

**Bylaws of**  
**the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, a Section of the**  
**American Anthropological Association**

*Approved by vote of SLACA Members, May 2023*

**Article I. NAME**

1. The Section shall be known as the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, abbreviated as "SLACA."
2. SLACA is a Section of the American Anthropological Association, and subject to all regulations of that body.

**Article II. PURPOSES**

1. SLACA shall advance the research and distribution of knowledge about Latin American and Caribbean anthropology.
2. SLACA is organized exclusively for educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
3. SLACA shall promote the professional interests of anthropologists working with Latin Americans and Caribbean peoples anywhere they reside, especially by encouraging international cooperation among those working in the field of Latin American and Caribbean anthropology.
4. SLACA endeavors to promote and support our discipline by holding meetings, extending financial support, encouraging publication, and encouraging interaction between anthropologists researching and/or residing in the region.
5. There are hundreds of indigenous and other languages spoken in Latin America. SLACA strives to be a multilingual community where members can speak in any language that is comfortable to them. For the purposes of award submissions and conference presentations, SLACA will always accept work presented in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. SLACA will also work to accommodate other languages as able.

**Article III. POWERS**

1. SLACA shall be autonomous in all matters within its field that are not reserved by the Bylaws of the American Anthropological Association (hereafter "AAA"), inimical to the AAA's interests, or prohibited by law.

2. SLACA shall have an Executive Board composed of a President, President-elect, Secretary, Treasurer, JLACA Editor-in-Chief, the past-President, and eight Councilors (two of whom are Student Councilors).
3. SLACA may engage in publishing and program activities, appoint editors, committees and other agents, and set publication and program policies appropriate to its purposes.
4. SLACA may affiliate with other organizations in the pursuit of common aims for the purposes herein stated, and appoint delegates or representatives to such organizations.
5. SLACA may establish interest groups on a regional or functional basis in accordance with the Bylaws of the AAA.
6. SLACA may sponsor projects of research, demonstration, and experimentation and engage in such other activities as are necessary for the advancement of the purposes stated in Article II and for the furtherance of the professional interests of its members.
7. No part of the net receipts or earnings of SLACA shall inure to the benefit of, nor be distributable to, its members, Executive Board members, or other private persons, except that SLACA shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes of SLACA as set forth in these Bylaws. SLACA does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit, incidental or otherwise.
8. SLACA shall adopt and maintain Bylaws consistent with the AAA Bylaws. SLACA shall file with the AAA Secretary a copy of its current Bylaws.

#### **Article IV. MEMBERSHIP and DUES**

1. Membership in SLACA shall be open to any member in good standing of the AAA, subject to the payment of dues.
2. The Executive Board shall set the annual dues of SLACA Members and may establish rates for special categories.
3. Any SLACA Member is eligible to hold elective or appointed office within the section.
4. Every SLACA Member has one vote in electing SLACA officers and any other SLACA business not otherwise conducted by the Executive Board.
5. A Member may resign from SLACA upon written notification to the president.

**Article V. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST, GRIEVANCE AND REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP**

1. In all cases where there is the appearance of a professional or personal conflict of interest, SLACA members and Executive Board members are expected to recuse themselves from voting or conversations that might influence voting.
2. In cases where there appears to be a conflict of interest, and the individual involved declines to recuse themselves, the Executive Board may insist upon recusal by majority vote.
3. SLACA members are expected to abide by accepted professional standards and personal conduct as outlined in the [AAA Policy on Sexual Harassment and Sexual Assault](#) and the [AAA Statement on Ethics](#).
4. In extraordinary cases, a SLACA Member whose acts are contrary to the standards set forth in Article V Section 3 may be deprived of membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board. The Board will notify the member in question at least two weeks before meeting to conduct a vote, detailing the reasons behind the proposed decision. The member will be given the opportunity to offer a verbal response to the Board, if a written response is also offered.
5. Any member of SLACA can file a grievance against another SLACA member with the Executive Board. In such a case, the Executive Board must consider and vote on revocation of SLACA membership.
6. Any individual who has had SLACA membership revoked may submit an appeal for reinstatement to an independent panel, made up of non-SLACA members, chosen by the SLACA Executive Board.
7. Any individual who has had SLACA membership revoked may not attend SLACA business meetings, conferences, or run for election to the Executive Board.

**Article VI. OFFICERS**

1. SLACA Executive Board members are expected to attend Board meetings and participate in the business of the Executive Board, serve on such subcommittees as may be established, and take on special assignments. They are elected for the following specific roles:
  - President (3 year term)
  - President-Elect (1 year term, before assuming role of President)
  - Past-President (2 years, after serving as President)
  - Treasurer (3 year term)
  - Secretary (3 year term)

- JLACA Editor-in-Chief (4 year term)
  - Program Chair Councilor (3 year term)
  - Biennial Conference Chair Councilor (3 year term)
  - Webpage Councilor (3 year term)
  - Anthropology News column editor Councilor (3 year term)
  - Nominations Councilor (3 year term)
  - Prizes Councilor (3 year term)
  - Two Student Councilors (3 year term or until termination of student status, whichever comes first)
2. The President shall be the presiding officer of SLACA and shall represent SLACA in all functions. The President may appoint representatives of SLACA to other societies, agencies, or councils, or select such representatives from slates submitted by other societies, agencies, or councils.
  3. The President-elect shall serve for a one-year term before assuming the role of President. The President-elect will also assume the duties of the President in the event of absence, death, resignation, or incapacity of the President. In the event the President-elect is unable to assume the duties of President, the Executive Board shall appoint one of its Board members to assume the office of President until the next regularly scheduled election.
  4. The Past-President will serve on the Executive Board for two years at the conclusion of their term as President. In the second year of service, the Past-President will conduct a review of the bylaws, as outlined in Article XIV, Section 3.
  5. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the administration of the finances of SLACA, subject to budgetary and other regulations approved by the Executive Board and the AAA. The Treasurer shall be SLACA's fiscal agent. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the maintenance of proper and adequate records which shall always be open to inspection by the Executive Board. The Treasurer shall submit a draft budget for the approval of the Executive Board not less than two weeks (14 days) days before the AAA Annual Meeting.
  6. The Secretary shall be responsible for recording minutes of the meetings of the Executive Board and the Annual SLACA Business Meeting, recording the results of any decisions made over email, and maintaining the minutes of these meetings in the SLACA dropbox folder.
  7. The Program Councilor shall organize and approve submissions of presentations, panels, and section events to the AAA on behalf of SLACA.

8. The Biennial Conference Chair Councilor shall be responsible for the coordination of the conference site, drafting of the call for papers, approval of submissions of presentations, and organization of panels for the spring conference.
9. The Webpage Councilor shall maintain and update SLACA's website, non-AAA mailing lists, and social media presence, and liaise with other members of the Board to this end.
10. The Anthropology News column editor Councilor shall solicit and edit contributions to SLACA's Anthropology News column, working with Anthropology News staff and in accordance with the publication's guidelines.
11. The Nominations Councilor shall solicit nominations or self-nominations for positions on the Board, prepare the election slate for Board members, and manage correspondence with the AAA and candidates around Executive Board elections.
12. The Prizes Councilor shall oversee all SLACA award competitions. The Prizes Councilor is not expected to serve on prize review committees. This Councilor will also organize virtual talks by the award winners for the SLACA membership.
13. The two Student Councilors shall attend the meetings and participate in the business of the Committee, serve on such subcommittees as may be established, and take on special assignments based on their interests and the needs of SLACA.

#### **Article VII. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

1. The Executive Board shall have the authority to execute on behalf of SLACA all powers and functions defined in these Bylaws, subject to directives and limitations imposed by the bylaws of both SLACA and the AAA.
2. The Executive Board shall meet at least once annually, before or at the AAA Annual Meeting. The Executive Board may meet additionally on the call of the President or a majority vote of the Executive Board. Such additional meetings may be held after giving at least one week (7 days) notice to each officer by email.
3. The Executive Board appoints all necessary sub-committees and defines their duties.
4. The Executive Board shall make all non-elective appointments and may make interim appointments to fill vacancies in any elective office until the next regularly scheduled election.
5. The Executive Board shall approve the annual budget of SLACA provided by the Treasurer before it is submitted to the AAA. The Executive Board may amend the budget through a majority vote.
6. Executive Board members are expected to attend AAA annual meetings and SLACA Executive Board meetings whenever possible.

7. Any member of the Executive Board who misses two consecutive votes (whether through meetings, or through email) without explanation, or are in default of their responsibilities, is subject to removal. Written notification of this possibility will be provided, noting that dismissal action is possible, at least one week (7 days) in advance of the Executive Board meeting. The Councilor in question will have the opportunity to provide a verbal response to the Board if a written response is also offered. Removal will be approved by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board (minus the Councilor in question). Such vacated office shall be filled immediately in accordance with Article VII, Section 12.
8. The Executive Board shall appoint the JLACA Editor-in-Chief. The Executive Board shall invite candidates to apply for this office by means of announcements to appropriate venues, including the SLACA membership list. The Executive Board may appoint a committee outside the Board to review nominations and make a recommendation, but the JLACA Editor-in-Chief shall be appointed by the Executive Board of SLACA. The JLACA Editor-in-Chief shall serve a term of four years; this term may be renewed once by majority vote of the Board.
9. Executive Board members may serve two consecutive elected terms in any position. After two consecutive terms, there must be at least one full year before they may be elected or appointed to the Executive Board again.
10. The tenure of all elected positions on the Executive Board begins the day after the conclusion of the AAA meeting of the election year. All elected terms end on the last day of the AAA meetings, but out-going Councilors are still expected to submit their annual report for that year.
11. Members of the Executive Board, except the President, may serve an extension of their tenure in office by vote of the Executive Board in cases of insufficient number of candidates to fill current or forthcoming vacancies, disqualification of candidates during or following AAA election, or other special circumstances. An election for that position will be conducted the following year.
12. The Executive Board may, by majority vote, appoint an individual to fill a vacant position on the Executive Board on an interim basis between elections. Individuals who are thus appointed for less than half of the normal elected term, may then run for election and serve two subsequent terms (subject to election).
13. All Executive Board Members shall be Members in good standing of SLACA.

**Article VIII. JOURNAL OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ANTHROPOLOGY (JLACA)**

1. The JLACA Editor-in-Chief shall have full charge of the Journal of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology (JLACA), under the direction of the Executive Board and subject to the provisions of these Bylaws.
2. The budget of JLACA is determined by the SLACA Executive Board. All proceeds from JLACA go to the SLACA Operating Budget.

3. All bills relating to publications shall be certified to the Treasurer by the Editor.
4. The Editor-in-Chief shall present an annual report at the SLACA Annual Business Meeting.
5. The JLACA Editor-in-Chief may appoint Associate Editors. The Associate Editors shall serve concurrently with and under the direction of the Editor-in-Chief, to whom they shall report. Associate Editors must be members of SLACA and be members of the discipline of Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology, with the appropriate terminal degree.
6. The JLACA Editor-in-Chief may, subject to authorization and budgetary provisions by the Executive Board and the AAA, employ clerical and editorial assistance.
7. The JLACA Editor-in-Chief or Associate Editors may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the SLACA Executive Board. Written notification of this possibility will be provided, noting that dismissal action is possible, at least one week (7 days) in advance of the Executive Board meeting. The Editor in question will have the opportunity to provide a written response before the vote.

#### **Article IX. ANNUAL REPORT**

1. At the time of each AAA Annual Meeting, the Executive Board shall report its activities to SLACA members and to the AAA Board of Directors. The report shall include the reports of the Treasurer, JLACA Editor-in-Chief, committees, and any other agents representing SLACA.
2. Reports of officers, representatives, delegates, committees, and other agents representing SLACA shall be approved by the SLACA Executive Board. At the direction of the Executive Board, these reports may be presented in full or brief form at the Annual SLACA Business Meeting.
3. All members of the Executive Board are expected to submit a written report of the year's activities to the President for the SLACA archives, following the AAA meeting.

#### **Article X. AAA ANNUAL MEETING**

1. SLACA shall hold an Annual Business Meeting at or before the AAA Annual Meeting.
2. The place and date of the Annual Business Meeting shall be placed in the AAA meeting program and announced to the SLACA membership.

### **Article XI. QUORUM**

1. Two-thirds of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum for transacting business of the Executive Board.
2. The business of the Executive Board shall be transacted by majority of the votes cast at any meeting, or by electronic vote. In case of a tie, the decision of the President is final.
3. The President may ask the Executive Board to vote on specific questions by electronic ballot when those issues are assumed to be minor or straightforward. Any Executive Board member may request that the Board meet to discuss the issue instead of conducting the vote over email.
4. Any resolutions, elections or membership actions shall be approved by majority vote where a quorum of at least five percent (5%) of the membership participates.

### **Article XII. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

1. The nominations of officers to the SLACA Executive Board shall follow the process defined and established for all sections of the AAA. This process includes the AAA specification of the mechanisms and scheduling of how and when the slate of candidates is determined, announced, and elected, including the dissemination of annual election results.
2. Nominations to the Executive Board are based on and require the prospective candidate to submit materials in accordance with norms specified by the AAA Executive Board and the AAA Administration.
3. The Nominations Councilor must strive to ensure that at least two candidates are presented on the electoral slate for each vacancy. In cases where the number of nominations for a vacancy exceeds three, the Nominations Councilor shall determine the slate.
4. A SLACA Member in good standing is entitled to cast one ballot in any election or referendum.
5. Ballots shall be secret.
6. The candidate receiving the most votes for a contested office shall be elected.
7. Elections are administered by the AAA Executive Office.



### **Article XIII. REFERENDA**

1. Anything that requires a vote of the SLACA membership shall be conducted in a way that allows for remote participation and allows for voting up to 48 hours after the meeting where it is discussed (if applicable).
2. A referendum of the membership may be conducted at any time upon initiation of the Executive Board, or upon the receipt by the President of a petition signed by five Members in good standing.
3. The Executive Board shall have the authority to examine the eligibility of any voter.
4. Ballots shall be emailed to Members and returned according to Article XII.

### **Article XIV. FINANCES**

1. The fiscal year of SLACA shall be the same as that of the AAA.
2. SLACA shall submit an annual operating budget to the AAA Board of Directors, which, when approved, shall govern SLACA activities.
3. The income from annual dues and any other sources shall constitute an operating fund, available for operating, publication, and current expenses consistent with the purposes of SLACA as the Executive Board may direct.
4. No financial obligation in excess of either funds budgeted or available in the treasury (whichever is smaller) shall be assumed by any Executive Board member.
5. The Executive Board may direct the transfer of sums of money from the working fund to a quasi-endowment to ensure the long-term funding of prizes and awards, in accordance with the AAA bylaws. Returns from such quasi-endowments shall be used exclusively to fund specific awards, as specified by the AAA.

### **Article XIV. AMENDMENT**

1. These bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of a quorum of the SLACA Membership via the annual online election administered by the AAA.
2. Amendments may be proposed by either the Executive Board or by a Membership petition supported by five (5) percent of the Members in good standing that is submitted in writing to the President.

3. Each Past-President, in the final year of their service, shall lead the effort to review the SLACA Bylaws and suggest any amendments. They will be assisted by a bylaws committee consisting of at least four Executive Board members, including the President.
4. The amendments and provisions of these Bylaws shall be effective immediately upon adoption and shall supersede and nullify all previous amendments and provisions.
5. The Past-President must ensure that the amended bylaws are correctly integrated into the bylaws document, submitted to the AAA, and disseminated to the Members via Communities, the SLACA webpage, or other established means of communication.