

## **Standing Rule XI. Membership Groups Within TESOL**

### **2. Interest Sections**

#### **A. Role and Procedures for Establishment and Operation of Interest Sections**

Rev Mar-07

##### I. Role

The primary role of TESOL's Interest Sections is to stay abreast of the issues and concerns of their areas of interest/expertise through discussion and to disseminate that information to the entire membership. TESOL's Interest Sections represent the various professional concerns of the membership, in contrast to caucuses, which provide forums for groups of the TESOL membership that share common social, cultural, or demographic interests. Through Interest Sections, members have the opportunity to participate, learn, share, interact, and serve. Although each Interest Section has distinct interests and goals, all seek to fulfill the following objectives:

- A. To assist in planning the program for the Annual Convention
- B. To provide opportunities for networking internally among their members and externally among sections
- C. To mentor, advise, and train members on conference proposals, publications, and professional concerns
- D. To stimulate scholarship, research, and professional development by sponsoring special projects, Convention sessions, and publications in all media
- E. To represent the members of the respective Sections in the governance of TESOL
- F. Through their elected representatives, to convey the needs and interests of their members to the Interest Section Leadership Council and the concerns of the Board to their respective members
- G. To serve as area-specific resources for Central Office and to the community at large
- H. To foster the recognition of English language instruction as an academic field of study at all levels of education
- I. To advocate for the professional concerns of their members and for the students their members teach
- J. To ensure viability and continuity in TESOL by training and encouraging aspiring practitioners to become Interest Section leaders

##### II. Procedures for establishment

- A. Interest Sections are established by the Board of Directors as follows: A petition, signed by at least one hundred (100) TESOL members indicating their desire to join the proposed section, is submitted to Central Office sixty (60) days before the Annual Convention. The petition must include:

1. The name of the proposed Interest Section
  2. The purpose, or definition, of the professional interest represented by the proposed IS. No petition should contain an IS purpose or definition with content that overlaps the purpose or definition of an IS already existing.
  3. A draft of governing rules for the proposed section
  4. A recommendation of TESOL members to serve as Chair and Chair -elect during the initial year of the proposed IS
  5. Evidence of professional interest. This evidence must include:
    - a. Presentations directly related to the specific area of concern of the proposed Interest Section at the previous two years' Annual Conventions
    - b. At least five publications by five different TESOL members in Interest Section newsletters, research based documentation, and other TESOL publications directly related to the specific area of concern of the proposed IS.
- B. Central Office forwards the petition to the Interest Section Leadership Council and the IS Assembly delegates prior to the Annual Convention. The petitioner prepares a written and oral summary presentation for discussion at the IS Assembly.
- C. The Interest Section Assembly discusses the petition, makes modifications where applicable, and recommends acceptance or rejection of the petition. The Assembly's recommendation for rejection or for approval based on a rationale is forwarded to the Board of Directors. The Board approves or rejects the petition, based on a careful consideration of the recommendations of the Assembly.
1. If the petition is approved, the President, upon recommendation of the petitioners, appoints the Chair and Chair-elect for the first year.
  2. If the petition is rejected, the Board may grant interim status to the group for one year. Terms of the interim status will be defined by the Board in a letter to the petitioners, who may reapply for full status at the next annual meeting.