board of Directors or committee, and the Board of Directors or committee authorizes such contract or transaction by a vote sufficient for such purpose without counting the vote or votes of such interested director or officers. Common or interested directors may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors or committee which authorizes such contract or transaction, although such interested officer's or director's vote will not be counted in determining whether such contract or transaction is authorized by the Board of Directors or committee. At the time of the discussion and decision concerning the authorization of such contract or transaction, the interested director or officer should not be present at the meeting.

**ARTICLE III.  
REGISTERED OFFICE AND AGENT**

Section 3.01 Registered Office and Agent. The Corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Illinois a registered office and a registered agent whose office shall be identical with such registered office, and may have such other offices within or without the State of Illinois and such other registered agents as the Board of Directors may from time to time determine.

**ARTICLE IV.  
MEMBERS**

Section 4.01 Classes of Members. Membership in the Corporation and its divisions is open to persons interested in promoting the Corporation's purposes. The annual fees and procedures for the Corporation shall be published in each issue of the Corporation's official journal. Although styled as "members," such persons shall not be considered "members" within the meaning of 805 ILCS 105/107.03 and shall have only those rights specifically provided to them pursuant to these bylaws.

Section 4.02 Voting Rights. Except solely as provided herein, members shall not have voting rights. However, from time to time the Board of Directors may, following approval by resolution adopted by the board, submit a matter to the members for a vote, and in such event each member shall be entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote of the members.

Section 4.03 Resignation. Any member may resign by filing a written resignation with the Executive Director of the Corporation.

Section 4.04 Termination of Membership. The Board of Directors by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of all the members of the board, may terminate a member's membership in the Corporation.

**ARTICLE V.  
MEETING OF MEMBERS**

Section 5.01 Annual Meeting. There shall be no requirement to hold annual meetings of the members.

Section 5.02 Special Meeting. Special meetings of the members may be called by the Board of Directors.

Section 5.03 Place of Meeting. The Board of Directors may designate any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place of meeting for any meeting called by the Board of Directors.

Section 5.04 Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the place, day and hour of any meeting of members shall be delivered, either personally, by electronic mail, or by postal mail, to each member not less than five nor more than sixty days before the date of such meeting, by or at the direction of the President or the Executive Director. The purpose for which the

meeting is called shall be stated in the notice. If sent by postal mail, the notice of a meeting shall be deemed delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member at his or her address as it appears on the records of the Corporation, with postage thereon prepaid. Any member may waive notice of any meeting.

Section 5.05 Informal Action by Members. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the members of the Corporation, or any other action which may be taken at a meeting of members entitled to vote, may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed either (i) by all of the members entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof or (ii) by the members having not less than the minimum number of votes that would be necessary to authorize or take such action at a meeting at which all members are entitled to vote thereon were present and voting.

Section 5.06 Quorum. The members holding at least a majority of the votes which may be cast at any meeting shall constitute a quorum at such meeting. If a quorum is not present at any meeting of members, a majority of the members present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 5.07 Proxies. At any meeting of members, a member entitled to vote may vote either in person or by proxy executed in writing by the member or by the member's duly authorized attorney-in- fact. No proxy shall be valid after eleven months from the date of its execution unless otherwise provided in the proxy.

## **ARTICLE VI. OFFICERS**

Section 6.01 Officers. The officers of the Corporation shall be an Immediate Past President, a President, a President Elect, and an Executive Director. The Board of Directors may elect or appoint such other officers as it shall deem desirable, such officers to have the authority to perform the duties prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors. Any two or more offices may be held by the same person. Officers need not be residents of Illinois.

Section 6.02 Election, Appointment and Term of Office. A subcommittee of the board, called the Nominating Committee, composed of the Immediate Past President, a member of the board, and a member-at-large, shall nominate a current or former member of the board for the office of President Elect. Ratification of the nominated board member is constituted by securing a majority of votes from the board. President Elect shall succeed to the office of President. The President Elect shall be announced in the Spring of even numbered years and shall assume office July 1 following the RSA conference. The Immediate Past President, President and President Elect shall all hold such positions for two years, and they shall sit *ex officio* as voting members of the board. The board shall, at its discretion, appoint an Executive Director, who shall be reviewed periodically by the board. The board shall appoint one member of the Corporation each to act as Digital Communications Officer, Membership Officer, Outreach Officer, Director of Event Sponsorships and Ads, Public Humanities Officer, and Transformative Justice Officer whose terms are three years and with the initial term beginning on July 1. The Executive Director, Digital Communications Officer, Membership Officer, Outreach Officer, Director of Event Sponsorships and Ads, Public Humanities Officer, Transformative Justice Officer, and editor of RSQ will sit *ex officio* as non-voting members of the board.



Section 6.03 Vacancies. A vacancy in any office because of death, resignation, removal, disqualification or otherwise, may be filled by the Board of Directors for the unexpired portion of the term.

Section 6.04 President. The President shall be the presiding officer of the board and shall in general supervise and control all of the affairs of the Corporation. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and shall be the Chairperson of the board. The President may sign, with any other proper officer of the Corporation authorized by the Board of Directors, any deeds, mortgages, contracts, or other instruments which the Board of Directors have authorized to be executed, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the Board of Directors or by these by-laws or by statute to some other officer or agent of the Corporation; and in general shall perform all duties incident to the office of President and such other duties as may be prescribed by the Board of Directors from time to time. Additionally, the President shall be the spokesperson for the Corporation. In cases where the President wishes to issue a statement on behalf of the Corporation concerning a matter of public interest or concern, the President will consult with the Board of Directors and require a 2/3 majority vote of support by directors present and voting prior to dissemination of the statement.

Section 6.05 President Elect. The President Elect shall assist the President and has responsibility for planning the Corporation's biennial conference.

Section 6.06 Immediate Past President. The Immediate Past President shall assist and advise the President on matters dealing with policy and procedures.

Section 6.07 Executive Director. At its discretion, the board shall appoint an Executive Director whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The Executive Director shall be assigned duties deemed appropriate by the board and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.08 Membership Officer. At its discretion, the board shall appoint a Membership Officer whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The membership officer shall assist in acquiring and retaining members of the Corporation and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.09 Digital Communications Officer. At its discretion, the board shall appoint an Digital Communications Officer whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The digital communications officer shall provide timely management of the Corporation's electronic resources and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.10 Outreach Officer. At its discretion, the board shall appoint an Outreach Officer whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The outreach officer shall oversee and coordinate the Corporation's outreach to its various constituencies and publics and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.11 Transformative Justice Officer. At its discretion, the board shall appoint a Transformative Justice Officer whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The transformative justice officer shall oversee the Corporation's activities related to creating a more inclusive and equitable society and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.12 Director of Event Sponsorships and Ads. At its discretion, the board shall appoint a Director of Event Sponsorships and Ads whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The director of event sponsorships and ads shall solicit financial and in-kind support, sponsorships, advertisements and/or exhibit hall participation for RSA events and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

Section 6.13 Public Humanities Officer. At its discretion, the board shall appoint a Public Humanities Officer whose appointment will be reviewed periodically by the board. The public humanities officer will lead the organization's efforts to foster public engagement with rhetoric projects, broadly construed and shall sit as a non-voting member of the board.

## **ARTICLE VII. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 7.01 General Powers. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by its Board of Directors. The board shall be the principal policy-making body of the Corporation and shall be responsible for promoting the Corporation's purposes.

Section 7.02 Composition, Tenure and Qualifications. The Board of Directors shall consist of twelve members of the Corporation elected by the members of the Corporation. The Nominating Committee will post a "call for nominations" and compile a slate of two candidates for each open seat on the board from names submitted. No number of supporting signatures are required and members are encouraged to self-nominate. Ballots will be sent to the Corporation members in fall/winter and election announcements made in the spring. Efforts will be made to have members of the board represent various disciplines, such as speech communication, classics, English, and philosophy, as well as region, race, and gender. At least two of the members of the board shall be student members (designated student-early career). At least two members of the board shall hold non-tenure track appointments at the time of their election. Each member will serve a four-year term. It is expected that candidates who stand for election to a student-early career position shall have at least two years remaining to the terminal degree in the candidate's program of study. Directors need not be residents of Illinois. Excluding extraordinary conditions, it is the responsibility of directors to attend all meetings of the board.

Section 7.03 Elections. Elections to the board are held every two years, so that approximately half the members of the board are retained and the other half terminated at each election. The Nominating Committee is responsible for announcing, soliciting, and managing the election of the board. If for any reason deemed appropriate by two-thirds of the board, a member is unfit, unwilling or otherwise unable to perform duties of the board, the member may be replaced by an individual appointed by the board and that appointed member shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election, at which point a successor will be elected for the unexpired term, if any, of the director's predecessor in office. In addition to the student/early career members, it is also possible for students to be elected to the board for a normal four-year term, provided that they are nominated for such a position.

Section 7.04 Regular Meetings. The Board of Directors normally will meet twice per calendar year at such times and places as may be designated by the President or a majority of the Board of

Directors. The Board of Directors may provide by resolution the time and place, either within or without the State of Illinois, for the holding of additional regular meetings of the board without other notice than such resolution.

Section 7.05 Special Meetings. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by or at the request of the President or any two directors. The person or persons authorized to call special meetings of the board may fix any place, either within or without the State of Illinois, as the place for holding any special meeting of the board called by them.

Section 7.06 Notice. Notice of any special meeting of the Board of Directors shall be given at least three days previously thereto by written notice delivered personally, sent by electronic mail, or sent by postal mail or telegram to each director deposited in the United States mail in a sealed envelope so addressed, with postage thereon prepaid. If notice is given by postal mail, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered on the day following the day such notice is deposited in the United States mail. If notice is given by telegram, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when the telegram is delivered to the telegraph company. Any director may waive notice of any meeting. The Board of Directors, at its discretion, may invite anyone to attend a board meeting as a resource person.

Section 7.07 Quorum. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any meeting of the board, provided, that if less than a majority of the directors are present at said meeting, a majority of the directors present may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

Section 7.08 Manner of Acting. The act of a majority of the directors present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Board of Directors, except where otherwise provided by law or by these by-laws.

Section 7.09 Informal Action by Directors. Any action required to be taken at a meeting of the Board of Directors or any action which may be taken at a meeting of directors may be taken without a meeting if a consent in writing, setting forth the action so taken, shall be signed by all of the directors entitled to vote with respect to the subject matter thereof.

Section 7.10 Removal. Any director may be removed by resolution of a majority of the Board of Directors whenever in its judgment the best interests of the Corporation would be served thereby.

Section 7.11 Vacancies. Any vacancy occurring in the Board of Directors or any directorship to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of directors shall be filled by the Board of Directors. A director selected to fill a vacancy shall serve until the next regularly scheduled election, at which point a successor will be elected for the unexpired term, if any, of the director's predecessor in office.

Section 7.12 Compensation. Directors shall not receive any salaries for their services.

## **ARTICLE VIII. COMMITTEES**

Section 8.01 Steering Committee of the Board. The Steering Committee of the board shall be composed of the President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, and Executive Director. The

President shall chair the committee. This is an executive committee of the board and is responsible for administering the affairs of the Corporation. Should they be equally divided on any vote, the matter shall be referred to the full Board of Directors.

Section 8.02 Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the Immediate Past President, one member of the board appointed by the President, and one member-at-large appointed by the President. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a candidate for President Elect and two candidates for each open seat on the board, as provided in Article VI, Section 2.

Section 8.03 Awards Committee. The President shall appoint at least three members to the Awards Committee, at least one of whom must be a member of the board. A member of the board shall chair the committee. The committee shall serve a two-year term, with the immediate past chair, upon request of the incoming chair, agreeing to serve a 3<sup>rd</sup> transitional as a member of the committee. The chair may act with discretion to appoint additional committee members and establish subcommittees. The committee will select the recipients of awards as provided for in Article IX, Section 3.

Section 8.04 Publications Committee. The President shall appoint at least three members to the Publications Committee, at least one of whom must be a member of the board. The committee shall serve a two-year term. The committee shall review and make recommendations concerning current or proposed publications of the Corporation, and shall nominate a candidate for editor of RSQ, subject to the approval of the board, to serve a four-year term.

Section 8.05 Institute Steering Committee. The President shall appoint the Institute Steering Committee, which shall consist of the Institute Director(s), the local host, a previous Institute Director, a previous local host, one member of the board, and one student. Additional members may be appointed at the discretion of the President. The committee will plan and administer the biennial Institute. Their term shall expire at the close of the Institute for which they are responsible.

Section 8.06 Committee on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access. The President shall appoint at least five members to the Committee on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, who shall serve a two-year term, which may be renewed for a second consecutive term. At least one board member must serve on the committee, either as chair or vice-chair. The committee is charged to study, make recommendations, and develop programs that counter the ongoing legacies of systematic and structural marginalization and enhance inclusion, diversity, equity, and access within the academic field of rhetorical studies.

Section 8.07 Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interorganizational Cooperation. The President shall appoint at least three members to the Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interorganizational Cooperation, who shall serve a two-year term. At least one shall be a board member, who will chair the committee, and at least one shall be a member-at-large. The committee shall study and make recommendations concerning how the Corporation and other like-minded organizations can collaborate for their mutual benefit.

Section 8.08 Career Development Committee. The President shall appoint at least three members to the Career Development Committee, at least one of whom must be a member of the board. The committee shall serve a two-year term. The committee shall be charged with overseeing existing Corporation career development initiatives and making recommendations for new initiatives to assist members in their careers.

Section 8.09 Finance Committee. The President shall appoint five members to the Finance Committee to help ensure the organization is effectively managing its financial resources. This committee will work with and be advisory to the Executive Director. Two members shall have prior budgetary experience and be appointed to staggered terms; two members will be current directors or officers; and one member will be a graduate student member of the Society. The Committee shall review any budgetary or financial matters brought to it by the Executive Director, including regular review of financial records; it shall provide advice on the implications of all proposals with budgetary consequences prior to board consideration, recommending approval or rejection of such proposals for the Executive Director's consideration; and it shall review the proposed budget prepared by the Executive Director prior to presentation to the board. The Finance Committee shall be free to disclose the nature of the advice it rendered to the officers and board at its discretion.

Section 8.10 Membership Committee. The President shall appoint the Membership Committee, which shall consist of the Membership Officer, serving as chair, and at least three additional members, one of whom shall be a graduate student. Committee members shall serve a two-year term. The committee shall be charged to aid in retention and expansion of RSA membership, while better enabling the Society to fulfil its commitment to inclusivity, diversity, equity and access.

Section 8.11 Committee on Committees. The President-Elect shall appoint the Committee on Committees, which shall consist of at least five members, and to include the chair of the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Committee ex officio. Each committee member will serve a two-year term, and terms can be renewable. The committee shall identify and recommend candidates to fill the Society's standing committees. In addition, the committee may be called upon to make recommendations for nominees to ad hoc committees at the request of the President and/or President-Elect.

Section 8.12 Other Committees. Additional committees and task forces may be appointed by the President or by the Board of Directors. They will be discharged when their task is completed or when the term of the President expires, unless they are renewed.

Section 8.13 Chair. One member of each committee shall be appointed chair for a term of two years.

Section 8.14 Vacancies. Vacancies in the membership of any committee may be filled by appointments made in the same manner as provided in the case of the original appointments.

Section 8.15 Quorum. Unless otherwise provided in the resolution of the Board of Directors designating a committee, a majority of the whole committee shall constitute a quorum and the act of a majority of the members present at a meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the committee.

Section 8.16 Rules. Each committee may adopt rules for its own government not inconsistent with these by-laws or with rules adopted by the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE IX. AWARDS

Section 9.01 Charles Kneupper Award. The Editor and the Editorial Board of RSQ are charged with the duty and privilege of awarding The Charles Kneupper Award annually for the outstanding contribution made to RSQ of that year. Any contribution deemed appropriate to the Editor and Editorial Board – essay, review, bibliography, etc.– is eligible for consideration. Official notification of the award will appear in RSQ.

Section 9.02 The Gerard A. Hauser Award. This award recognizes outstanding student papers at the biennial RSA conference. Selection is made by a committee appointed by the conference planner.

Section 9.03 Other Awards. The Committee on Awards is charged with the duty and privilege of soliciting and receiving nominations, and recommending to the board candidates for the following awards:

- (a) The George E. Yoos Distinguished Service Award – For a member of the Corporation who has made sustained contributions to the Corporation and the field of rhetoric;
- (b) The RSA Dissertation Award – For the best dissertation in the field of Rhetorical Studies completed by a student member of the Corporation within the past year;
- (c) The RSA Book Award – For a distinguished book length contribution to scholarship in Rhetorical Studies authored by a member of the Corporation and published within the past year.
- (d) RSA Fellows – The Committee on Awards may at its discretion also nominate candidates for the honor of Fellow of the Rhetoric Society of America.
- (e) Fellows Early Career Award – For a current member of the Rhetoric Society of America who has established an innovative and robust research record within eight years of having earned the Ph.D. degree.

Recipients of the George E. Yoos Distinguished Service Award shall, by virtue of the award, become Fellows of the Corporation. Additional Fellows of the Corporation may from time to time be created by the board in recognition of sustained and distinguished scholarship, teaching, and/or service to the field of rhetorical studies. Designation as a Fellow by the Board of Directors shall be upon nomination by the Committee on Awards or by at least three members of the Corporation not members of the board, and shall require a favorable vote by three quarters of the members of the board. Persons designated as Fellows of the Corporation shall remain so in perpetuity. The Fellows of the Corporation shall have no formal duties, but may from time to time be called upon by the officers and the board for counsel and assistance. The Fellows of the Corporation may also, at their own discretion and initiative, deliberate on issues of concern to the field and make recommendations to the board and officers.

The Committee on Awards shall report its selections and recommendations to the board at least two months prior to the RSA Conference. Recommendations for appointment as Fellows of the Rhetoric Society of America or for the Yoos Award shall be approved by three-quarters of the board.

The board may create additional awards and honors, together with procedures and criteria for them,

at its discretion.

**ARTICLE X.  
AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Section 10.01 Affiliate Organizations. The Board of Directors may, upon petitions from an association whose objectives are in harmony with those of the Corporation's, grant to such an organization the status of Affiliate Organization.

**ARTICLE XI.  
CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DEPOSITS AND FUNDS**

Section 11.01 Contracts. The Board of Directors may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents of the Corporation, in addition to the officers so authorized by these by-laws, to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the Corporation and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances.

Section 11.02 Checks, Drafts, Etc. All checks, drafts or other orders for the payment of money, notes or other evidences of indebtedness issued in the name of the Corporation, shall be signed by such officers, agent or agents of the Corporation and in such manner as shall from time to time be determined by resolution of the Board of Directors. In the absence of such determination by the Board of Directors, such instruments shall be signed by the President or the President Elect or Immediate Past President of the Corporation.

Section 11.03 Deposits. All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited from time to time to the credit of the Corporation in such banks, trust companies or other depositories as the Board of Directors may select.

Section 11.04 Gifts. The Board of Directors may accept on behalf of the Corporation any contribution, gift, bequest or devise for the general purposes or for any special purpose of the Corporation.

**ARTICLE XII. BOOKS  
AND RECORDS**

The Corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its Board of Directors and committees having any of the authority of the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XIII.  
FISCAL YEAR**

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall be January 1 to December 31, or such other period determined by the Board of Directors.

**ARTICLE XIV.  
WAIVER OF NOTICE**

Whenever any notice whatsoever is required to be given under the provisions of the Illinois Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, as amended, or under the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation or the by-laws of the Corporation, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent to the giving of such notice.

**ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS  
TO BY-LAWS**

These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed and new by-laws may be adopted under a process initiated by a majority of the board. After no fewer than thirty days following the distribution of a proposed amendment, a full-membership ballot shall be distributed by the President to every member of the Corporation. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall be required for amendment.

**ARTICLE XVI.  
INDEMNIFICATION**

The Corporation shall indemnify all officers and directors of the Corporation to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law and shall be entitled to purchase insurance for such indemnification of officers and directors to the fullest extent determined from time to time by the Board of Directors of the Corporation.

**Adopted May 1993**  
**Amended September 2002**  
**Amended December 2008**  
**Amended February 2017**  
**Amended December 2019**  
**Amended February 2023**