

2017 CSSR / SCÉR Constitution Revisions Approved

Approved at AGM

These were the changes to Article 1 and Article 4 voted in by the 2017 CSSR Annual General Meeting.

Rationales

For full rationales, see other documents in the Archives on our website.

Article 1 PAST TEXT

Article 1. Name.

The society shall be called the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric/La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Rhétorique.

Article 1 REVISED TEXT

Article 1. Name.

1.1. The society shall officially be called the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric / La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Rhétorique, abbreviated as CSSR / SCÉR.

1.2. The society's informal alias and alternative abbreviation is RhetCanada (and/or RhétCanada).

1.3. The society's scholarly journal name shall be "Rhetor," or alternatively, "Rhetor: Journal of the Canadian Society for the Study of Rhetoric."

Article 4 PAST TEXT

Article 4.1. Executive Committee

4.1.2.1. The President shall serve for a term of two years and shall normally assume office by virtue of having served a two-year term as Vice-President. Upon completion of his/her term as President, he/she will serve two years as Past President.

4.1.2.2. The President shall preside at all meetings of the society, and represent its interests in the academic community. In consultation with the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board, the President shall arrange the program for the annual conference and meeting of members. In

consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, the President shall determine the agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

4.1.2.3. The Past President shall be the retiring president and shall serve a term of two years. He/she shall have the duty of editing Rhetor, the journal of the society, which will be issued every two years, and of being a resource person for the new president. He/she shall have no voting powers on the Executive Committee.

4.1.2.4. The Vice-President shall normally assume office by virtue of having served a two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. He/she will then serve two years as President and another two years as Past President.

4.1.2.5. The Vice-President shall perform the functions of the President in the absence or incapacity of that officer. He/she, as needed, shall undertake initiatives to publicize the society and to recruit new members, and shall send such materials as a poster, brochure, and call for papers to people who may be interested in the affairs of the society.

4.1.2.6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for an eight-year term, which shall begin with a two-year term as Secretary-Treasurer. Upon completion of the term, the Secretary-Treasurer will normally assume the functions of the Vice-President. He/she shall manage the finances of the society, keep the books and membership lists, and record the minutes of meetings for the Executive Committee and the members. He/she shall present a financial statement at the Annual General Meeting.

Article 4.2. Advisory and Nomination Committees (Membership)

4.2.2. The Nomination Committee shall consist normally of the Executive Committee. The society will attempt to fulfill its bilingual imperative by continuing to assure that a francophone or bilingual member is on the Executive if at all possible.

Article 4.3. Nomination Procedure

4.3.1. The Nominating Committee shall solicit suggestions from the membership for nominees to the positions of Secretary-Treasurer, of Member-at-Large, and to membership on the Advisory Committee. The President of the society shall serve as the chair of all meetings of the nominating committee. The committee will secure the agreement to stand of all nominated candidates and shall prepare a report for presentation to the AGM.

4.3.2. Nominations from the floor of the AGM shall be considered constitutional if the nominee is present and agrees to stand or has made known that he/she would agree to stand.

REVISION

Executive Committee powers

NO CHANGE 4.1.1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Society which shall, subject to the plenary power of the general meeting of members, manage the affairs of the Society between meetings of members.

Membership, Length of Terms of Service, and Diversity of the Executive Committee

REVISED 4.1.2 The membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of the President, the Past President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-Treasurer, the Member-at-Large, the Editor (ex officio, non-voting), and the Webmaster (ex officio, non-voting).

ADD 4.1.2.1 All terms of service on the Executive Committee shall be two years, except for the Member-at-Large, which shall be one year. After serving a term, a member may stand for re-election to the same role.

ADD 4.1.2.2 Any single member on the Executive Committee may serve as Editor (non-voting) or Webmaster (non-voting) while concurrently serving in another Executive Committee role. A single person shall not serve in more than two voting roles on the executive at any one time, and each person on the executive shall have only one vote in executive decisions.

ADD 4.1.2.3 The executive committee of the society should reflect the linguistic, ethnic and regional diversity of Canada, gender diversity, as well as the organization's bilingual status and international membership.

ADD 4.1.2.4 Each member of the executive committee should hold at least a master's degree and should not be students while serving in their roles.

President

REVISED 4.1.3 The President shall preside at all meetings of the society, and represent its interests in the academic community. In consultation with the Executive Committee and the Advisory Board, the President shall arrange the program for the annual conference and meeting of members. In consultation with the Secretary-Treasurer, the President shall determine the agenda for the Annual General Meeting.

ADD 4.1.3.1. Candidates for President are typically nominated to the Slate from the current executive committee. Any member of the Society with a minimum of 2 years experience on the Executive Committee (i.e. 2 years as Secretary-Treasurer or Vice President) may be eligible to be nominated for President.

ADD 4.1.3.2. Upon completion of his/her term as President, he/she will serve two years as Past President.

Past-President

REVISED 4.1.4. The Past President shall be the retiring president and shall serve a term of two years. He/she shall have the duty of being a resource person for the new president. He/she shall have no voting powers on the Executive Committee.

Vice-President

NO CHANGE 4.1.5. The Vice-President shall perform the functions of the President in the absence or incapacity of that officer. He/she, as needed, shall undertake initiatives to publicize the society and to recruit new members, and shall send such materials as a poster, brochure, and call for papers to people who may be interested in the affairs of the society.

ADD 4.1.5.1 Candidates for Vice-President are typically nominated to the Slate from the current executive committee. Any member of the Society with a minimum of 2 years experience on the Executive Committee may be nominated for Vice-President.

Secretary-Treasurer

REVISED 4.1.6 The Secretary-Treasurer shall manage the finances of the society, keep the books and membership lists, and record the minutes of meetings for the Executive Committee and the members. He/she shall present a financial statement at the Annual General Meeting. Because of the complexity of working with Canadian financial institutions across international borders, non-Canadian members of the Society are discouraged from seeking this office.

ADD 4.1.6.1 Candidates for Secretary-Treasurer are typically nominated to the Slate from the body of members who have previously served a minimum of 2 years in any role or committee of the organization (such as Member-at-Large, Advisory Committee member).

Editor

REVISED 4.1.7 The Editor of Rhetor, the journal of the society, will work with the Editorial Board to manage the contents of all Rhetor issues (including any special issues or sections), their review processes, production processes and timelines. The journal will be issued at least once every two years. At his/her discretion, the editor may work with the Editorial Board to commission or approve a proposal for special sections or special issues of the journal which will increase the publication schedule of Rhetor.

REVISED 4.1.7.1 The Editor of Rhetor is eligible to stand for election or re-election if he/she has previously been a paid member in good standing with the society for at least 5 years with a record of

at least 2 years in service or leadership roles within the society. In the past, leadership as President has provided editors with experience and networks necessary to cultivate the journal; past presidents are encouraged to seek the position. The Editor will be a published scholar in the field of rhetorical studies. It is recommended that the Editor concurrently serve in a full time academic position at a college or university and hold tenure in that position. Where possible, candidates may seek support for editorial assistants from their home college or university (whether paid or as internship opportunities). Over time, the editorship of Rhetor should reflect the linguistic, ethnic and regional diversity of Canada.

ADD 4.1.7.2 The Editor shall be ex-officio a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The Editor may also hold concurrently another executive office (e.g. Vice-President, Secretary, etc.) which confers on him/her a voting right during the aforementioned period.

Webmaster

ADD: 4.1.7 The Webmaster shall work with members of the Executive Committee to ensure that the website meets the communication and archiving needs of the organization and that the website and any related social media accounts and online applications are well managed, backed up, and secure. Where possible, candidates may seek support for assistants from their home college or university (whether paid or as internship opportunities); he/she will oversee any assistants needed to manage the workload.

ADD 4.1.7.1. The Webmaster is eligible to stand for election or re-election if he/she has been a member in good standing for at least 2 years and has served at least 1 year in any leadership or committee roles. She/he must also have appropriate technical expertise.

ADD 4.1.7.2 The Webmaster shall be ex-officio a non-voting member of the Executive Committee. The Webmaster may also hold concurrently another executive office (e.g. Vice-President, Secretary, etc.) which confers on him/her a voting right during the aforementioned period.

REMOVE 5.3 (under "Article 5. Committees and Appointments") The Webmaster shall be appointed as needed, the term of the position being decided by the person who volunteers for and assumes that duty.

Member at Large

REVISED 4.1.8. The Member-at-Large shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting for a term of one year and may serve for up to three consecutive terms. He or she shall perform duties as directed by the Executive.

ADD 4.1.8.1. The Member-at-Large is eligible to stand for election or re-election if they are currently a member in good standing.

Article 4.2. Advisory and Nomination Committees (Membership)

REVISED 4.2.2 The Nomination Committee shall consist of the Executive Committee. The nomination committee will attempt to ensure the Executive Committee represents the organization's diversity as outlined above in section 4.1.2.3. It is especially important to ensure that a francophone or bilingual member is on the Executive Committee, Editorial Board, and Advisory Committee if at all possible.

Article 4.3. Nomination Procedure

ADD 4.3.1. The Slate: Every two years, the Nominating Committee shall solicit suggestions from the membership for nominees to the positions of President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Nominating Committee will identify a "slate" of candidates (for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer) for presentation to the AGM for a vote. Criteria for construction and evaluation of the slate should include:

- a. Appropriate mix of new and experienced leaders in the organization.
- b. Appropriate mix of language expertise.
- c. Appropriate mix of nationalities reflecting a bilingual, international organization, understanding the limitations that Canadian law places on the Treasurer and the complexities of planning our annual meeting with the Congress.
- e. Appropriate mix of gender diversity
- f. Appropriate mix of geographic and ethnic diversity reflecting the diversity of a Canadian organization
- d. Appropriate seniority (as some scholars may not be able to manage early career tenure expectations while leading the organization).

Typically, the slate will be constructed from members with appropriate leadership experience (enumerated in 4.1.3.1, 4.1.5.1, 4.1.6.1).

ADD 4.3.2. The Editor and Webmaster: Every two years, the Nominating Committee shall also solicit suggestions from the membership for nominees to the positions of Editor of Rhetor and Webmaster. These positions may be held concurrently with other positions in the organization.

ADD 4.3.3. Other Positions: Annually, the Nominating Committee shall solicit suggestions from the membership for Member-at-Large and for membership on the Advisory Committee.

REVISED 4.3.4. Process: The President or Past President of the society shall serve as the chair of all meetings of the nominating committee. The Nominating Committee will secure the agreement to stand of all nominated candidates and shall prepare a report for presentation to the AGM for vote.

4.3.5. Other nominations (outside the slate) from the floor of the AGM shall be considered constitutional if the nominee is present and agrees to stand or has made known that he/she would agree to stand.