BYLAWS FOR THE SSCA KENNETH BURKE SOCIETY INTEREST GROUP

2026

ARTICLE 1 -------- PURPOSE

Section 1. This organization shall be called the Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group of the Southern States Communication Association (SSCA).

Section 2. This organization's authority derives from the Bylaws of the Southern States Communication Association, and its powers and procedures are those prescribed therein. Consistent with, and as an extension of, the Bylaws of the Southern States Communication Association, these bylaws serve as the specific authority for the Kenneth Burke Society Interest Group and replace any prior bylaw document.

Section 3. The Interest Group's basic purpose is to advance scholarship that uses Burkean rhetorical criticism to address the social and cultural dimensions of public discourse. To that end, the Interest Group will play a major role in planning the annual SSCA convention; conduct activities as determined by the Interest Group membership; and represent the interests of the Interest Group membership in the SSCA Legislative Council.

ARTICLE II -------- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership in this Interest Group is open to any association member interested in promoting the Interest Group's purposes. These purposes will also vary based on the conference theme and members' interests.

Section 2. The full membership of the Interest Group shall consist of individuals who are members in good standing of SSCA and who indicate their wish to be affiliated with the Interest Group on their SSCA membership application or renewal and/or advise the SSCA Executive Director.

ARTICLE III -------- MEETINGS

The Interest Group shall hold an annual business meeting at the time and place of the SSCA annual convention.

ARTICLE IV -------- OFFICERS/ELECTED POSITIONS

Section 1. The Division officers shall be a Chair, Vice Chair/Division Planner, Vice Chair-Elect, and Secretary. [*The Past Chair will serve as the Burke Society's representative for the Nominative Committee.*]

Section 2. Upon election by the Interest Group at its annual meeting, the Chair-Elect will serve a one-year term and then succeed to the office of Chair for the following year. The Chair-Elect shall represent the Interest Group at SSCA's Legislative Assembly, attend

convention-planning meetings during the convention, conduct the annual meeting's New Business portion, and conduct the interest group elections at the annual meeting held at the end of his/her term as Chair-Elect. [*The Chair-Elect may also serve as chair of the Interest Group nominating committee as needed.*]

Section 3. The Chair-Elect shall succeed to the office of Chair at the beginning of the New Business portion of the annual meeting that ends his/her year as Chair-Elect. The Chair shall serve for one year. This officer shall promote the opportunity to submit program ideas and/or competitive papers to the Interest Group, coordinate the review process for competitive papers and panels, and plan the Interest Group's program for the next annual SSCA convention. In planning the annual convention, the Chair may create invited panels in addition to panels and papers submitted competitively. The Chair shall plan and conduct the next annual business meeting and present any competitive awards authorized by the Interest Group (including preparing annual reports and budget requests).

Section 4. The Secretary shall serve a one-year term, beginning at the end of the annual meeting in which he/she is elected. The Secretary serves as a paper reader for the subsequent annual convention and prepares the minutes of the annual meeting. These unapproved minutes must be submitted to the Interest Group Chair within one month following the convention.

Section 5. If an officer is unable to fulfill his/her responsibilities for any reason, the remaining officers of the Interest Group shall appoint a replacement until a replacement can be duly elected.

Section 6. Papers and panels submitted to the division will be reviewed in a double-blind process, wherein the chair will solicit reviewers to serve the division via a general call. The chair will then distribute each paper and panel to 2-3 anonymous reviewers for evaluation. Qualitative feedback will be retained from the reviews and forwarded by the chair to paper and/or panel authors, alongside the appropriate accept/reject decision.

Section 7. The Legislative Assembly Representative Alternate shall be elected annually to attend the annual Legislative Assembly Meeting at the convention if necessary. This person shall only attend the meeting if the Chair or Chair-Elect is unable to fulfill his/her obligation to attend.

ARTICLE V -------- ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Interest Group shall elect all officers and Nominating Committee members at its annual meeting. The Nominating Committee will coordinate nominations, and the floor will solicit additional nominations.

Section 2. Balloting shall be conducted at the annual Interest Group meeting, with the Chair-elect and Secretary counting ballots, and results announced by the close of that same meeting.

Section 3. A majority vote of those members in attendance at the annual Interest Group meeting at the SSCA annual convention shall be sufficient to elect officers/committee members for vacant positions.

ARTICLE VI -------- AWARDS

Section 1. At the annual SSCA meeting, the Burke Society Interest Group will recognize the following awards, as determined by the rankings in the competitive paper submission process or by committee review:

- **Top Paper Award** (ranked by evaluators of competitive papers)
- **Top Student Paper Award** (ranked by evaluators of competitive papers)

Each submission will also be evaluated by Kenneth Burke Interest Group officers.

Section 2. The award recipients shall receive certificates from the Interest Group.

Section 3. Additional awards may be proposed and approved by a majority vote at the Interest Group's annual meeting. In addition, the Interest Group also reserves the right not to distribute awards depending on the quality of submissions in a given year.

ARTICLE VII -------- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

All meetings of the Interest Group, its committees, or other subsidiary bodies shall be governed by the parliamentary rules and usages contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.

ARTICLE VIII --------- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be initiated by a majority of the officers, by a majority of the Interest Group membership at the annual Interest Group meeting, or by a petition addressed to the Chair and signed by twenty-five members of the Interest Group.

Section 2. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to a ballot of members present at the annual Interest Group meeting.

Sections 3. New Bylaws shall become effective at the close of the annual business meeting.