

DIVISION G – SOCIAL CONTEXT OF EDUCATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: NAME, AFFILIATION, AND GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Section 1. **Name**. The Division shall be known as AERA Division G Social Context of Education.

Section 2. **Affiliation**. The organization, AERA Division G Social Context of Education, is a Division of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) and, as such, members of Division G pay annual dues to AERA and participate as active members of AERA.

Section 3. **Governing authority**. The organization, AERA Division G Social Context of Education, is governed by the Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of AERA. Division G's bylaws shall not conflict with the bylaws and articles of incorporation of AERA.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purposes of Division G are to advance scholarly knowledge about how social contexts (e.g., racial, gendered, sexual orientation, political, socioeconomic, cultural, linguistic, etc.) inform, frame, and transform the processes of education and to encourage scholarly inquiry related to the relationship among schools, schooling, and the larger society.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **Division members must be association members**. Membership shall be based on annual payment of dues as specified by AERA.

Section 2. **Only division members who are voting members of AERA may vote and hold elected office in the Division.**

Section 3. **Termination of membership**. Failure of a member to pay dues for any membership year by a date fixed by AERA automatically terminates membership. At the member's request and upon payment of current dues, anyone whose membership has been automatically terminated for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated by AERA.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTED OFFICERS, NOMINATIONS, AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. **Elected officers**. The elected officers of the Division shall be Vice-President and Secretary.

Section 2. **Qualifications**. Only voting members of AERA and the Division may hold

elected offices.

Section 3. Terms.

- a. The term of office of the Vice-President shall be three years (or as modified or designated within the Bylaws of the American Educational Research Association.)
- b. The term of office of the Secretary shall be two years (or as modified or designated within the Bylaws of the American Educational Research Association.)
- c. The Secretary and Vice-President are not eligible for immediate re-election.
- d. The terms of office shall begin the day following the close of the annual meeting. If an annual meeting does not occur, the terms of office shall begin as close as feasible to the dates the term of office of their predecessors would normally expire, the exact dates set by the Executive Board of AERA.

Section 4. Nominations and elections.

- a. The Nominating Committee shall propose nominations (not less than two names for each one), and shall submit nominees for the divisional officers, accompanied by evidence of the nominees' consent to run, to the AERA Central Office for inclusion on the ballot.
- b. Members shall vote electronically or by other means in accordance with AERA procedures.

Section 5. Schedule for nominations and elections. The schedule for nominations and elections shall conform to the schedule set by the AERA Council in consultation with the AERA Executive Director.

Section 6. Vacancies.

- a. If the Vice President is not able to complete a term of office, and there is no Vice President-Elect in place, the President of the AERA, in consultation with the Division G Executive Committee, shall appoint a replacement to serve in the position until the next ballot. At that time a Vice President shall be elected to serve out the remainder of the term. If there is a Vice President-Elect in place, the Vice President-Elect shall become Vice President and remain in office to serve out both terms.
- b. If the Secretary is unable to complete a term of office, and there is no Secretary-Elect in place, the Vice President shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next ballot. At that time a replacement shall be elected to serve out the remainder of the term. If there is a Secretary-Elect in place, the Secretary-Elect shall become Secretary and remain in office to serve out both terms.

ARTICLE V: NON-ELECTED OFFICERS

Section 1. **Non-elected divisional officers.** The non-elected divisional officers shall be Affirmative Action Officer, Program Chair or Program Co-Chair(s), and Newsletter Editor.

- a. Non-elected officers are appointed by the Vice President.
- b. The Division Executive Committee may modify the list of non-elected divisional officers to meet the needs of the Division.

Section 2. **Qualifications.** Only members of the Division may hold non-elected offices.

Section 3. **Terms.**

- a. The term of office of all non-elected divisional officers shall be determined by the Division Executive Committee.
- b. Terms of office for non-elected officers shall coincide with the Vice-President's term of office.
- c. Non-elected officers may be re-appointed at the discretion of the Vice-President.
- d. The terms of office shall begin the day following the close of the annual meeting or at a time determined to be appropriate. If an annual meeting does not occur, the terms of office shall begin as close as feasible to the dates the term of office of their predecessors would normally expire.

Section 4. **Vacancies.**

- a. If a non-elected officer is not able to complete a term of office, the Vice President shall appoint an immediate replacement to serve out the remainder of the vacated term.

ARTICLE VI: VICE-PRESIDENT

Section 1. **Duties.** The duties of the Vice-President are defined by the Association Council and by these Bylaws and include the following:

- a. Call and conduct the annual business meeting of the Division;
- b. Submit an annual report to the AERA Executive Director;
- c. Submit to the AERA Executive Director by the deadline established by him/her each year a budget request to cover the cost of all divisional activities. It is understood that these budget requests will be subject to the approval of the AERA Executive Board and the Association Council;

- d. Make a vice presidential address during the last annual meeting of her/his term or the year after such term expires
- e. Serve on the Association Council and fulfill duties of such according to Association Bylaws;
- f. Work with the Division Program Committee to plan and implement the annual meeting program.

ARTICLE VII: SECRETARY

Section 1. **Duties**. The duties of the Secretary are defined by these Bylaws and include the following:

- a. Attend and provide a written record of the annual business meeting of the Division;
- b. Provide a brief update of divisional progress on matters of the Secretary at the annual business meeting;
- c. Attend and provide a written record of the Division Executive Committee meeting at the annual meeting;
- d. Chair the Membership & Outreach Committee.
- e. Work with the Vice President to support additional projects in service of the Division.

ARTICLE VIII: THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. **Membership**. There shall be a Division Executive Committee consisting of the Vice President, immediate past Vice-President, Vice-President Elect (where applicable), Secretary, Affirmative Action Officer, Early Career Mentoring Committee Chair, Graduate Student senior representative, Program Chair (or a Program Co-Chair selected by the Vice President), and Newsletter Editor.

Section 2. **Duties**. It shall have authority to direct and review the general affairs of the Division within the limits set forth in these Bylaws.

Section 3. **Officers**. The Vice-President shall be the Chair of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. **Meetings**.

- a. The Executive Committee shall hold at least one meeting each year, the time to be determined by the Committee. The Vice-President may call meetings at other times upon petition of a majority of the Committee members.

b. Two-thirds of the members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum, and unless otherwise specified in these Bylaws, decisions shall be by a majority of those present.

c. Any member of the Division may attend an Executive Committee meeting as an observer, with the understanding that the Committee may also meet in closed session if necessary.

d. Report to the Division. All actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported in writing at least once a year and made available to members of the Division. A record of the actions of the Committee shall be maintained by the Secretary.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

Section 1. **Committee structure.** The committee structure of the Division shall consist of: (a) standing committees, and (b) task forces.

Section 2. **Standing committees.**

a. **Awards Committees:** These committees are charged with selecting the recipients of the AERA-sanctioned divisional awards. The Vice President in consultation with the Executive Committee will appoint the Chairs of the Awards Committees. Awards Committees will include the Chair and four members (two appointed by the Executive Committee & two appointed by the Chair of the Committee). Award Committee members are appointed for a 1-year term.

b. **Affirmative Action Committee:** This Committee is chaired by the Affirmative Action Officer of the Division. The Affirmative Action Officer is appointed by the Division Vice President for a 1-year term and the Division Vice President may renew appointment at his/her discretion. This committee is charged with reviewing and advancing the Division's progress around racial, gender, and sexual identity equity at all levels. The Division Executive Committee will determine the size of the committee. Participation on the committee will be solicited through a call to the general membership. The Chair of the Affirmative Action committee and the Division Vice President will appoint members for a 1-year term and may renew appointments at their discretion.

c. **Graduate Student Committee:** This committee is charged with reviewing and advancing the Division's support and inclusion of graduate students committed to work relevant to the Division's mission. The Division Vice President will appoint a senior and a junior representative. The committee shall be chaired by the senior graduate student representative. Participation on the committee will be solicited through a call to the general membership. The Executive Committee will determine the size of the committee. The Chair of the Graduate Student committee and the Division Vice President will appoint members for a 1-year term and may renew appointments at their discretion.

d. **Membership and Outreach Committee:** This committee is charged with reviewing

and advancing the Division's efforts to support and expand its membership. It shall be chaired by the Secretary. The Executive Committee will determine the size of the committee. Participation on the committee will be solicited through a call to the general membership. The Chair of the Membership and Outreach committee and the Division Vice President will appoint members for a 1-year term and may renew appointments at their discretion.

e. **Early Career Mentoring Committee:** The Early Career Mentoring Chair(s) are responsible for developing and implementing professional development opportunities for the Division membership with an emphasis on early career Division members and advanced doctoral students. The Chair(s) of the Early Career Mentoring Committee is (are) appointed by the Division Vice President for a 1-year term and the Division Vice President may renew appointment at his/her discretion. The Division Executive Committee will determine the size of the committee. Participation on the committee will be solicited through a call to the general membership. The Chair of the Early Career Mentoring and the Division Vice President will appoint members for a 1-year term and may renew appointments at their discretion.

f. **Division Program Committee:** This committee is charged with organizing the Division's portion of the program for the annual meeting. The Program Committee, chaired by the Division Program Chair or Program Co-Chairs appointed by the Division Vice President, will include Chairs or Co-Chairs for each of the Division's sections, the Affirmative Action committee chair, and the Graduate Student Committee Chair. Section Chairs or Co-Chairs are appointed by the Division Vice President in consultation with the Program Chair.

g. **Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee is charged with recommending candidates for offices of Vice President and Secretary. The Nominating Committee and the Division Vice President will be responsible for issuing an open call for nominations. The Chair of the Nominating Committee is appointed by the Vice President each year. The Nominating Committee will include three members appointed by the Vice President each year.

h. Additional standing committees may be established or existing standing committees may be discontinued by recommendation of the Executive Committee and adoption by division membership through a referendum.

Section 3. **Task Forces.**

a. Special divisional task forces may be established by the Executive Committee to carry out particular tasks as described in a charge from the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may designate the term of task forces when they are approved.

b. Members of task forces shall be appointed by the Vice-President, and the task forces shall be discontinued when tasks assigned have been completed. Task forces may be discontinued earlier, at the pleasure of the Vice President and the Executive Committee.

Section 4. **Membership.** Standing committee and task force members must be Division members.

ARTICLE X: PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. **Policy.** One of the principal means by which the Division accomplishes its goals is through communication among members. The Division shall therefore engage in the preparation, production, distribution, and financing of a divisional newsletter. Additionally, the Executive Committee may support occasional and regular publications. These publications must, however, meet with approval of AERA.

ARTICLE XI: FINANCES

Section 1. **Dues, fees, and assessments.** Dues and special assessments for Division membership are set by AERA Council.

Section 2. **Budget.** Division G shall receive an annual budget established by the Association Council that shall govern Division expenditures and be administered under the authority of the Executive Director. The Vice-President is responsible for submitting a budget to the AERA Executive Director and shall furnish the membership with a report of the approved budget.

Section 3. **Audit and control.**

- a. All receipts and disbursements shall be made only through AERA.
- b. All employees and officers entrusted with financial responsibilities will be bonded, with premiums on the fidelity bonds paid by the Association.
- c. The Division shall use funds collected only to accomplish objectives and purposes stated in these Bylaws. No member or group of members shall commit the financial resources of the Division in any manner except as stipulated in these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII: MEETINGS AND BUSINESS

Section 1. **Scheduling of meetings.** The Executive Committee shall have authority to set the time and place of meetings of the Division.

Section 2. **Annual meeting.** Except for sufficient reason, there shall be a business meeting of the Division each year arranged as a forum for report and discussion of Division affairs. At this meeting, agenda items shall be proposed for the next Executive Committee meeting.

Section 3. **Notice of meetings.** Announcement of time and place of any meeting of the Division shall be made by the Vice-President as far ahead as is reasonably possible.

Section 4. **Rules of Order.** In all cases to which they apply and do not conflict with the provisions of these Bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order (current edition) shall govern business meetings of the Division.

Section 5. **Membership approval.**

- a. Items of business requiring the vote of the members shall be transacted by standard mail and/or e-mail or by e-ballot as a membership referendum and will originate from the Executive Committee.
- b. Division members may introduce items for discussion and reconsideration at the next business meeting of the Division by notifying the Vice-President of the item at least one week prior to the meeting. A majority vote of the members present at the annual business meeting of the Division shall be sufficient for resubmission of a motion by mail or electronic vote of the entire division membership with opportunity for those favoring resubmission to state their rationale. An affirmative vote by at least two-thirds of the members returning ballots within 30 days shall be sufficient for acceptance of a motion.
- c. A summary of actions adopted by the membership shall be included in the Annual Report by the Vice-President.

Section 6. **Quorum rule.** Members in attendance of the Division's annual business meeting shall be considered a quorum.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS AND REVISIONS

Section 1. **Initiation.** Amendments to or other changes in these Bylaws may be initiated in either of the following ways:

- a. The Executive Committee may formulate proposals and submit them, with any arguments it chooses, to the membership for a vote.
- b. Any 30 voting members may submit to the Executive Committee a proposed amendment or amendments in writing and signed by the sponsors. The Executive Committee shall then submit the proposed amendment with any arguments advanced by its sponsors and with the Executive Committee arguments and recommendations, for or against, to the voting members of the Division for action.

Section 2. **Adoption.** Amendments or revisions may be acted on by the voting members of the Division, as follows: The bylaws may be amended by a ballot of the Division G membership that occurs in conjunction with an AERA election. A two thirds affirmative vote by those returning their ballots within 30 days of receipt of the ballots is necessary to amend the bylaws. An amendment to the bylaws becomes effective upon acceptance unless otherwise specified on the ballot. The results of the vote shall be reported to the

membership in the next available issue of the newsletter.

ARTICLE XIV: INDEMNIFICATION

No Officer or member of a committee shall be liable to the AERA, or any member, or any other person or persons from any claim of any character resulting from any actions taken or any failure to take action in good faith and believed by them to be authorized by these bylaws or within their discretion or rights or powers conferred upon them by these bylaws. Each of these individuals shall be indemnified by the Association against expenses actually and necessarily incurred in connection with the defense of any action, or proceeding in which he or she is made a party by reason of his or her being or having been in this designated role of responsibility.