

By-Laws of
Society of Research in Human Development

A Nonprofit Corporation

Article 1. Name and Purposes

The name of this organization shall be the **Society for Research in Human Development**. The purposes of the Society shall be to stimulate and support research in human development, to encourage cooperation among individuals in the United States who are engaged in the scientific study of human development, and to encourage the application of research findings.

Article 2. Principal Office

1. The principal office of the corporation in the State of Texas shall be located in the city of Austin, County of Travis. The corporation may have such other offices, either within or without the State of Texas, as the Board of Directors may determine or as the affairs of the corporation may require from time to time.
2. The corporation shall have and continuously maintain in the State of Texas a registered office, and a registered agent whose office is identical with such registered office, as required by the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The registered office may be, but need not be; identical with the principal office of the corporation in the State of Texas, and the address of the registered office may be changed from time to time by the Board of Directors.

Article 3. Membership

1. The membership of the Society shall consist of professional members, new professional members, and student members. Any individuals who have contributed to or furthered research in human development shall be eligible for professional or new professional membership.
2. Any individuals who actively apply human development research in practice or whose professional work is guided by research on development across the lifespan may become a professional or new professional member with all rights of a professional member.
3. In order to qualify as a new professional member, the individual must be within 5 years of their terminal degree program.
4. Any registered student in residence at an educational institution who has not completed all requirements for their doctoral degree may become a student member, with all the rights of a professional member.
5. On all the matters calling for action by the membership of the Society, each professional, new professional member, or student member shall have one vote. Members may only vote on their own behalf whether in-person or virtually.

Article 4. Officers

1. The elected officers of the Society shall be a President, a Past-President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Communications Officer, and a Treasurer. The President-Elect, the Secretary, the Communications Officer, and the Treasurer shall be elected directly by the electorate of the Society. The President-Elect shall serve for two years and shall then automatically become President. The President shall serve for two years and then automatically become Past-President for two years. The Secretary, Communications Officer, and the Treasurer shall serve for four-year terms.
2. In addition to these officers, the Society's membership shall elect two Members-at-Large to the Board of Directors, each of whom shall serve for a four-year term. One of these Members-at-Large shall be chosen at each biennial election, so that the two individuals serve overlapping terms. The Board of Directors shall also include a Student Representative, who shall be chosen from among student members of the Society, by vote of all members. The term of the Student Representative shall be two years. Officers need not be residents of Texas.
3. The President shall serve as Chairperson of the Society. The President shall preside at all business meetings, act as Chair of the Board of Directors and exercise supervision over the affairs of the Society, seeking the approval of the Board of Directors where appropriate. The President shall be authorized to fill any vacancies that may occur on the committees described below in Article 8, in order to ensure that positions are filled for the remainder of unexpired terms, and shall perform such other duties as are incident to the office or may properly be required by vote of the Board of Directors or the membership of the Society at any duly constituted meeting.
4. The Past-President shall represent the interests of the membership in supervising the affairs of the Society as a member of the Board of Directors and shall take on such tasks as the President may request.
5. The President-Elect shall serve as Vice-President of the Society for two years, and shall succeed to the office of President for the ensuing two-year period. During the elected term, the President-Elect shall perform the duties of the President in the event of the absence or incapacity of that individual, and in case of the President's resignation or abandonment, on through their own term of office. The President-Elect shall serve as a member of the Board of Directors and shall chair meetings of that board in the absence of the President.
6. The Secretary shall keep the records of all meetings of the Society, of the Board of Directors of the Society, issue calls and notices of meetings, and serve as a member of the Board of Directors. Secretary will act on membership applications, maintain records of membership, and serve as the contacts for membership questions.
7. The Communications Officer shall collect/maintain historical documentation of the Society's activities. In addition, the Communications Officer shall have custody of the historical property and files of the Society, and serve as a member of the Board of Directors. Primarily, the Communications officer will be responsible for maintenance of website and social media.
8. The Treasurer shall manage the organization's bank account make disbursements as authorized by the Board of Directors, collect dues, act on membership applications, maintain records of membership, and once a year make a written report to the membership on the Society on the Society's financial status and on the activities of the Society and its Board of Directors during the previous year.

9. The elected Members-at-Large of the Board of Directors and the Student Representative shall represent the interests of the membership in supervising the affairs of the Society as members of the Board of Directors. The Member-at-Large who has the least time remaining in their term of office (the Senior Member-at-Large) shall serve as the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee and conduct the election of new officers.
10. In case of death, incapacity, non-fulfillment of role, or resignation of any of the members of the Board of Directors, the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall by majority vote elect a successor to serve until the next meeting of the Society.
11. Officers are required to sign annual conflict of interest disclosure statements. SRHD activities cannot provide a private benefit to an individual, including business dealings with Officers. Officers with conflicts of interests must abstain from voting on matters they could personally benefit from.

Article 5. Board of Directors

1. The Society's Board of Directors shall consist of the President, the Past President, the President-Elect, the Secretary, the Communications Officer, the Treasurer, two Members-at-Large, and the Student Representative.
2. The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility of supervising the Affairs of the Society, performing the duties specified in these By-Laws. Actions of the Board of Directors that affect Society policies are subject to approval by majority vote of the membership of the Society at a regular business meeting or responding to a special email ballot.
3. The Board of Directors shall call regular and special meetings of the Society. It shall have the power to fill vacancies in its membership resulting from death, resignation, or other causes, such as appointees to hold office until the next biennial election. It shall be authorized to interpret the By-Laws. When the Board of Directors is not in session, the President may make such temporary rulings as are necessary, subject to review by the Board of Directors at its next meeting.
4. The Society's President shall be Chair of the Board of Directors and the Secretary-Historian of the Society shall serve as the Secretary of the Board of Directors. A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the Board of Directors: a majority vote of those Board members present shall be sufficient for decision making. When the committee is not in session, questions may be submitted by email to members for their vote.
5. The Board of Directors shall meet at least once each biennium at the time of the Biennial meeting of the Society. Additional meetings of the Board may be called by the President or by a majority of the members of the Board of Directors.

Article 6. Nomination, Elections, and Appointments

1. The Society's officers and the members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a preferential count of the members of the Society responding to a digital ballot.
2. The new officers and members of the Board of Directors shall assume their offices at the end of the biennial meeting of the Society held in the year in which they are elected or 30 days post-election if no meeting was held and shall hold office until their successors are elected and assume office in their stead.

3. The Nominations Committee shall invite suggestions for nominations from the electorate for the offices of President-Elect, Secretary, Communications Officer, Treasurer, Member-at-Large, and Student Representative to the Board of Directors. This invitation will be issued by email at least two months prior to the biennial meeting and shall specify the return of suggestions to the Nominations Committee no later than one month prior to the date of the biennial meeting. The Nominations Committee shall select the final slate of candidates. This selection shall be guided by the suggestions of the electorate. The Nominations Committee shall ascertain the willingness of the nominees to serve, if elected. The election ballot shall contain the names of at least two nominees for each position, as well as spaces for write-in candidates. The Nominations Committee shall submit an election ballot to the Communications Officer at least two months in advance of the date of the biennial meeting, obtain the membership emailing list from the Treasurer, and distribute the ballot to the electorate at least one month prior to the date of the biennial meeting. The specified date of return of the ballot shall be no later than three weeks prior to the date of the biennial meeting. The ballots shall be returned to the Senior Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors, who with the other members of the Nominations Committee shall be responsible for the tabulation of the ballots. The Senior Member-at-Large shall report the results of the ballot to the Secretary-Historian, who will notify the successful and defeated candidates of the results of the election. The names of the newly elected officers of the Society shall be reported to the Society membership at the biennial business meeting by the Senior Member-at-Large.
4. At its meeting at the time of the biennial meeting of the Society, the Board of Directors will select chairpersons for the Society committees to serve for the following biennium.
5. In the event that the society disbands for a period extending beyond the term limits of the most recent elected officers, an interim board may be formed to reestablish the society. The interim board should include at least three individuals who were previous members of the society. The interim board will follow these steps for reestablishing the society: email the most recent membership list to ask for interest in reestablishing the society; identify individuals to act as the interim board; establish a Chair of the board and a Treasurer; attempt to update society information via the website and recruit membership.

Article 7. Meetings

1. The Board of Directors shall call at least one general meeting of the Society each biennium. The time and place of the meeting shall be determined by the Board of Directors. At each Biennial meeting of the Society, there shall be at least one business meeting at which the officers and members of the Board of Directors shall report to the Society and respond to questions from the membership.
2. Special business meetings of the Society shall be held at any time upon call of the Board of Directors or upon the call of one-fifth of the electorate of the Society. The Board of Directors shall determine the time and place of such meetings.
3. Notice, in writing, for every regular or special business meeting shall be emailed to each member and student member of the Society no fewer than fifteen days before any such meeting, and if for a special meeting, such notice shall state the object or objects thereof. In addition, notice will be posted on the SRHD website.

Article 8. Committees

1. The Nominations Committee shall consist of the Senior Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors and two members of the Society appointed by the Board of Directors. The Member-at-Large shall chair the committee.
2. The Conference Planning Committee shall normally consist of at least three members. The Board of Directors shall appoint one member who will chair the Committee: The President, in consultation with that member, shall appoint two other members or student members. Once established, the Conference Planning Committee will select and lead the following sub-committees: Hosting Committee and Program Committee.
3. The Hosting committee shall normally consist of at least three members appointed by the Board of Directors. One member of the Conference Planning committee will chair the committee. The Hosting Committee's responsibilities will vary based on whether the conference is virtual or in-person. If the conference is virtual, the committee will be responsible for setting up digital hosting, etc. If the conference is in-person, the committee will be responsible for identifying a physical location for the conference events, local hotel arrangements, and catering needs.
4. The Program Committee shall normally consist of at least three members appointed by the Board of Directors. One member of the Conference Planning committee will chair the committee. To ensure adequate evaluation of program proposals, the committee may refer selected proposals to the judgment of appropriate members of the Society who are not members of the committee. The Program Committee will issue the announcements and call for papers for the meeting and distribute a program in advance of the meeting. Modifications of the format are subject to review by the President.
5. The President, in consultation with the Board of Directors, shall appoint *ad hoc* committees from time to time to facilitate the functioning of the Society.

Article 9. Fees

1. Membership fees cover a period of two calendar years. Membership fees provide the member with access to members-only content on the website and discounts on conference registration.
2. Conference registration fees will be collected leading up to the time of the conference. Conference registration fees provide access to conference materials (e.g., program) and access to conference events.
3. Changes in biennial membership fees, conference registration fees and assessments of any special fees shall be decided by the Board of Directors.

Article 10: Advocacy and Social Policy

1. The Society may lend its name to promote actions, causes, and policies intended to improve the welfare and health of individuals and families across the life span.
2. The mechanism for this promotion is through endorsement of resolutions.
3. Any Society member in good standing may propose a resolution to the Board of Directors.

4. The Board of Directors will evaluate the merits of the resolution. If the Board is unanimously in favor of the resolution, it would go to the membership for an initial consideration.
5. The President will email out the resolution with its rationale and justification for the membership to consider. The President will invite comments.
6. After no less than a month and one day that email has been sent, the Board of Directors will reconsider, based on the feedback received, whether to send the resolution out to membership for a vote. If the board continues to be unanimously in favor, the resolution will be emailed to the membership for their vote on whether the resolution should be endorsed by the Society.
7. If 2/3^{rds} or more of the members who vote on the resolution are in favor of it, then the resolution will be adopted.
8. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, as well as any member appointed by the Board, to publicize the resolution.

Article 11. Amendments

1. Amendments to these By-Laws may be adopted by the Society by a single majority vote of the membership responding to an email ballot. It is necessary that each proposed amendment has been first either presented and read at the preceding business meeting or emailed to each member and student member at least two weeks prior to the final vote.
2. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by petition of at least five percent of the electorate of the Society.
3. In the event of membership dissolution, the interim board of directors (see Article 6.6) may make changes. In such an event, all interim board members will have the opportunity to discuss changes and provide suggestions. The suggestions will be voted on at a subsequent meeting and must pass by unanimous vote of those present at the meeting where the vote is called.

Article 12. Implementation

These By-Laws shall be implemented when they have been adopted at the organizational meeting of the Board of Directors. Prior to that meeting, the By-Laws shall have been ratified by a simple majority of the membership responding to a digital ballot or by unanimous vote of an interim executive board (as constituted in Article 11).

Adopted: Spring 1983

Amended: Spring 1999

Amended: Spring 2007

Amended: Fall 2011

Amended: Fall 2025