

CONSTITUTION OF THE  
STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF SECOND LANGUAGE ACQUISITION and  
PEDAGOGY (SOSLAP)  
OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

**ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE**

- Section 1. The name of this organization is Student Organization of Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy (hereinafter “SOSLAP”).
- Section 2. The purpose of SOSLAP is to promote interest and communication in second language acquisition (SLA) and related fields. It aims to foster cohesiveness in the SLA community at Michigan State University by providing opportunities for academic, social, and professional development and interaction among students and faculty.

**ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1. SOSLAP membership is open to all Michigan State University students. SOSLAP will not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, disability status, height, marital status, national origin, political persuasion, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight. Only MSU students may be officers and/or voting members.
- Section 2. Membership shall be open to students upon payment of dues to be determined by the executive committee (based on membership for one academic year). Such persons shall have voting rights within SOSLAP and shall receive notification of all SOSLAP activities. Such persons shall also be eligible to receive reduced rates on any SOSLAP sales or publications, where such rates are available, and any other such benefits that SOSLAP is able to provide. A person remains in good standing by obeying the rules of the group written in the constitution.

**ARTICLE III: OFFICERS**

- Section 1. The elected Executive Officers of SOSLAP are the Co-Chairs (2), the TESOL Co-Chair, Treasurer, and Communications Coordinator. The appointed officer of SOSLAP is the Webmaster. All officers shall serve

for a period of one (1) calendar year, which shall begin immediately following the regular annual election.

Section 2. Elections are to take place at a meeting after April 1 and no later than May 15. The current Co-Chairs shall, at the time at which an election is to take place, appoint a member of SOSLAP as Supervisor of Elections. Any voting member present at the meeting in which elections take place may make nominations. Attending voting members may nominate themselves for any office in which nominations are open. A nominee must currently be a student in good standing with the University and must plan to be a student during the prospective term (excluding summer sessions). Additionally, all nominees for the Co-Chair positions must have served one previous term as an elected or appointed officer. Any nominee for the TESOL Co-Chair position must be a current MA student in the TESOL program. A person must be present to accept or decline the nomination at the time that such nomination is made, unless prior arrangements have been approved by the current executive committee. Each nominee is to speak on their own behalf for the respective Office for which they are nominated. The floor will then be opened for a discussion session among all members present with the candidates.

The order of elections shall be as follows: Co-Chairs (2), TESOL Co-Chair, Communications Coordinator, and Treasurer. All voting members may vote and such voting shall be by secret ballot. The ballots are to be collected and tallied by the Supervisor of Elections. The nominee with a simple majority vote shall be declared the winner. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes, there must be a run-off between the two nominees that received the two highest vote totals. In the event of a tie between nominees, another vote shall be taken. If the tie should persist, voting shall repeat until a winner is decided. If there is only one nominee for a respective office that nominee must receive a vote of confidence. Each voting member must record either a “yay” or a “nay” on their ballot. In order to take office, such nominee must receive more “yay” votes than “nay” votes. The Supervisor of Elections shall decide the intent of any ballot that does not contain either a “yay” or a “nay”. Once a winner has been decided, the Supervisor of Elections shall announce the winner. Any nominee who does not win may run for another office. Issues pertaining to Election Procedure not addressed by this Constitution shall be left to the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections.

Section 3.0 Duties of the officers:

Section 3.1 Co-Chairs: By virtue of the respective Office, the Co-Chairs are ultimately responsible for all actions of SOSLAP. The Co-Chairs oversee the activities of SOSLAP. The Co-Chairs are responsible for assigning

student mentors for incoming students, discussing any problems with students, and advising students as to the options for resolving problems.

- Section 3.2 TESOL Co-Chair: The TESOL Co-Chair is responsible for overseeing the activities of SOSLAP, assigning student mentors for incoming students, discussing any problems with students, and advising students as to the options for resolving problems, especially as these duties pertain to the TESOL program and its participants.
- Section 3.3 Communications Coordinator: The Communications Coordinator is responsible for recording minutes from meetings and making those minutes available to the general SOSLAP membership. S/he is also responsible for sending emails reminding members about meetings and events.
- Section 3.4 Treasurer: The treasurer is responsible for collecting membership dues and maintaining SOSLAP's account.
- Section 3.5 Webmaster: The webmaster updates the SOSLAP website with events, meeting times, colloquia dates, and student profiles.
- Section 4. Impeachment shall be the method of last resort for correcting improper actions by officers or committee chairs. Any action that is in conflict with the Constitution or By-Laws of SOSLAP shall be an impeachable offense. Specific instances include:
- Actions which are in conflict with objectives of SOSLAP found in Article I of this Constitution.
  - Failure of an officer to successfully complete assigned duties found in Article III, Section 3 of this Constitution.
  - Failure to perform in accordance with an instruction of the SOSLAP or Michigan State University

Letters of reprimand, informal counseling through the Graduate school, and other procedures approved by the Executive Committee may be used in lieu of impeachment as sanctions for committing an impeachable offense. Such sanctions can be imposed by a majority vote of the Executive Committee. The procedure to impeach an elected officer shall be the same as to pass a constitutional amendment. An elected officer may be impeached at any SOSLAP meeting upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the attending members present, provided that the proposed impeachment shall have been read during at least one (1) preceding membership meeting. All proposed impeachments must receive the consideration of the Executive Committee before being presented to SOSLAP. All members must be notified of the vote no later than seven (7) days prior to the day on which the voting shall occur. At least 30% of the

voting SOSLAP members must be present at the impeachment meeting, or it will be postponed to a later date.

#### **ARTICLE IV: OPERATING PROCEDURES**

- Section 1. The Executive Committee may schedule regular open meetings of SOSLAP as they see fit. Announcement of these meetings shall be made by email to all members at least three (3) days prior to the time of the meeting.
- Section 2. In case of questions concerning the proper conduct of meetings, Roberts Rules of Order (revised) shall be adhered to. A simple majority shall decide questions at meetings, except in the case of Constitutional Amendments.
- Section 3. The Executive Committee composed of all elected and appointed officers. The Executive Committee is the governing body of SOSLAP and is responsible for all decisions concerning budget and policy by a majority vote.

#### **ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1. All voting members may propose amendments to the Constitution of the Student Organization of Second Language Acquisition and Pedagogy at any business meeting.
- Section 2. All proposed amendments must receive the consideration and approval by majority vote of the Executive Committee before being presented to SOSLAP for voting. Further, a copy of the existing and proposed amendments must be made available at the meeting at which the proposed amendment is being announced. All members must be notified of the vote no later than seven (7) days prior to the day on which the voting shall occur.
- Section 3. Amendments are approved upon an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the attending members.

#### **ARTICLE VI: EFFECT AND SCOPE**

This Constitution is the governing document of SOSLAP. Any statement, in part or whole, in any document authored by SOSLAP or the Executive Committee found to be in conflict with this Constitution shall be deemed null and void, and this Constitution shall prevail. Any portion of this Constitution that is found to be in conflict with regulations of Michigan State University shall be deemed null and void. This Constitution shall be deemed in full force and effect as of April 10, 2006.