

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF PRAGMATICS: BYLAWS

Section 1: Name and Residence

The American Association of Pragmatics has its registered office in Cornelius, North Carolina, or at any such location designated by the Executive Board. It is governed by an Executive Board (hereinafter: "the Board").

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of the American Association of Pragmatics, hereinafter: "AMPRA", is to promote, in an America-wide context (comprising the countries of North, Central, South America and the Caribbean) with their outlying territories and possessions), activities and exchanges in all fields of pragmatics. AMPRA supports interaction and scholarly debate among researchers, instructors, and students representing different subfields of pragmatics, with particular regard to the linguistic, cognitive, social, inter-cultural and inter-language paradigms. AMPRA is a non-profit association.

AMPRA makes a special effort to cross disciplinary boundaries. It aims to be a forum for researchers who are looking for new tools and methods in the investigation of human language and communication, in order to thereby better understand the role of pragmatic competence in language acquisition and development as well as in the process of communication.

AMPRA achieves its goals by:

- Stimulating activities in the scientific and academic communities;
- Facilitating the coordination of scientific events (conferences, exhibitions, workshops, summer institutes, etc.);
- Encouraging the dissemination of knowledge and information (through summer institutes, regular newsletters and journals, websites, etc);
- Supporting the publication and the dissemination of scientific works;
- Promoting the diversity of topics researched and languages studied;
- Facilitating scientific exchange and cooperation with other similar, national or international organizations;
- Stimulating, and collaborating with, local, regional, and global initiatives in the field of pragmatics;
- Engaging in any other activities of general interest to the scientific and academic communities.

Section 3: Membership

AMPRA is composed of full, personal members, institutional members, honorary members, associated members, and student members. Membership of AMPRA is established by the Board, upon verification that applicants have shown sufficient competence and a well-grounded interest in AMPRA's field of activity.

Membership shall end by:

- A member's resignation or death;
- Cancellation, due to a member's failure to pay the membership dues.

The Board shall keep a register with the names and addresses of the members.

Section 4: Executive Board

4.1. The Board consists of at least ten persons, elected by secret ballot for a term of four years, and voted for by the majority of the full and honorary members (one member, one vote). Only full personal members of the AMPRA can be members of the Board. The Board members elect AMPRA's President, its Secretary, and its Treasurer from among their own ranks. The President of AMPRA serves as Chairman of the Board. The posts of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. Officers can serve only two consecutive terms.

The present Board remains in office for four years (2012-16). Three months before AMPRA'16 the Executive Board appoints a five-member committee to make recommendations about new Board members, President, Secretary and Treasurer. If re-elected, the same person can serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position.

4.2. The Board meets as often as is necessary. Board meetings are convened by the President or at the request of at least three of its members. The presence of at least half the members of the Board is required to constitute a quorum and for decisions and resolutions to be valid. Minutes of the meetings shall be taken by the Secretary or a designated member; they shall be signed by the President and the Secretary.

4.3. Board decisions are made by a simple majority of votes. In case the vote is tied, the President decides. Decisions not concerning persons may be made by oral vote. Decisions concerning persons shall be by written ballot.

4.4. AMPRA's expenditures are regulated by the Secretary in agreement with the President and the Treasurer. The Association is represented in courts of law and in all legal domains by the President or his/her designated representative, who as such will enjoy full possession of all legal rights inherent in the Presidency and which pertain to the matter at hand.

4.5. The Board is responsible for regular auditing of its budget and shall present the latter at AMPRA's General Assembly meetings.

Section 5: General Assembly

5.1. The General Assembly of AMPRA is composed of all full personal and honorary members, having each one vote. The General Assembly meets every two years during the Association's biennial conference; corporate and institutional members may attend the meetings, but do not vote. The General Assembly is convened by the Board or at the request of at least one fifth of its members. Its agenda is drawn up by the Board; members may request items to be placed on the agenda. The President of AMPRA chairs the meeting.

5.2. The General Assembly approves the reports delivered to it on the management of AMPRA, its financial situation, the state of the Association, and other, related matters.

5.3. The General Assembly approves the accounts of the previous fiscal period and deliberates on issues placed on the agenda for its meeting.

5.4. AMPRA's General Assembly's approval of the management report and account releases the Board from all liabilities for the period covered by the report.

Section 6: Committees

The Board is authorized to create committees for specific purposes, which report directly to the Board, and serve for a period of time to be determined by the Board, the members of said committees being appointed and dismissed by the Board.

Section 7: Financial Resources

7.1. The financial resources of AMPRA come from:

- Members' dues;
- Grants and subsidies;
- Gifts, voluntary contributions, endowments etc.; conference fees;
- Other sources (such as interest from stocks and other financial assets).

7.2. The Board determines the annual membership dues.

7.3. Books and records are kept of the financial state of the Association in such a manner that its assets and obligations may be established at all times.

Section 8: By-laws

The Board draws up by-laws necessary to run AMPRA efficiently.

Section 9: Modifications and Dissolution

9.1. The AMPRA statutes may be modified by the members of the General Assembly by a majority of the votes cast on a motion duly approved by the Board.

9.2. The dissolution of AMPRA needs the approval of at least two thirds of all the members of the General Assembly by oral vote or written ballot. If the vote is for AMPRA to be dissolved, the General Assembly shall appoint one or several committees charged with the duty of liquidating the assets of AMPRA.

9.3 Prohibited Activities: No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to, its members, directors, officers, or other private persons except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of purposes set forth in these statutes of association. No substantial part of the activities of the association shall be the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the association shall not participate in or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of these statutes, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Code or (b) by a association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c)(2) of the Code.

9.4 Distribution Upon Dissolution: Upon the dissolution of the association, the Board shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all the liabilities of the association, dispose of all the assets of the association exclusively for the purposes of the association in such manner, or to such organization or organizations organized and operated exclusively for religious, charitable, educational, scientific or literary purposes as shall at the time qualify as an exempt organization or organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code as the Board shall determine, or to federal, state, or local governments to be used exclusively for public purposes. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by the Superior Court of the county in which the principal office of the association is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organizations, such as the courts shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes, or to such governments for such purposes.

9.5. The Board applies and interprets the statutes.

Founding Members of the Association:

President:

Istvan Kecskes (State University of New York, Albany)

Executive Secretary:

Pilar Garcés Blitvich (University of North Carolina, Charlotte)

Members:

Anne Bezuidenhout (University of South Carolina at Columbia)

François Cooren (University of Montréal)

Wayne Davis (Georgetown University)

César Félix-Brasdefer (Indiana University, Bloomington)

Bruce Fraser (Boston University)

Raymond Gibbs (University of California, Santa Cruz)

† Jacob Mey (University of Southern Denmark)

Pesquisador Associado Sênior (Universidade de Brasília, D.F., Brazil.)

María Laura Pardo (Universidad de Buenos Aires)

Maite Taboada (Simon Fraser University)

Marina Terkourafi (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

Marie Wildner-Bassett (University of Arizona)

Gregory Ward (Northwestern University)