

Title of Document: Constitution of the “Argumentation Network of the Americas”

Preamble:

Argumentation is emerging as a central concern across a broad range of academic disciplines, from the humanities to computational engineering, and remains the backbone of many introductory college classes. Yet the number of scholars identifying with argumentation studies remains small, and as the global academic job market continues to shrink, it is creating severe challenges for junior scholars entering and progressing in the field.

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be: Argumentation Network of the Americas (ANA).

Article II. PURPOSE

In the spirit of mentorship, community, and academic excellence the Argumentation Network of the Americas aims to create mutually beneficial/supportive, (semi-) formal, and lasting interdisciplinary connections between researchers in argumentation across North and Central/South America, while specifically focusing on supporting early career researchers/scholars.

Article III: MEMBERSHIP

Non-Discrimination Statement: This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, disability, or status as a veteran.

Article IV: ORGANIZATION

Section I: Structure (Branches Executive, etc.)

ANA will consist of a General Membership and Executive Committee. The General Membership will consist of voting and non-voting members. Voting members are those who are currently employed by, attending, or a graduate of a scholarly post-secondary institution in North, Central, or South America. The General Membership will vote on issues at The Annual General meeting and if needed via request by the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will have operational voting powers and consist of four regional directors – two representing North America (N1, N2) and two representing Central/South America (S1, S2)-, a senior advisor (SA), and two graduate student representatives - one each from North and Central/South America (GSN, GSS). The longest serving regional director shall serve as chair of the board.

Section II: Officers

Non-voting executive officers include (at least) a treasurer, secretary, and communications officer. Other positions may be created or eliminated by the Executive Committee as needed.

Section III: Elections and Appointments

Elections for one regional directorship position will alternate between North and Central/South America each year (N1, S1, N2, S2), or as otherwise needed. The senior advisor (SA) will be elected every 6 years,

or as otherwise needed. Graduate student representatives (GSN, GSS) will be elected every two years, or as otherwise needed. Voting members of the executive shall be elected by the general membership. Officers will be appointed by Executive Committee.

Section IV: Terms of Office

Regional directors will be elected for a term of 4 years. Preference for Regional Directors will be given to new pre-tenure nominees. Should no new pre-tenure members run for a directorship position, tenured and/or returning nominees may run for election. The senior advisor must be tenured or emeritus at an academic institution in Central/South or North America. Graduate student representatives must be enrolled in a graduate program at the time of election and be either attending, or a graduate of, an institute of higher education in North or Central/South America.

Section V: Powers

The Executive Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the organization, including planning for future events and developments, which includes making financial decisions on behalf of the organization.

The General Membership will be responsible for voting in members of the Executive as well as approving any changes to the constitution, which must be approved by two thirds vote of members present at the meeting.

Section VI: Governing Rules

All meetings are to be governed, as closely as possible, by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article V: MEETINGS

The ANA Executive Committee will aim to meet monthly. All members will be invited to an Annual General Meeting. Additional general meetings may be called by the executive as needed.

Article VI: QUORUM

Quorum at executive meetings shall be 4 of 7 voting members. Quorum at general meetings shall be 20% of the voting membership.

Article VII:

Section I: Adoption and Ratification

This constitution shall be voted on by the General Membership at the inaugural organizational meeting on January 14th, 2022. The constitution must receive a majority vote by the members in attendance to be deemed passed.

Section II: Amending the Constitution

The constitution may be amended by motion at any annual general meeting. Constitutional amendments must pass with a two thirds majority vote by those in attendance at the meeting.

Ratification:

This constitution was ratified at the first Annual General Meeting of January 14th, 2022, with unanimous support from the membership, as certified by the founding executive committee (alphabetically by surname, below):



Michael Baumtrog
Chair, Regional Director - North



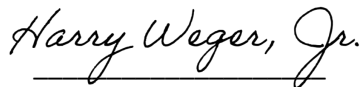
Justin Eckstein
Regional Director - North



Constanza Ihnen
Regional Director - South



Fábio Shecaira
Regional Director - South



Harry Weger
Senior Advisor