

Constitution of Texas Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages

AUSTIN AREA
TEXTESOL III
(Revised August 2000)

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be Texas Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages, Austin Area (TEXTESOL III): A Local Organization for Those Concerned with the Teaching of English as a Second or Foreign Language and of Standard English as a Second Dialect, hereinafter referred to as TEXTESOL III.

II. PURPOSE

The purposes of TEXTESOL III, a non-profit affiliate organization of Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), are to promote scholarship, to disseminate information, to strengthen at all levels the instruction and research in the teaching of Standard English to speakers of other languages or dialects, and to cooperate in appropriate ways with other organizations having similar concerns.

This organization is organized exclusively for educational purposes as an organization that qualifies as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law). Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the organization shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by any organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

All monies of the organization shall be disbursed only in the support of the purposes of this organization and shall not be disbursed to any member of the organization for his or her private gain. Monies may be disbursed only with the approval of both the TEXTESOL III President and the Treasurer with notification given to the Executive Board.

The Executive Board will have and annually review a fiscal policy and procedure statement. The policy will include, but not be limited to, the organization's investments, conference matters, financial contracts, and income, Including membership dues.

A committee will be convened in the year prior to a state conference with fiscal oversight of conference funds. The committee will be dissolved once both a conference report is turned in and all financial matters regarding the conference are resolved

III. MEMBERSHIP

Individual voting membership in TEXTESOL III is open to any person who at any educational level teaches standard English to speakers of other languages or dialects, who prepares such teachers, or who otherwise is concerned with such teaching or research. One vote shall be open to the membership as an institution, agency, and commercial organization.

IV. MEETINGS

1. TEXTESOL III shall hold an Annual Conference at such time and place as the Executive Board shall determine.
2. The Executive Board meetings shall be held once a month or as deemed necessary by the President or Members of the Board.
3. The President shall have the right to call special meetings for the general membership or for the Executive Board, as deemed necessary.
4. Those members in good standing, as having paid yearly dues, present at a regular meeting shall constitute a quorum for voting purposes. Decisions reached by members present at special meetings are subject ratification of the Executive Board unless a quorum of two-thirds of the total membership is present.

V. OFFICERS

The Executive Board of TEXTESOL III shall be: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, TESOL Liaison, Sociopolitical Concerns Representative, and up to three Delegates-at-Large. The Executive Board shall implement matters of general policy as determined by the membership and may initiate action appropriate to that policy. All of the above members of the Executive Board shall have a vote in Board decisions.

VI. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. The President shall call and preside at all meetings, appoint such committees as needed, and have general responsibility for conducting the business of the organization. The President and the First Vice-President shall act as conference co-chairs for the TEXTESOL State Conference the year so designated by the TEXTESOL Board. Upon the succession of the President to Immediate Past President, he or she may remain on the Board and serve in a capacity mutually determined by him/her and the Executive Board).
- B. The First Vice-President shall be principally responsible for making all arrangements in connection with the programs to be held by the organization. He or she shall be chair of the Program Committee for the Annual Conference. In addition, he or she shall preside in the absence of the President and assist the President in the execution of business. The First Vice-President and the President shall act as conference co-chairs for the TEXTESOL State Conference the year so designated by the TEXTESOL Board. The First Vice-President shall succeed to the presidency.

C. The Second Vice-President shall be responsible for promoting the organization and encouraging membership in it and for maintaining a current list of members, and shall coordinate with the newsletter editor publications produced by and for the organization.

D. The Secretary shall keep all minutes and all official documents, shall be responsible for notifying the members concerning all meetings, and shall handle all official correspondence other than that conducted by the President.

E. The Treasurer shall be responsible for conducting and recording the financial business of the organization. At the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall present to the membership an annual written financial report.

F. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for collecting information related to the organization's goals and interests for publication in a newsletter to the membership. Newsletters will be published quarterly as a means to network and inform the membership.

G. The Delegates-at-Large (maximum of 3) shall be responsible for community with related organizations in an effort to network with other educators and for participating in Board discussions and activities.

H. The Webmaster shall maintain the TEXTESOL III web site and update it regularly.

I. The Sociopolitical Concerns Representative shall serve as liaison with the TESOL Advocacy Network, shall share information regarding sociopolitical concerns with the Board and the membership, and may initiate projects designed to educate the membership or encourage membership participation in sociopolitical concerns.

J. The Liaison Officer to TESOL shall keep the organization and TESOL mutually informed.

K. At least three members of the Executive Board shall be members of TESOL as required by TESOL bylaws.

L. Each officer shall be responsible for the duties described and record activities in a notebook to be passed on to the subsequent holder of the same office.

M. All of the above Board officers shall be voting members of the board.

VII. ELECTIONS

1. All members of the Executive Board shall be elected at large, with the exception of the President, who will move up from the position of First Vice-President, unless he or she was appointed through a vacancy in which case he or she will also be elected at large. They shall be nominated by a nominating committee and elected by ballot at the Annual Meeting. The term of office is from the close of one annual meeting until the close of the next annual meeting.

2. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two to four members. The Chair shall be designated by the President. It shall be the function of this committee to prepare a slate for the Executive Board at least sixty days before the next Annual Meeting. The slate shall be distributed to the membership thirty days before the Annual Meeting.

3. Before the Annual Meeting, the Newsletter Editor shall present the report of the Nominating Committee to the membership. Additional nominations may be made by any member of the organization if submitted in writing to the Chair of the nominating committee at least fifteen days before the Annual Meeting at which the election will be held. There shall be no nominations from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

4. Election shall be by acclamation in cases where only one candidate has been nominated for an office and by secret ballot in cases where more than one candidate has been nominated. When there are three or more candidates for an office, a plurality of the votes is sufficient for election.

5. A vacancy (due to illness, excessive absences from Board meetings, or lack of completion of responsibilities) in any office shall be determined and filled through a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. If a vacancy occurs in the First Vice-President position, the appointed replacement does not automatically succeed to the presidency but must be duly elected by the members at the next Annual Meeting or in a special election by the members

VIII. EARNINGS

No part of the net earnings of this organization shall be used for the benefit of, or be distributed to, its members, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization 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 in Article II hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association (organization) shall not participate in, or intervene in, (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the association (organization) shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

IX. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the organization, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for the payment of all the liabilities of the organization, dispose of all the assets of the organization exclusively for the purposes of the organization in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for charitable or educational purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3).

X. AMENDMENTS

1. Proposed amendments to this Constitution or Bylaws must first be approved by a majority of the members of the Executive Board or submitted to the Executive Board in a petition signed by at least 25 percent of the current members. Any such proposed amendments shall be distributed to all members at least thirty days before the amendment

is voted on. To become effective, a proposed amendment must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of those members voting at the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting of the membership called by the Executive Board. TextESOL III Bylaws

XI. Membership

- A. All interested individuals who apply for membership and pay the duly assessed dues of the organization shall be "members of the organization" and shall be entitled to one vote at the Annual Meeting.
- B. All members who are students in graduate or undergraduate university or college study shall be "student members of the organization," and shall enjoy the privileges of individual membership.
- C. Two members of the same household may be "joint members of the organization," each of whom shall enjoy all the privileges of individual membership.
- D. Private nonprofit institutions and agencies that pay the duly assessed dues of the organization for that type of organization shall be "institutional members of the organization," with one vote at the Annual Meeting.
- E. Publishers and other commercial organizations that pay the duly assessed dues for that type of organization shall be "commercial members of the organization," with one vote.

XII. Dues

The annual dues for each category of membership shall be in amounts established from time to time by the Executive Board, provided that no increase for any year be above 15 percent for any category. Dues may become effective sixty days after the Executive Board has notified all the members of the proposed increase through appropriate means and, during that period, not over 10% of the members have registered objections to the proposed increase. If objections are received from at least 10% of the members, the proposed increase in the dues shall not become effective until ratified by majority vote of the members present at the next Annual Meeting. Dues shall be collected from January to December of each year to sustain membership.

XIII. Committees

- A. The Executive Board shall authorize all standing committees of the organization. In addition, the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall be empowered to establish such ad hoc committees as he or she shall deem necessary or useful for the efficient conduct of the organization.
- B. The President shall designate the chair of each committee.
- C. Time shall be provided at each regular meeting of the Executive Board for reports from the standing committees.

IV. Interest Sections

- A. At the time of joining or of membership renewal, members shall indicate their primary

professional interest. One secondary interest from a number of Interest Sections established by the Executive Board.

B. Interest Sections represent the various professional concerns of TEXTESOL III. Sections shall be established or dissolved by the Executive Board as membership interest indicates.

C. Interest Sections shall hold at least one meeting each year, besides that held at the Annual Meeting.

D. One item of business at the Annual Meeting for each Interest Section shall be the election of its representative to the Executive Board.

XV. Amendments to the Bylaws

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws must be submitted to the membership thirty days prior the Annual Meeting or at a special meeting called by the Executive Board. A proposed amendment requires two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting.

XVI. State Affiliates

Coordination with TextESOL affiliates (TextESOL I, II, V) shall be in accordance with the TextESOL Council of Presidents' Constitution and as deemed necessary to fulfill the obligations of the organization's goals.

XVII.

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the organization in all cases not covered by the Constitution and the Bylaws.

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October 18, 2000