

# **Southern Regional Science Association Constitution**

**(Adopted March 1, 1975)  
Amended March 8, 1986; April 29, 1989; March 24, 1990;  
April 13, 1996; and March 27, 2010**

## **Article I Name**

The name of the organization shall be the Southern Regional Science Association.

## **Article II Objectives and Scope**

The Southern Regional Science Association is an association for the advancement of regional analysis and related spatial and areal studies. It shall operate as an objective, scientific organization without political, social, financial, or nationalistic bias. Its main objectives shall be to foster the exchange of ideas and to promote studies focusing on regional topics and issues and utilizing tools, methods, and theoretical frameworks specifically designed for regional analysis as well as concepts, procedures, and analytical techniques of the various social and other sciences. The Association shall support these objectives by promoting acquaintance and discussions among its members and with scholars in related fields, by stimulating research, by encouraging the publication of scholarly studies, and by performing services to aid the advancement of its members and the field of regional science.

The Association organizes an annual conference that provides a forum for interaction and discussion, and sponsors a scholarly regional science journal for the dissemination of research and ideas.

The Southern Regional Science Association shall not distribute propaganda, attempt to influence legislation, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

## **Article III Membership**

### Section 1. Members.

Membership in the Southern Regional Science Association is open to all individuals with an interest in regional science. The active membership of the Association includes all individuals who have paid the prescribed dues of the Association. The amount of dues required for membership in the Association shall be determined by the Executive Council. Members who have not paid dues after six months of the due date shall be suspended from membership in the Association.

### Section 2. Membership Rights.

All active members shall have full voting and office holding rights.

### Section 3. Misuse of Affiliation.

Any member who makes use of her/his affiliation with the Association in a manner considered improper by the Executive Council of the Association may be suspended by the Council after opportunity has been given the individual for a hearing before them and may be expelled from the Association by a majority of members voting at the next business meeting of the Association.

### Section 4. Limitation of Liability.

No member or officer shall be individually liable for the debts, contracts, and other obligations of the Association. This provision shall appear in all contracts entered into by and on behalf of the Southern Regional Science Association.

## **Article IV Officers and Committees**

### Section 1. Officers.

The Association shall have the following officers: President, President-Elect, North American Regional Science Council Councilor and Co-Executive Directors. The Co-Executive Directors will serve as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. The officers shall direct and conduct the affairs of the Association, with the assistance and advice of the Executive Council.

The President may, at her/his discretion and with the advice and consent of the Executive Council, appoint standing and ad hoc committees and individuals as may be necessary to carry out the programs and to further the purposes of the Association.

### Section 2. Tenure and Succession of Offices.

A. The President shall serve for a term of one year, beginning after the Annual Business Meeting and ending with following year's Annual meeting. If no Annual meeting is held, the President's term of office shall begin on the first anniversary of the last Annual meeting.

B. The President (President-Elect) shall be elected by an affirmative vote of the majority of the members voting at the annual business meeting or by mail ballot if no Annual meeting is held. Such elected person shall serve in the first year of office as President-Elect and in the following year of office as President.

C. The President-Elect shall serve as, or may designate, a Program Chairperson for the Annual meeting during her/his term of office as President-Elect.

D. The Co-Executive Directors shall be appointed by the Executive Council and shall serve at the Council's discretion with respect to tenure. The Co-Executive Director/Treasurer shall be authorized to receive and expend funds of the Association as authorized by the Executive Council. The Co-Executive Director/Secretary will be responsible for coordinating the affairs of the Association including those pertaining to the Review of Regional Studies, the SRSA Newsletter, and all Association committees.

E. The North American Regional Science Council Councilor shall be elected by an affirmative vote of the majority of members voting at the annual business meeting or by mail ballot if no Annual Meeting is held. The Councilor shall serve a term of two years beginning after the Annual Meeting in which elected. The Councilor will represent The Southern Regional Science Association at meetings of the North American Regional Science Council and provide an annual report of such meetings at the SRSA Annual Meeting.

F. In case of disability of the President, her/his duties shall devolve to the President-Elect, and then to a member of the Executive Council, who shall be designated by that body.

### Section 3. Executive Council.

There shall be an Executive Council, whose function shall be to advise and assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.

A. The Executive Council shall be composed of the Officers of the Association, Elected Members, the Immediate Past President of the Association, and the Editor(s) of the official publications of the Association.

1. The officers of the Association shall be ex officio members of the Council. The President of the Association shall serve as Chairperson of the Council. The Co-Executive Director/Secretary of the Association shall serve as Executive Secretary of the Council. The Co-Executive Director/Treasurer shall serve as Treasurer of the Association.

2. The Council shall include not less than four nor more than six members who are elected by an affirmative vote of the majority of the membership voting.

3. The Immediate Past President of the Association shall be an ex officio member of the Council.

4. The Editor(s) of The Review of Regional Studies and other official publications of the Association shall be (a) member(s) of the Council.

B. The elected Members of the Council shall serve for terms of three years each. Members of the Council may be re-elected for additional consecutive terms only with the recommendation of the Council and an affirmative vote of the membership.

C. Members of the Council shall be eligible for election to office in the Association. (See Article III, Section 2.) Upon election to office, the unexpired term of the Council member shall be filled by designation of the Council.

D. Members of the Council shall each have one vote in matters formally brought before the Council for resolution. In such matters the Council shall be guided by an affirmative vote of the majority of the Council.

E. It shall be a specific duty of the Council to form a nominating committee of the Council to present to the membership for vote a list of nominees for officers of the Association and elected members of the Council. The Nominating Committee will be chaired by the outgoing Immediate Past President. At the discretion of the Council, the nominating committee may include other members of the Association.

F. It shall be a specific duty of the Council to form a membership committee of the Council to conduct membership drives, compile the membership directory and prepare an annual report on membership by state, activity and field of specialization. At the discretion of the Council, the membership committee may include other members of the Association.

G. It shall be the specific duty of the Council to form an ad hoc committee to conduct a graduate student paper competition (hereafter referred to as "the Honors Committee") at the annual meetings, beginning with 1991. The competition will conform to the Guidelines for Student Honors Competition, attached to this Constitution. The committee will be chaired by the outgoing Chair of the Nominating Committee of SRSA, and up to 3 additional members selected by the chair. Papers will be submitted to the Chair of the Honors Committee of SRSA.

### **Article V Meetings, Publications, and Program**

#### Section 1. Meetings.

Times and places of meetings of the Association, including the Annual Meeting, will be determined by the Executive Council of the Association. Announcement of the time and place of meetings must be mailed to members at least 60 days in advance.

#### Section 2. Publications.

The official journal of the Association is The Review of Regional Studies. The Association also may prepare and distribute an informative newsletter to its membership. Additional official publication activities of the Association require the prior approval of the Executive Council. Editors of official publications of the Association shall be appointed by and serve at the discretion of the Council.

#### Section 3. Program.

The Program Chairperson shall be the President-Elect or such a person as designated by the President-Elect with the concurrence of the Executive Council (Article IV, Section 2). The Program Chairperson may appoint a Program Committee.

#### Section 4. Business Meetings.

A business meeting of the members of the Association shall be held during the Annual Meeting at a previously announced time and place. The business meeting will be conducted by the President and the active members present shall constitute a quorum. Reports by the President and Co-Executive Director(s) shall be presented during the meeting. If no Annual Meeting is held, the reports shall be mailed to members within 30 days following the first anniversary of the last business meeting.

### **Article VI Amendments to the Constitution**

Changes in the constitution shall be proposed either by action of the Executive Council or by petition of 20 members and shall be adopted upon affirmative vote of two-thirds of members voting.

## **Article VII Fellows**

Individuals with particularly outstanding records of scholarship and/or service to the Association in the advancement of regional analysis and related fields of study may be elected as Fellows of the Association by the Executive Council. The position of Fellow is an honorary position of the Association in recognition of the achievements and contributions of the selected individuals. The number of Fellows elected at any time shall be at the discretion of the Council.

## **Article VIII Awards**

### Section 1. Annual Presentation of Awards.

The Southern Regional Science Association bestows awards and prizes at the annual conference meeting to encourage scholarly participation by graduate students and junior faculty members. The Association's website will provide details concerning the awards.

### Section 2. Awards.

The Barry Moriarty Student Paper Competition promotes graduate student scholarship in the field of regional science. An award will be given to the student submitting the best paper in regional science. The winning student must present the paper at a session of the SRSA Annual Meetings. This competition offers an excellent opportunity for students to have their work evaluated and recognized by professionals in the discipline. It also allows those attending the conference to gain insights into cutting edge research underway.

Upon its 40th anniversary, the Regional Research Institute at West Virginia University initiated an award for scholarly excellence in honor of Dr. William H. Miernyk, founder and first Director of the Institute. The William H. Miernyk Research Excellence Medal (the Miernyk Medal) is awarded annually at the Southern Regional Science Meeting to the author of the best solely-authored SRSA conference paper written and presented by an assistant professor.

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