

**BYLAWS OF THE FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND LEGAL  
COMMUNICATION INTEREST GROUP  
WESTERN STATES COMMUNICATION ASSOCIATION**

**ARTICLE I—PURPOSE**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the Freedom of Expression and Legal Communication 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 Freedom of Expression and Legal Communication Interest Group is to advance the understanding of communication issues regarding freedom of speech and expression and communication and the law. The interest group welcomes theoretical or applied inquiry into freedom of expression and legal communication issues by use of all methods of research, ranging from historical-critical through experimental methods. Consistent with this purpose, 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, Chair-Elect, and Secretary.

**Section 2.** Upon election by the Interest Group at its annual meeting, the Chair-Elect will serve a one-year term beginning at the WSCA convention the following year. The next year, the Chair-Elect will succeed to the office of Chair. The Chair-Elect 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 Chair-Elect shall become Chair at the beginning of the business meeting in the year that follows his/her year as Chair-Elect. 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.** When necessary, the immediate past Chair will serve on the WSCA Nominating Committee.

**Section 7.** In the event an officer is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities for whatever reason, he/she 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 at the business meeting, including Chair-Elect (annually), and Secretary (bi-annually). Existing officers will coordinate nominations, and additional nominations will be 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**

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 3 reviewers from a list circulated at the annual business meeting and by asking for volunteers from the Interest Group membership.

**Section 2.** Papers shall be assigned to eliminate institutional bias and provide random readership. Papers shall be evaluated by a blind review process.

**Section 3.** 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—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 most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

#### **ARTICLE IX—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.