Bylaws

Association of Counseling Psychology Students (ACOPS)

Article I: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the organization in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of this organization.

Article II: Membership

Section 1:

All students currently enrolled in the Auburn University Doctoral Program in Counseling Psychology who are pre-internship (are not currently on internship and have not yet completed internship) are members. All members have voting privileges on non-financial matters so long as the member is in attendance at the time of the vote or responds to non-business meeting votes within the designated time frame.

Voting privileges on financial matters are granted to those members who meet all of the following criteria:
   a. Member must have paid dues prior to voting on any financially related matters
   b. Member must be pre-internship (cannot be on or have completed their professional psychology internship

Section 2:

Responsibilities and duties of members:
   a. Members have the responsibility to keep informed of ethical and legal obligations in the field of Counseling Psychology and to act accordingly
   b. Members have the responsibility to respect other members, despite disagreements or differences
   c. Members have a responsibility to remain active within ACOPS and to pursue professional development opportunities that enhance their own training and that efforts of the organization
   d. Members have the duty of nominating voting for officers
   e. Members have the right to direct their concerns to the serving officers and faculty advisor

Section 3:

Membership in the organization can be denied or terminated if an individual is no longer an active student in the Counseling Psychology program at Auburn University. If any member acts in a way unbecoming of a psychologist, he or she may also be removed
from the organization by the faculty advisor, who shall abide by departmental policies in such matters.

Section 4:

If a serving officer wishes to resign before their duties are met (the extent of one full academic year) there will be a meeting with all of the officers to discuss the matter. Officer resignation will not be decided by voting as it is not the intention of this organization to force anyone into duty or membership. Nominations will be taken at the next meeting following notification of the vacancy. Elections will be held by blind ballot within two weeks following the solicitation of nominations. Members must abide by the policies established by the program faculty should they wish to leave the organization.

Section 5: Dues

a. The amount of dues will be decided by the existing officers in any given year but may be taken to the general membership or dues paying members at the discretion of the executive committee
b. The amount of dues for the academic year will be ten dollars
c. Dues are paid once an academic year for a member to retain their dues paying membership
d. If a member is not able to provide dues as a result of extenuating financial circumstances, the officers may approve a fee waiver one time (this can only occur once during a member’s educational tenure at Auburn University)
e. The amount of dues will not increase by more than $5 from the previous academic year

Article III: Elections

a. Election of officers for each academic year will be held by paper ballot between the second to last and last general meeting of spring semester
b. Nominations for officers will be accepted and collected for a period of two weeks prior to the election by the current co-chairs
c. Voting will be done by secret paper ballot conducted by the current co-chairs and treasurer unless one or more of them is running for office, in which case, individual(s) from the general membership, who are not running for office, will form an election committee which the Advisor will oversee
d. The Advisor of the organization should preside over the elections. If the advisor is unable to do so, a non-voting member or neutral third party will be selected to preside over the election
e. A simple majority of the voting members who respond to the ballot within the designated time frame shall determine the winner
f. Newly elected officers will assume duties at the closure of the meeting in which they are elected. Former officers will be responsible for ensuring successful offices transition
g. To be eligible to run for office, an individual must be a paying member, have attended at least 50% of organization functions (meetings, fundraising,
volunteer projects/outreach) during the previous academic year and have paid and remain current in their dues

h. Should there be a need to impeach a current officer, the Advisor in conjunction with other faculty members will make a decision with the written recommendation of current officers not involved as well as a written statement of the complaint (detailing the problem believed to warrant impeachment) from individuals within the general membership

i. Regarding the resignation of an officer, please see Article II, Section 4

j. A term is one academic year. An individual member can hold a particular office for a maximum of two consecutive years

**Article IV: Meeting Requirements**

Section 1:

Meetings will be held monthly during the long semesters within an academic year except during the months of January and August or as otherwise decided upon by the officers. Special meetings shall be called by any of the officers and/or Advisor.

Section 2:

The number of voting members required to vote on decisions placed before the general membership is seven.

**Article V: Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended or revised by proposing in writing the change at a general meeting of the membership. The proposed change will then be voted upon at the next general meeting with the approval of the majority of the voting membership present. All voting members must have access to the current version and the proposed version(s) for the seven days prior to the vote. Any and all changes should be clearly visible.