



ASSOCIATION OF RHETORIC & WRITING STUDIES

ARWS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I:	NAME
ARTICLE II:	PURPOSES
ARTICLE III:	AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS
ARTICLE IV:	OFFICERS
ARTICLE V:	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ARTICLE VI:	MEMBERSHIP
ARTICLE VII:	SCHOLARSHIP
ARTICLE VIII:	AWARDS
ARTICLE IX:	COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES
ARTICLE X:	ASSETS
ARTICLE XI:	CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section A. The name of this organization is The Association of Rhetoric & Writing Studies (hereafter referred to as the Association).

Section B. Official use of the Association's name will be made only through the authority of the Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as the Board) or the President.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section A. The purposes of the Association are to gather knowledge of the undergraduate major in rhetoric and writing and to disseminate this knowledge among its members; to identify and support new areas of inquiry that need to be explored; to encourage inquiry and experimentation in the teaching of rhetoric and writing; to facilitate communication and collaboration among its members; to organize venues at which members may exchange ideas and research; to develop and sponsor publication of materials dealing with undergraduate rhetoric and writing studies; to protect the disciplinary integrity of undergraduate rhetoric and writing studies; and to promote disciplinary visibility with the academy, with the public, and with funding agencies.

Section B. The Association will sponsor an annual conference called the Association of Rhetoric & Writing Studies Conference (hereafter referred to as the Conference). The President-Elect is the Conference Director and is charged with the running of the Conference; the President-Elect may establish ad-hoc committees and ad-hoc sub-committees to assist. The Board will appoint an ad-hoc subcommittee called the Conference Site Committee. The Conference Site Committee will be composed of the President-Elect, a Member-At-Large, and a member of the Board. The

Conference Site Committee will announce, solicit, and review applications and make final recommendations to the Board, who will vote on the site. A site must be selected by the Board no less than six months before the Conference but preferably at a much earlier date.

ARTICLE III: AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Board may, upon petition from an association whose objectives are in harmony with those of the Association's, grant to such association the status of Affiliate Organization.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section A. The officers of the Association will be:

Immediate Past President
President
President Elect
Membership Officer
Fundraising Officer
Treasurer
Media Officer

Section B. The President will be appointed from among current or former members of the Board. A subcommittee of the Board, named The Nominating Committee, composed of the Immediate Past President, a member of the Board, and a Member-at-Large, will 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. The President Elect will succeed to the office of President. The President Elect will be announced in the Fall of the year and will assume office effective November 1. The Immediate Past President, President, and President Elect will all hold such positions for two years. They will sit ex officio as voting members of the Board.

Section C. The president will be the presiding officer of the Board and the representative of the Association. The President Elect will assist the President and has responsibility for planning the Association's annual Conference. The Immediate Past President is charged with the duty of assisting and advising the President on matters dealing with policy and procedures.

ARTICLE V: THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section A. The Board will consist of seven members of the Association elected by members of the Association; each member will serve a three-year term. The Nominating Committee, comprised of members of the board and appointed by the Board, will post a "call for nominations" and compile a slate from names submitted. No number of supporting signatures is required and members are encouraged to self-nominate. Ballots will be sent to Association members in the summer and election announcements will be made in the fall. At least one

member of the Board (designated study/early career members) will be a student at the time of their election. The Board will be the principal policy-making body of the Association and will be responsible for promoting the Association's purposes.

Section B. Elections to the Board will be held every three years. Two members will rotate off the Board every three years, on October 31. Newly elected board members will assume office on November 1. There will be an electoral contest for the expiring student/early career Board position, subject to the provisions of ARTICLE V, Section I. The Nominating Committee is responsible for announcing, soliciting, and managing the election of the Board. If for any reason deemed appropriate by the majority 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 will serve until the next regularly scheduled election. Excluding extraordinary conditions, it is the responsibility of members to attend the Association Conferences.

Section C. The Board may, at its discretion, appoint an Executive Director, whose duties will be determined by the Board and whose periodic review will be conducted by the Board. Renewal of this appointment should be voted upon by the Board every two years. The Executive Director will sit ex officio as a non-voting member of the Board.

Section D. The Board will appoint one member of the Association to act as Membership Officer, whose duty it is to acquire and retain members of the Association. The length of this potentially renewable term will be four years. Renewal will be at the discretion of the Board. The Membership Officer will sit ex officio as a non-voting member of the Board.

Section E. The Board will appoint one member of the Association to act as Fundraising Officer, whose duty it is to solicit monies for the Association. The length of this potentially renewable term will be four years. Renewal will be at the discretion of the Board. The Fundraising Officer will sit ex officio as a non-voting member of the Board.

Section F. The Board will appoint one member of the Association to act as Treasurer, whose duty it is to manage the Association's bank account, collect monies, distribute funds for the Association's financial commitments, file required tax documents with government entities, and submit financial reports to the Board. The length of this potentially renewable term will be four years. Renewal will be at the discretion of the Board. The Treasurer will sit ex officio as a non-voting member of the Board.

Section G. The Board will appoint one member of the Association to act as Media Officer, whose duty it is to develop and maintain the Association's media presence, e.g., website, Facebook account, Twitter account, and list-serv. The length of this potentially renewable term will be at the discretion of the Board but is not to exceed four years. Renewal will be at the discretion of the Board. The Media Officer will sit ex officio as a non-voting member of the Board.

Section H. The Board, at its discretion, may invite any member of the Association to attend a Board meeting as a resource person.

Section I. The student/early career member of the Board will serve a three-year term. Nomination for election should indicate the status of the student, when appropriate. It is also possible for a student/early career member to be subsequently elected to the Board for a normal three-year term, provided the student/early career member declares nomination for that role and is elected on that condition.

Section J. The Board will present an annual report to the membership at each business meeting of the Association's Conference. The report will also be publicly available on the Association's website.

Section K. The Board will meet face-to-face, annually.

ARTICLE VI: Membership

Membership to the Association will be determined by the Board and may include the collection of annual dues.

ARTICLE VII: SPONSORED SCHOLARSHIP

The Board may at its discretion create venues, together with procedures and criteria for them, to promote and sustain inquiry and research for the development of scholarship related to undergraduate rhetoric and writing studies. Such sponsored scholarship may also be developed for direct use in undergraduate rhetoric and writing studies' courses.

ARTICLE VIII: AWARDS

The Board may at its discretion create awards and honors, together with procedures and criteria for them.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES/SUB-COMMITTEES

The Board may at its discretion create ad-hoc committees and ad-hoc sub-committees, together with procedures and criteria for them, to further the work of the Association. Members of these committees may be appointed from the Association's membership and may work concurrently with Board members serving on the same committees.

ARTICLE X: ASSETS

Section A. No part of the net earnings of the Association will be used for the benefit of, or be distributed to its members, officers, or other private persons, unless the Association authorizes payment of reasonable compensation for services rendered and/or it authorizes payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II, Section A.

Section B. In the event that the Association is dissolved, assets will be distributed for one or more charitable purposes.

ARTICLE XI: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

Section A. Any proposed constitutional amendment or by-law will be submitted in writing to the Association's President, who will distribute the proposed amendment or by-law to the membership via the Association's list-serv and website.

Section B. Discussion by the Association's membership of a proposed constitutional amendment or by-law may occur in digital and/or face-to-face formats.

Section C. Any proposed constitutional amendment or by-law must be submitted at least one month prior to the scheduled conference date for that year to be eligible for a vote that same year. A vote will be taken on the date of the Association's Conference business meeting. Votes may be submitted in person or electronically. A constitutional amendment or by-law will pass by majority, based on the number of votes submitted by members of the Association.