

Standing Rule XI. Membership Groups Within TESOL

2. Interest Sections

A. Role and Procedures for Establishment and Operation of Interest Sections

Rev Mar-07

I. Role

The primary role of TESOL's Interest Sections is to stay abreast of the issues and concerns of their areas of interest/expertise through discussion and to disseminate that information to the entire membership. TESOL's Interest Sections represent the various professional concerns of the membership, in contrast to caucuses, which provide forums for groups of the TESOL membership that share common social, cultural, or demographic interests. Through Interest Sections, members have the opportunity to participate, learn, share, interact, and serve. Although each Interest Section has distinct interests and goals, all seek to fulfill the following objectives:

- A. To assist in planning the program for the Annual Convention
- B. To provide opportunities for networking internally among their members and externally among sections
- C. To mentor, advise, and train members on conference proposals, publications, and professional concerns
- D. To stimulate scholarship, research, and professional development by sponsoring special projects, Convention sessions, and publications in all media
- E. To represent the members of the respective Sections in the governance of TESOL
- F. Through their elected representatives, to convey the needs and interests of their members to the Interest Section Leadership Council and the concerns of the Board to their respective members
- G. To serve as area-specific resources for Central Office and to the community at large
- H. To foster the recognition of English language instruction as an academic field of study at all levels of education
- I. To advocate for the professional concerns of their members and for the students their members teach
- J. To ensure viability and continuity in TESOL by training and encouraging aspiring practitioners to become Interest Section leaders

II. Procedures for establishment

- A. Interest Sections are established by the Board of Directors as follows: A petition, signed by at least one hundred (100) TESOL members indicating their desire to join the proposed section, is submitted to Central Office sixty (60) days before the Annual Convention. The petition must include:
 - 1. The name of the proposed Interest Section
 - 2. The purpose, or definition, of the professional interest represented by the proposed IS. No petition should contain an IS purpose or definition with content that overlaps the purpose or definition of an IS already existing.

3. A draft of governing rules for the proposed section
 4. A recommendation of TESOL members to serve as Chair and Chair -elect during the initial year of the proposed IS
 5. Evidence of professional interest. This evidence must include:
 - a. Presentations directly related to the specific area of concern of the proposed Interest Section at the previous two years' Annual Conventions
 - b. At least five publications by five different TESOL members in Interest Section newsletters, research based documentation, and other TESOL publications directly related to the specific area of concern of the proposed IS.
- B. Central Office forwards the petition to the Interest Section Leadership Council and the IS Assembly delegates prior to the Annual Convention. The petitioner prepares a written and oral summary presentation for discussion at the IS Assembly.
- C. The Interest Section Assembly discusses the petition, makes modifications where applicable, and recommends acceptance or rejection of the petition. The Assembly's recommendation for rejection or for approval based on a rationale is forwarded to the Board of Directors. The Board approves or rejects the petition, based on a careful consideration of the recommendations of the Assembly.
1. If the petition is approved, the President, upon recommendation of the petitioners, appoints the Chair and Chair-elect for the first year.
 2. If the petition is rejected, the Board may grant interim status to the group for one year. Terms of the interim status will be defined by the Board in a letter to the petitioners, who may reapply for full status at the next annual meeting.

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B. Maintenance of Interest Sections

Rev June-07

- I. Each Interest Section maintains its status by meeting the following requirements:
 - A. It shall retain at least one hundred (100) members over three years;
 - B. It shall hold a business meeting and a planning meeting at each Annual Convention;
 - C. It shall send the required number of delegates to the Interest Section Assembly meeting, as set forth in SR XI.2.I;
 - D. It shall annually elect a Chair, a Chair-Elect, and other elected leaders as necessary online or at the Annual Convention, A newsletter Editor, Web Content Manager, and E-List Manager shall be appointed or elected every year.
 - E. Candidates for IS leadership and their supporters should not engage in electioneering activities (campaigning via distribution of literature, electronically or in print; or production of publications, displays, or electronic content [Web sites, postings to e-lists, Web Boards] in their e-list, IS newsletters or any other communication forum). Biographical and other professional information will be provided for voting members.
 - F. It shall hold a meeting of Steering Committee members present at the annual Convention and may meet at other times electronically during the year as needed.
 - G. It shall report on annual IS activities to the Board of Directors, through the Staff and Board Liaison.
 - H. It shall present its Governing Rules to its membership for approval. A copy of the document shall be filed with Central Office. The Governing Rules will be reviewed periodically. Revised versions will be sent to Central Office with the Annual IS Report. During the years when no changes are made in the Governing Rules, the Chair shall indicate such in the Annual IS Report; and
 - I. It shall present workshops, papers, academic sessions, discussion groups, etc. at the Annual Convention and offer other services to its members
 - J. Each Interest Section shall communicate with its members through an e-newsletter and an electronic mailing list hosted on the TESOL server. Other means, such as a Web page or mailings, may be used as appropriate, but shall not exceed the IS budget nor exclude members without Internet access from decisions crucial to the life of the IS.
- II. TESOL grants permission to each Interest Section to develop a logo for such Interest Section. If an Interest Section wishes, its logo may consist of a globe, with the Interest Section name written inside of the globe. Contact Central Office for examples.

- A. TESOL grants license to each Interest Section to use TESOL's logo consisting of the globe with the name "TESOL" in it, when it refers to TESOL.
 - B. TESOL does not grant permission to any Interest Section to use the TESOL logo or to alter it for any purpose or in any way except as set forth above. Any electronic or postal snail mail communication requiring the use of the TESOL letterhead or logo must be organized and sent through the Central Office.
- III. Failure to meet any of these requirements shall result in a review of the Interest Section's status. See Standing Rules XI.2.C and XI.2.D for provisions regarding probation and dissolution of Interest Sections.