

Bylaws of the Research on Giftedness and Talented SIG American Educational Research Association

ARTICLE I: NAME and GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Section 1. Name. The special interest group shall be known as the Research on Giftedness and Talented (SIG/RGT).

Section 2. Affiliation. The organization, Research on Giftedness and Talented (SIG/RGT), is a Special Interest Group (SIG) of the American Research Association (AERA) and, as such, pays annual dues to AERA and participates in the AERA annual meeting.

Section 3. Governing Authority. The SIG shall abide by the Bylaws and Articles of incorporation of the American Educational Association (Association) and supports the mission of the Association. SIG/RGT Bylaws shall not conflict with the Bylaws and Articles of incorporation of the Association.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE.

The purpose of the SIG/RGT to generate and disseminate knowledge about research needs and methodologies focusing on the education of gifted and talented youth. In addition, the purpose is to develop and promote forums for coordinating and disseminating research to educators and policy-makers who can make important differences in the education of gifted and talented youth. Pursuant to these purposes SIG/RGT may elect to publish its own journal and/or newsletter, and/or hold workshops and conferences supplementing AERA meetings.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any AERA member in good standing may become a member of the SIG/RGT. Membership shall be on an annual basis and shall be concurrent with AERA membership. Applications for membership will be sent to the AERA Executive Officer, who shall accept and process them according to the Association Bylaws.

Section 2. Voting Rights. All SIG/RGT members in good standing, fully paid in SIG dues, shall be entitled to vote for SIG/RGT officers.

Section 3. Dues. The annual dues for the SIG/RGT shall be \$10.00 and will run concurrently with AERA membership dues.

Section 4. Membership Year. The membership year shall follow the Association's year which is established by the Association's Executive Board.

Section 5. Termination of Membership.

- (a). **FAILURE TO PAY DUES.** Failure of a member to pay dues for any membership year by a date to be fixed by the Association's Executive Board automatically terminates membership. At a member's request and payment of current dues, anyone whose membership has been terminated for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated by the SIGs Executive Board.

- (b). **REMOVAL FOR CAUSE.** If continued membership of any person is believed to be contrary to the interests, purposes, or ethical standards of the Association, the SIG/RGT Executive Board shall appoint a special committee that includes members of the Divisions (SIGs) to which the person belongs and delegate to it the conduct of investigations and hearings. Before final action is taken to terminate membership, the member shall be given opportunity to present a defense. Membership may be terminated by a two-thirds vote of the committee.

ARTICLE IV. ELECTED OFFICERS, NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS

Section 1. Elected Officers and Terms

Elected officers of the SIG shall be chosen by a majority of SIG/RGT members in good standing by postal or email balloting. The elected officers shall comprise the Executive Board of SIG/RGT and shall conduct all business of the SIG in the interim between the annual business meetings.

The elected officers of the SIG shall be:

- SIG Chair, who shall serve for two years. The Chair shall represent the SIG and oversee the preparation of the annual report, coordinate all SIG activities, chair the annual meeting and generally serve as the spokesperson for the SIG. The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and at the annual business meeting. The Chair shall appoint ad hoc committees as needed.

- SIG Chair-elect, who shall serve two years prior to moving to the position of the Chair. This individual shall assist the Chair in all activities or may act as Chair in the absence of the Chair. During the second year, the Chair-elect will coordinate the evaluation process of the SIG/RGT.

- Program Chair, who shall serve for one year. The Program Chair shall coordinate the SIG's activities for the annual meeting.

- Assistant Program Chair shall serve one year prior to moving to the office of Program Chair. The Assistant Chair shall assist the Program Chair in the coordination of the SIG's activities for the annual meeting.
- Past Chair, who shall serve for two years. The Past Chair shall help the Chair as appropriate and shall Chair the Nominating Committee in appropriate years.
- Secretary, who shall serve for two years. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the SIG meetings and disseminate the minutes to the membership after approval from the SIG Executive Board.
- Treasurer, who shall serve for two years. The Treasurer shall be responsible for keeping all financial records for the SIG/RGT and for payment of bills in accordance with the budget and with the co-authorization of the Chair.
- Newsletter Editor, who shall serve for two years. The Newsletter Editor shall be responsible for producing a minimum of two newsletters per year. Dissemination of the newsletter may be by email or other means. The Newsletter Editor is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.
- Members-at-Large, who shall serve for two years. There will be no more than four Members-at-Large on the Executive Board in any given year.
- Student Member, who shall serve for two years. The student member shall be a student in good standing in a graduate program terminating in either a Master's or Doctorate degree. The student member is a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

Individuals may not serve in more than one elected office simultaneously. No person may serve in any single office for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 2. Qualifications. Only SIG/RGT members in good standing may hold elected offices.

Section 3. Election Procedures. In election years prior to the annual AERA meeting the SIG Chair, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall appoint a Nominating Committee of no less than 2 and not more than 4 persons, with the Past-SIG Chair serving as the Chair of the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present the slate of candidates to the SIG/RGT members. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall announce the outcomes of the elections to the Executive Board and all candidates at least 1 week prior to beginning of the AERA annual meetings in appropriate years.

Section 4. Nominations.

(a). The Nominating Committee shall develop the slate of officers, with invited nominations sought from the membership, to be voted upon by the SIG membership. The Chair shall mail via either postal carrier or email, the slate of candidates to the voting members for their information. By written request of one percent or more of the voting membership of the SIG, other nominations for the offices of Chair-Elect and Member-at-Large then may be submitted to the Chair.

(b). The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall prepare a ballot including all duly nominated candidates, and shall mail the ballot via either postal or email to each voting member of the SIG. If there are more than two candidates for any office, voting shall be by ranking, and election by allocating votes in accordance with the Hare System.

(c). Members in good standing shall vote by postal or email to the Chair of the Nominating Committee.

(d). The Nomination Committee shall review the procedures and certify the results to the SIG Chair immediately, and to the membership at the following business meeting. In case of a tie, the election shall be settled by lot, with the candidates participating. The Nomination Committee will establish the procedure.

Section 5. Schedule for Nominations and Elections

(a). The ballot, due in two weeks, is sent to each member, who votes once for each position to be filled.

(b). The Nominating Committee shall be appointed within two months after the Chair and Chair-Elect assume office.

Section 6. Vacancies

(a). When a vacancy in the office of the Chair occurs, the Chair-Elect shall become Chair and remain in office to serve out both terms.

(b). If an officer is unable or fails to perform duties satisfactorily over a period of time, the Executive Board is authorized to declare the office vacant and arrange for the duties of the office to be performed. The Executive Board also has the authority to take other reasonable steps to preserve intact the offices of the SIG, and to maintain the continuity of the SIG's operations.

ARTICLE V: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committee Structure. The committee structure of the SIG shall consist of (a) standing committees, and (b) special task committees.

Section 2. Standing Committees.

(a) Standing committees may be established or discontinued by the SIG/RGT Executive Board. The standing committees shall be described in a charge from the Board and may be revised at any time by the Board.

(b) The Nominating Committee shall perform the duties specified in Article IV, Sections 3, 4, and 5.

Section 3. Special Committees.

(a) Special committees may be established by the Executive Board to carry out particular activities described in a charge from the Board. The Board may designate the term of special committees when they are approved.

(b) Members of special committees shall be appointed by the SIG Chair, and the committee shall be discharged when tasks assigned have been completed. Committees may be discharged at the pleasure of the Board.

(c) The position of Webmaster(s) shall be designed as a standing committee and shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Board meetings.

Section 4. Membership. Committee members must be SIG/RGT members and AERA members in good standing.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meetings. There shall be a SIG/RGT business meeting held each year in conjunction with the AERA annual meeting. Arrangements for the time and place of this meeting are the responsibility of the Program Chair.

ARTICLES VII: RATIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Ratification. These Bylaws shall take effect upon two-thirds of those members voting at a duly called business meeting or a two-thirds of the membership by postal or email voting.

Section 2. Amendments. These Bylaws may be amended by two-thirds of those members voting at either the annual business meeting or by postal or email. All proposed amendments must be submitted for review by the Executive Committee at least 7 days prior to the annual business meeting.

ARTICLE VIII: ANNUAL REPORT

(a). An annual report regarding the status of the SIG/RGT shall be prepared by the Chair each year. The annual report shall include, but not be limited to:

- A list of current members;
- A list of current officers;
- A financial accounting for the year;
- A list of activities and services provided by the SIG during the previous year, and
- Samples of materials prepared by the SIG during the previous year.

ARTICLE IX: EVALUATION

(a). Every second year, the SIG/RGT shall assess its productivity and membership and shall make a form report to the membership. The Past-Chair shall be responsible for overseeing the self-evaluation process, which shall be open to all SIG members.

ARTICLE X: DISSOLUTION

(a). In the event that the purpose of the SIG/RGT is fulfilled by another organization or it is unable to maintain membership in AERA, the organization may be discontinued by a vote requiring approval of at least two-thirds of the members of the SIG. Should SIG/RGT discontinue, its assets shall be used to pay all outstanding debts and obligations. Any remaining funds shall be donated to the American Educational Research Association.