

Latin American Association for Language Testing and Assessment

CONSTITUTION

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Latin American Association for Language Testing and Assessment, hereinafter referred to as LAALTA or the Association.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote language assessment and testing best practices in Latin American educational and professional contexts. The organization's interests will be independent of those of any other organization.

The activities of this organization shall be in accord with its purpose and include the following:

- a. Raise awareness of the social and political importance and potential impact of language assessment and testing;
- b. Increase public and professional understanding of language assessment and testing as a professional field of Applied Linguistics;
- c. Advocate for the use and implementation of adequate ethical principles in language assessment and testing;
- d. Encourage professional growth of relevant stakeholders through workshops, conferences, seminars and/or webinars;
- e. Foster cooperation among academia, schools and other agencies that have an active role in language assessment and testing in Latin America;
- f. Promote research in the area of language assessment and testing in Latin American contexts;
- g. Disseminate relevant theoretical information and state of the art research studies.
- h. Facilitate communication and collaboration among members interested in language testing and assessment in Latin America.

Article III: Membership

Section 1

Membership in LAALTA is open to those persons who are interested in or involved in language testing in Latin American educational and professional contexts. Membership in LAALTA is also open to those interested in the testing of languages spoken in Latin America.

Section 2

Active membership shall be open to all those who register as members on the LAALTA website (laalta.org). Active members are eligible to vote, to be a candidate for office and to participate in all the activities of the association.

Section 3

Various classes of members may be created as specified in the By-Laws.

Article IV: Officers

Section 1

The officers of LAALTA shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers shall be elected as specified in the By-Laws.

Section 2

The Vice-President shall succeed to the office of President, and the President to the office of Immediate Past President.

Section 3

The duties of the officers shall be as specified in the By-Laws.

Article V: Legislation and Administration

Section 1

The Executive Board shall be the principal policy-making body of LAALTA and shall be responsible for managing its resources and activities.

Section 2

The Executive Board of LAALTA shall consist of 10 members: the four officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer), the two members of the Communications Committee, and four Members-at-Large elected as specified by the By-Laws.

Article VI: Committees

LAALTA shall have a By-Laws Committee and such standing committees as are specified in the By-Laws. Other committees can be created by the Executive Board as appropriate.

Article VII: Amendments

Section 1

Amendments to this Constitution may be initiated by the Executive Board, by the By-Laws Committee, by a majority of those members attending the Annual Business Meeting, or by a petition of at least 10 percent of the active members of the Association submitted to the Secretary.

Section 2

Any amendment initiated in accordance with Section 1 shall be reviewed by the By-Laws Committee, which shall consider the need for and appropriateness of the proposed amendment, in consultation with those who initiated it, and make a recommendation to the Executive Board on whether the proposed amendment should be adopted. The Executive Board shall then consider the amendment and decide whether to approve it.

Section 3

Any amendment that is approved by the Executive Board in accordance with Section 2 shall be submitted to the full active membership of LAALTA for approval by means of an email ballot. A two-thirds majority of the members who vote shall be required for adoption of the amendment.

Article VIII: Financial Assets

Section 1

Officers and members of the Board serve without compensation for their time. No part of any donations or grants made to LAALTA shall be used for the benefit of the officers or board members. However, the Association and its Board shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for expenses incurred or for services rendered by a third party.

Section 2

If dissolution of LAALTA occurs, the Executive Board shall, after paying or making provision for

the payment of all of the liabilities of the Association, donate the remaining assets of the Association to any non-profit organization.

June 2019