

REVISED May 19, 2014

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

ARTICLE I—Name and Character

Section 1

The name of this organization is the Colombia Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

Section 2

The Colombia Section is devoted to general educational purposes and as part of the Latin American Studies Association, shall always act to remain qualified as a charitable and educational corporation exempt from federal income tax as specified under section 501 (c) (3) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be from time to time amended.

Section 3

The Colombia Section is a professional association affiliated with the Latin American Studies Association (LASA). Membership in LASA is required of all section members. Continued Section membership is contingent upon continued LASA membership and the payment of annual section dues.

ARTICLE II—Objectives

Section 1

The specific objects of the Section are to: a) promote scholarship germane to the study of and teaching about Colombia and related topics; b) facilitate and encourage communication and interaction among scholars working within and across disciplines within the Section; c) create and strengthen the community of scholars working on Colombia from a variety of perspectives; d) encourage civic engagement around Colombia through network building and debate; e) enhance academic research, policy development, and teaching related to Colombia; f) provide opportunities for meaningful participation and leadership to members of the Section; g) facilitate dissemination of scholarship produced by section members about Colombia; and h) recognize the accomplishments of Section members in their fields.

Section 2

In pursuit of these objectives, the Section shall:

a) assist the Program Committee of the Latin American Studies Association in preparing, promoting, and sponsoring programs and sessions on Colombia at the LASA Congresses; b) develop and maintain communications mechanisms, including minimally a newsletter (boletín) and webpage; c) hold a Business Meeting and a Reception for Section Members in conjunction with the meeting of the Latin American Studies Association held each year d) sponsor and encourage meetings among Section members; e) offer peer-reviewed prizes and other forms of recognition of Member achievements in the fields of scholarship, teaching, and service; 3) hold regular elections

for new officers; and e) take whatever actions are deemed desirable for furthering the interests of the Colombia Section and its members.

ARTICLE III—Membership

Section 1

Membership in the Colombia Section shall be open to all interested members of LASA.

Section 2

Active membership shall date from receipt by the LASA Secretariat of the annual Section dues, and shall continue so long as such annual dues are paid.

Annual dues are payable at the beginning of the calendar year. Any member whose dues are in arrears for one year may, one month after the mailing of a notice of such delinquency to his or her last known address, be dropped from the rolls.

Section 3

Active members in good fiscal standing shall have the right to vote, hold office, serve on committees, participate in the LASA Section and its programs, and sponsor amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 4

A link to the list of the section members shall be posted to the LASA Colombia website. That list shall constitute conclusive evidence of membership.

ARTICLE IV—Officers

Section 1

The Section must have minimally the following set of officers:

One Section Chair and one Vice-Chair elected by majority vote of the members present at the Colombia section Business Meeting of the LASA Congress or as determined by the Advisory Council through other balloting procedures. The Chair and Vice-Chair positions should ideally be filled by one U.S.-based and one Colombia-based member. The Chair and Vice-Chair will serve a total of 2 years, after which the latter will assume the position of Chair for the following 2-year term.

The remaining officers, including one Secretary-Treasurer, one communications manager/editor, four council members, and two student representatives, shall each serve a 2-year term. Two new council members shall be elected at each Congress.

The Chair and a quorum of Advisory Council members shall meet prior to the LASA Congress and at such other reasonable times and places as the Chair or at least 3 of the officers shall designate.

Section 2

The Chair shall be the official spokesperson and chief administrative officer of the Colombia section of LASA and shall carry out duties and perform functions customarily attached to that office and those which may be authorized or prescribed by the LASA Secretariat. Among other matters, the Chair shall: a) articulate and facilitate the execution of the goals of the Section; b) call and conduct meetings of the Advisory Council and of the Section; c) preside with the Vice-Chair at said meetings and at other meetings of the Section and at LASA meetings called for Section chairs; d) appoint, with the approval of the Council, one Prize and Awards Coordinator as well as the chairs and members of the ad hoc Committees deemed to be warranted in fulfillment of the goals established herein; e) oversee and ensure the timely functioning of the various independent subcommittees; f) represent (or provide for representation of the Section at conferences, meetings, and negotiations of interest to the Section; g) make appropriate arrangements for the execution of the Section Business meeting and Reception held at each LASA Congress; and h) prepare a report of the Business meeting for the LASA Secretariat within 30 days of said meeting for publication in the LASA Newsletter. The Chair shall have the authority to assign non-monetary prizes and awards for outstanding contributions of section members in scholarship, teaching, or service.

Section 3

The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in execution of his/her duties, and participate in all relevant meetings of Section Chairs, Advisory Council, and the Section. The Vice-Chair shall substitute for the Chair in case of absence or disability, and shall become Chair if that office, through any cause, becomes vacant. The Vice-Chair shall automatically assume the position of Chair for the following 2-year term, effective immediately after the elections of new officers. In the event that the Vice-Chair is unable or unwilling to fulfill that role, section members may nominate another candidate to the office of Chair.

Section 4

The Secretary-Treasurer shall perform the specific duties assigned in the By-laws, and any others as directed by the Advisory Council. In the absence or disability of both the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Secretary-Treasurer shall temporarily discharge the duties of those offices, but shall not succeed to the office of Chair if both those offices, for whatever reason, fall vacant. In such event, the Advisory Council shall prescribe the procedure by which the two offices will be filled for the unexpired period of the terms. The Secretary-Treasurer shall a) record the minutes of Section Business Meetings and Advisory Council meetings; b) serve as a liaison with the appropriate LASA Secretariat authorities regarding questions related to collection of annual dues, preparation of membership rosters, and maintenance of current membership records; c) render a fiscal account of the Section finances to the Section Business Meeting at the LASA Congress; d) coordinate with the editor of the monthly Newsletter (Boletín) and Section webpage to ensure updated Membership distribution lists; e) supervise the archival records of the Section, and collect and deposit in these members' relevant official documents and correspondence; f) coordinate with the LASA Secretariat for the disbursement of prizes and awards, reimbursements, and other obligations of the Section; g) prepare, distribute, and tabulate ballots for the election of officers, proposed constitutional amendments, and other communications.

Section 5

The Communications Manager/Editor will be responsible for developing and maintaining communications mechanisms with the Section and the Advisory Council. These mechanisms shall include at a minimum, a monthly newsletter (Boletín) and the Section webpage, with other vehicles deemed by the Advisory Council and the Section members to be necessary and feasible.

The Communications Manager shall facilitate consultation among members of the Advisory Council and with the Section members. The Communications Manager has the authority to oversee development of communications mechanisms for the Section, including power to appoint, with the approval of the Advisory Council, a web and list manager or other committees, such as may be needed to fulfill execution of her/his duties.

ARTICLE V—Advisory Council.

Section 1

There shall be an Advisory Council of the Section which will maintain responsibility for overseeing the business of the Section. It shall protect the general interests of the Section.

Section 2

The following officers and persons ex officio shall be voting members of the Advisory Council: the retiring Chair of the Section for two years following retirement; Chair; Vice-Chair; the Secretary-Treasurer; four elected council members, and up to two elected student representatives.

Section 3

The Council shall provide advice to the Chair and Vice-Chair on issues relating to the interests of the Section, shall approve the use of the Section name, and shall assist the Chair as needed. In addition to the specific duties and powers here enumerated, the Advisory Council shall authorize and supervise the annual programs of the Section; present to the Section as a whole from time to time proposals and projects for strengthening and expanding its programs; ratify election results; supervise and provide guidance to the Chair and Vice-Chair as appropriate; and coordinate the fund raising and scheduling activities of regional and other meetings of the Section. The Advisory Council shall oversee the establishment and administration of prizes, gifts, grants, and trust funds (with power to delegate such administration).

Section 4

The Student Representative shall represent the interests of the student members of the Section and shall assist in defining recruitment strategies for new students and strategies for better engaging and serving the needs of students.

Section 5

There shall be an Executive Committee of the Advisory Council to transact necessary business in the interim between meetings of the LASA Congress. It shall consist of the Chair, the Vice-Chair,

the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Communications Manager. The Executive Committee is empowered to carry out policies approved by the Advisory Council, to which it shall report its actions for ratification.

ARTICLE VI—Subcommittees

Section 1

The Chair and Vice-Chair have the power to establish task forces, working groups and subcommittees within the Section as it deems necessary to respond to the needs and interests of the members.

Section 2

The Subcommittees and said structures shall enjoy the maximum amount of latitude, consistent with the purpose and objectives of the Section, in conducting their activities.

Section 3

All members of the Section subcommittees must be members of the Section, and must, therefore, meet all requirements enumerated in Article III of this Constitution.

Section 4

Subcommittees may determine individual positions on issues of public policy by polling the members for a majority opinion. Subcommittees shall not, however, make public statements binding on the parent organization without first submitting the proposed statements to the Advisory Council for approval and to mail poll ratification by the membership thereof as determined necessary or desirable. Subcommittees may not express such positions through an independent organization distinct from the Section without first submitting the proposed statement to the Advisory Council. In such cases, it shall be clearly understood that the public statement does not represent the position of the Section.

Section 5

Subcommittees shall fund their own activities, with the approval of the Advisory Council.

Section 6

Subcommittees shall elect a chair to consult with and inform the Chair and Vice Chair of their decisions and activities.

ARTICLE VII—BOLETIN of the Section.

Section 1

As part of the relationship between the Section and its members, the Section will provide the means for making available an electronic version of the Boletín/ Newsletter as well as the Section website. The Section membership list and membership application shall be available to the general public through the LASA Colombia website.

ARTICLE VIII—Elections

Section 1

Elections shall be held every 2 years, at the time of the LASA Congress, for one Vice-Chair and two members of the Advisory Council. Subcommittees shall be established and officers selected.

Section 2

Election shall be by majority of ballots cast by eligible active members, tabulated by the Secretary-Treasurer at the Business Meeting of the Section at the LASA Congress, or prior to that meeting by polling of the members. Nominations for elected office should ideally be presented at least one month before the annual business meeting. Members may nominate themselves or other candidates. In order to be candidates, all nominees must agree to stand for election. The election results shall be ratified by the Advisory Council, following which those certified as elected shall be considered the officers for the ensuing period and shall assume office effective immediately at the conclusion of the business meeting of the Section.

Section 3

The Chair and Vice-Chair shall have the power to name from members of the Section a Nominating Committee of three persons, one of whom he/she shall designate as Chair, to prepare a slate of officers for the ensuing elections. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall inform the Chair and Vice Chair of the proposed slate at least one month before elections are to take place.

ARTICLE IX—Amendments to Constitution and By-Laws

Section 1

This Constitution and By-Laws as approved and amended by a majority of the members of the Section and in accordance with all rules and regulations of the Latin American Studies Association will be made effective on September 1, 2009 (or such time as approval by the majority of the Section occurs).

Section 2

The By-Laws shall be considered a part of this Constitution and are adopted upon ratification of the Constitution. Individual By-Laws may be created or amended by a majority vote of Section members responding to a mail canvass or other mechanism as specified by the Advisory Council.

Section 3

Any member of the Section may at any time suggest in writing to the Chair or Vice-Chair proposed amendments or revisions of the By-laws; such proposal shall include reasons and justification for amendment. The Secretary-Treasurer shall circulate such proposals to the Advisory Council, and shall make provision for consideration thereof by the Section at the first Business meeting subsequent to the initiation thereof, or if deemed appropriate, through a ballot of the Membership. The Advisory Council shall make its recommendations at that time, and the Membership shall vote to ascertain their approval or disapproval of the proposed amendment.

Section 4

To become valid, amendments to the By-Laws must be ratified by a majority vote of those members who cast votes. Changes, additions, deletions, or amendments of By-Laws become valid when voted by a majority present at any business meeting of the Section, or by a majority vote in a mail canvass specified by the Advisory Council.

BY-LAWS OF THE SECTION

1. Dues

The dues of the Colombia Section shall be payable to the Latin American Studies Association in the amount and manner specified by the Secretariat of LASA.

Dues are due and payable at the beginning of the calendar year.

2. Reimbursement of Expenses

The Chair of the Section shall be reimbursed for expenses in connection with that office for an amount to be determined annually by the Advisory Council or a subordinate body appointed thereby. Provided that funds are available from outside sources, members who serve on committees or carry out special functions approved by the Advisory Council may be reimbursed for expenses, but no member on the Section shall receive fees for professional services except under specific authorization by the Advisory Council.

3. Prizes and Awards

There shall be a Prize and Awards Coordinator which shall nominate a jury of at least three persons to review submissions for each prize/award established by the Advisory Council. The Prize and Awards Coordinator shall be responsible for administering the competition, and shall report the choice of his/her jury, providing in writing the reasons for that choice.

All applicants, nominees, and jurists for Section prize and Awards must be members of the Section in good standing. The prizes shall be contingent upon available funding in a given year.

The Prize and Awards currently established by the Advisory Council for the Section are the following:

1. The Montserrat Ordóñez Prize (2001), \$500.00 for an outstanding book that contributes to the study and promotion of Latin American women's literature and the search for new forms of literary expression and language.

2. The Michael Jiménez Honorary Award (2001) for an outstanding work in the disciplines of History, Anthropology, Political Science or Sociology that significantly advances an understanding of Colombian social transformations and society.

3. The student Travel Award (2014), \$300 to partially cover the travel expenses incurred by one selected graduate student who will present at the LASA Congress on a Colombia-related topic. This award is contingent upon availability of funds.

4. Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws

The aforementioned Constitution and By-laws may be amended by a majority vote of two-thirds of the members at the Business meeting of the Section at the LASA Congress or by two-thirds of the votes cast through a polling of the Section members.

Revised and approved May 16, 2014.