

Constitution for The Ivie League: The Rhetoric Society of America Graduate Student Chapter at Indiana University

Preamble

The Ivie League – the Rhetoric Society of America Graduate Student Chapter at Indiana University (hereafter referred to as The Ivie League) shares the purpose of our parent organization: “to support and advance the work of people who study rhetoric in a variety of disciplinary contexts.” More specifically, the chapter hosts and supports events, meetings, and collaborative projects that enable graduate students in rhetoric to build a stronger intellectual community. Our aims are the following:

- To create and support a community of rhetoricians both at IU and in our wider disciplinary community
- Promote dialogue about research and professionalization
- And, when necessary and as formally approved by the membership, to interface with the administration, program, or minor on behalf of graduate student interests.

Article 1: Membership

Members must be current graduate students at Indiana University – Bloomington. The co-chairs should also be active members of the wider Rhetoric Society of America organization due to their reporting responsibilities.

There is no minimum or maximum number of years a person can be a member of The Ivie League provided they are a currently enrolled graduate student at either the Master’s or doctoral level.

There will be no dues collected from the membership at any time.

To become a member, one must attend at least one meeting or event planned or supported by The Ivie League each semester. After two semesters of nonattendance or one semester after graduation, the person will be dropped from The Ivie League’s roll.

Article 2: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

Article 3: Executive Officers

The Ivie League will recognize four officers who form the Executive Board, consisting of two Co-Chairs and two At-Large Officers. To remove an officer from office, a chapter member will make a motion. Once seconded, the vote for removal must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote during a meeting or in an online election in which a majority of members are present/participate.

Co-Chair (2): The main duties of this office are as follows:

- Schedule, set agenda for, and run chapter meetings

- Maintain the Graduate Student Resources document, as well as IU and RSA reporting documents
- Coordinate committees to organize chapter events
- Meet with faculty and administration to advocate on behalf of chapter members as approved by the membership. In part, this will be done by keeping the faculty advisor current on the proceedings of The Ivie League.

To be a co-chair, one must be an active member of the Rhetoric Society of America parent organization and a graduate student (either at the Master's or doctoral level) with a record of work on issues related to rhetoric, broadly conceived.

Beginning the AY 2018-2019, each co-chair serves for a one-year term, running from the April 30 after the election to April 29 of the following year when they turn over their office to the newly-elected co-chairs. Co-chairs may run for re-election as many times as they wish.

If they need to resign, they should alert the executive committee as soon as possible and one of the at-large officers will step up, with the approval of the chapter membership at large, into the position of co-chair until the next election. Executive board meetings may be held at the discretion of the board and can be called by a Co-Chair at any time deemed mutually convenient. Attendance can be either in-person or online at these meetings, as decided by the majority of the Executive Board at the time.

At-Large Officers (2): At-Large Officers will divide responsibility for the following:

- Keeping record of attendance and proceedings at chapter meetings
- Keeping record of chapter budget and spending
- Publicizing chapter events.

Both At-Large Officers are responsible for:

- Attending Executive Committee meetings
- Assisting the Co-Chairs in running The Ivie League.
- If neither co-chair is in attendance, presiding over chapter meetings

In the event that a co-chair vacates their position, At-Large Officers are responsible for assuming additional duties to assist the Chair.

To be an at-large officer, one must be a member of good standing in The Ivie League and a graduate student (either at the Master's or doctoral level) with a record of work on issues related to rhetoric, broadly conceived. In the event that an at-large officer steps up mid-term to be a co-chair, that person must also be an active member of the Rhetoric Society of America parent organization

Beginning the AY 2018-2019, each At-Large Officer serves for a one-year term, running from the April 30 after the election to April 29 of the following year when they turn over their office to the newly-elected At-Large Officers. At-Large Officers may run for re-election as many times as they wish.

If they need to resign, they should alert the executive committee as soon as possible and the chapter will vote to determine if a special election needs to be run to fill the position.

Article 4: Advisor

The main duties of this office are as follows:

- To answer questions the graduate student membership may have regarding the program or university policies or events.
- To facilitate communication between the graduate student membership and the wider Rhetoric Society of America organization when the membership requests such communication.
- To support the events and activities The Ivie League has chosen to organize.

The advisor must be a faculty member, an active member of the national Rhetoric Society of America, and may not be a current graduate student. They are not members of the Executive Board, but they are voting members of the general meetings of the membership. If an advisor wishes to step down or discontinue their membership in the national RSA organization, they should alert the Executive Committee so the membership can seek an alternate advisor and alert the Rhetoric Society of America as soon as possible.

Chapter members may nominate a person to become The Ivie League's new advisor at a general meeting. The chapter will review the eligibility of that person according to the above-stated criteria and then vote on whether or not to invite that person. If the person accepts the nomination, they will be the new advisor for The Ivie League. If that person declines, the process will be repeated.

The advisor will serve as long as they and the chapter do not wish to replace them. Only in cases of temporary impairment or absence will The Ivie League have multiple advisors.

To remove an advisor from office, a chapter member will make a motion. Once seconded, the vote for removal must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote during a meeting or in an online election in which a majority of members are present/participate.

Article 5: Meetings

The Rhetoric Society of America requires Student Chapters to hold at least two meetings per year. The Ivie League must have one meeting per semester and at least one activity per year to be considered active.

Meetings are called by the Executive Committee and run by the co-chairs follow, to the degree possible, Robert's Rules of Order.

The Executive Committee should make reasonable efforts to find a time and location that works for as many members as possible and alert the membership via email. They should send an agenda to the membership in the same email if possible, and welcome additions to that agenda before or during the meeting.

Any matters that require membership approval will be voted on by a show of hands at a meeting unless the chapter determines the vote may be done by ballot or online poll.

Minutes from the meetings, including a list of attendees, should be sent within a week of any meeting to the entire membership for review or emendation.

Emergency or special meetings may be called at the request of a member of the Executive Committee and/or a majority of the membership. These meetings must also be posted via email as soon as possible.

Meetings may also be held before or after another Ivie League event for convenience.

Article 6: Public Presentation

Since the Ivie League is a professional organization and one of its purposes is to present its members as part of the field of rhetoric and composition, any issues related to how the Ivie League will be represented to the national organization, via social media or any other public media, must be approved by the chapter or – if there isn't sufficient time – by the Executive Committee. In particular, all fliers and social media posts should be reviewed by at least one other member of the Executive Committee before being made public.

All events or activities that require organized membership participation and/or will be publicized as being supported by The Ivie League must also require a majority membership approval at a meeting or via an online poll of the membership to be administered by a member of the Executive Committee.

Article 7: Elections

Elections are to be held annually at the end of each semester. They must be concluded by April 28 at the latest. The election will be announced and nominations welcome no later than April 1. Nominations may come in the form of self-nomination or by nominating another eligible member to the office. Once all nominations are collected, those running should send a short biographical statement to the election organizer(s) via email at least two days before the opening of the poll.

The election will be organized by one or two people who are not running in the election and are nominated by the membership. This may be a current (but not re-running) officer or another member of the Ivie League.

Elections will be held online, via anonymous poll or – if that is not possible – via secret ballot during a meeting. The election is open only to members. The polls will be open for two weeks and the results will be announced via email to the Ivie League membership within a day of the closing of the polls. At least five people must vote for an election to be considered valid. If five people do not vote, the election must be re-run.

If there are not enough people running to fill all four offices, the Ivie League must call an emergency meeting to determine whether to encourage another person to run or to eliminate an office for the subsequent year. If they choose to eliminate an office, the Ivie League must discuss how the tasks of the offices will be divided so as not to overly burden

those who have already chosen to run for office based on the tasks as designated in this constitution.

Those members elected to the Executive Committee will be considered in office from April 30 of the current year till April 29 of the following year. It is expected the officers leaving will help prepare officers who will be taking their place.

Article 8: Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article 9: Personal Gain Clause

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.

Article 10: Travel Policy

Any travel will be arranged and conducted in such a way as to follow university, state, and federal guidelines, with particular attention to participant safety.

Article 11: Safety

Any activity will follow university, state, and federal guidelines and law. No member or participant will be put in danger and accommodations will be made for those who are differently abled, have dietary restrictions, or may need an emotional support animal.

Article 12: Finances

The At-Large Officers will divide responsibility for keeping record of the chapter budget, spending, and other financial affairs. They will also be responsible for applying for and maintaining a Student Organization Account. The Ivie League will operate in accordance with the Student Organization Accounts Office's policies and procedures. If the Ivie League dissolves, any remaining money will be donated to the English Department, to be used for the benefit of graduate students in rhetoric and composition.

Article 13: Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be made at any meeting of a majority of members and a majority of the Executive Board. Amendments must receive a 2/3 vote of the membership and be made in writing. The revised Constitution must then be sent to all members via email, to the Ivie League Advisor, the Indiana University Office of Student Life and Learning, and the Rhetoric Society of America national organization via the person in charge of Student Chapters.

No vote is necessary if the University has changed its policies and those must be made to the constitutions of all University-sanctioned student groups. However, any revised version of the Constitution due to such a situation must still be sent to all parties previously listed.

Article 14: Ratification

This constitution will be ratified by a majority vote of the membership at the first meeting of The Ivie League in 2018.

Note: Revisions made March 15, 2018 due to University request. Digital approval by Executive Committee. /JJ