

Constitution and By-Laws for the Society of the Third Sophistic

(Revised, July 2026)

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section A.

The name of this organization shall be Society of the Third Sophistic (hereafter referred to as S3S).

Section B.

Official use of S3S's name and its associated logos, themes, missions, and slogans shall be made only through the authority of the Officers.

ARTICLE II: MISSION & PURPOSES

Section A.

As an official student organization at Clemson University's Rhetoric, Communication and Information Design (RCID) Program, within the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies, S3S's formal and representative statement of purpose and mission is intended to distinguish and summarize the objectives, goals, purposes, and intentions of the organization, S3S and its officers shall adhere to the following mission statement:

“The mission of the Society of the Third Sophistic is to foster an atmosphere of professionalism, collegiality, unity, and scholarly prominence among its members in order to encourage and strengthen academic and professional pursuits in fields related to rhetorics, communication, and information design.”

Section B.

S3S is an officially recognized chapter of the Rhetoric Society of America (RSA). Further, S3S will engage in activities consistent with RSA's mission and values.

Section C.

More specific to the aforementioned mission statement, the purposes and purview of S3S shall include the following (in no particular order of importance):

- to serve as a visible student-facing extension of the RCID program by helping promote its intellectual life, strengthen community among members, and represent student activity within and beyond the university;
- to foster intellectual exchange among students working in rhetorics, communication, and information design, broadly construed;
- to create opportunities for members to share research, creative work, teaching practices, and emerging areas of inquiry;
- to encourage student-led experimentation, collaboration, and discussion related to rhetorics, communication, information design, media, pedagogy, and public engagement;
- to coordinate with RCID faculty, staff, and program leadership in support of student academic and professional life;
- to organize or support scholarly, creative, and social gatherings through which members may exchange ideas, receive feedback, and build community;
- to help circulate information about relevant conferences, publications, workshops, funding opportunities, and other academic or professional resources;
- to support members' participation in relevant scholarly and professional activities through peer advising, information-sharing, event coordination, and other non-financial means;
- to promote collegiality, continuity, and mutual support among members in order to strengthen academic relationships, professional networks, and the broader RCID community.
- to seek and manage funds for S3S activities.

These S3S purposes may be amended as needed to reflect the organization's capabilities and resources at any given time, and they shall be carried out by S3S in a manner consistent with its goals and purposes.

Section D.

S3S will alternate with North Carolina State University and the University of South Carolina to host a conference called Carolina Rhetoric Conference (hereafter referred to as CRC), to be jointly coordinated by the three institutions on a regular basis. When hosting the conference, the S3S board will appoint a Conference Committee Chair who will create subcommittees to organize and prepare for the CRC. In the interim years, S3S officers shall diligently encourage members to participate in the CRC and assist the hosting school's officers where it is reasonable and appropriate to do so.

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section A.

The Officers of S3S shall constitute the organization's executive board and include the following:

- [B.1 President](#)
- [RSA/S3S Vice President](#)
- [RSA/S3S Vice President for Online Student Affairs](#)
- [RSA/S3S Secretary-Treasurer](#)
- [RSA/S3S Archivist](#)
- [RSA/S3S Communications Director](#)
- [RSA/S3S Professional Development Coordinator](#)
- [RSA/S3S First-Year Student Liaison](#)
- [RSA/S3S Graduate Student Government Senator](#)

Section B. Officers

B.1. President

- a) The President shall conduct regular meetings with the officers and preside over the executive board meetings, oversee meeting times and the preparation of meeting agendas. A minimum of 2 chapter meetings shall be held during the academic year.
- b) The president will be the S3S representative at non-S3S events or may delegate this duty to any other S3S officer.
- c) The President is responsible for introducing guest speakers and coordinating their needs for events sponsored by S3S.
- d) The President shall also be known as the Chair of the RSA Chapter and will be responsible for reporting on the chapter's activities and membership to the graduate student members of the RSA Board of Directors in the fall and spring, prior to meetings of the RSA Board of Directors.
- e) The Chair also serves as the contact for other RSA student chapters so that chapters can network with each other. The Chair is also the point of contact with the RCID sponsor faculty member.
- f) The President serves as a liaison with the RCID program director and other administration officials and participates in meetings where S3S representation is necessary.
- g) The President will oversee compliance with the Constitution of S3S, including any revisions or addendums agreed upon by the officers.

- h) With approval from the officers, the President may appoint other S3S members to fulfill particular responsibilities, including those responsibilities otherwise assigned to S3S officers, for a duration and with an appropriate title as decided by the Officers via a majority vote. Such appointments may include Committee Chairs for special initiatives such as conference hosting or co-hosting, fundraising, or other projects.
- i) When the President is not available to attend to any of the aforementioned duties and responsibilities, it shall be the responsibility of the President to delegate such commitments to another officer.

B.2. Vice President

- a) The Vice President shall assist the President in the commitments outlined in Section D.1. and is responsible for planning and organizing S3S events. A minimum of one event shall be held during the academic year.
- b) The Vice President and the Communications Director shall be responsible for informing the S3S/RCID community of all planned events.
- c) When the President is not available to attend to the commitments named in Section D.1., and when no other officer has been appointed by the President to act in the place of the President, the Vice President shall assume the role of the President until either 1) the President is available and capable of continuing with the commitments named in Section D.1. or 2) a new President has been appointed by the officers or elected by members of S3S.
- d) The Vice President is the liaison between the general membership and the S3S officers.
- e) It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President to communicate the state of General Student affairs at each board meeting.
- f) The Vice President and the Vice President for Online Student Affairs shall remain in body experience.

B.3. Vice President for Online Student Affairs

- a) The Vice President for Online Student Affairs is responsible for representing S3S' online cohorts on the executive board. The Vice President for Online Student affairs is a member of the executive board who listens to and solicits feedback from online students in the program and then takes these concerns to the executive board to help drive tangible action in the online cohorts' interests. This position is open only to online students.
- b) Responsibilities for this position include full participation in all executive board meetings, informing fellow executive board members of any actions online students may suggest, and ensuring online students' access to S3S/RCID functions through appropriate virtual channels.

- c) It shall be the responsibility of the Vice President for Online Student Affairs to communicate the state of Online Student affairs at each board meeting.
- d) The Vice President and the Vice President for Online Student Affairs shall remain in regular communication and coordination to ensure S3S open access to and from both residential and online students with the goal of facilitating a rich, unified student body experience.

B.4 Secretary-Treasurer

- a) The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for distributing S3S executive board meeting minutes and proceedings after such meetings are held.
- b) The Secretary-Treasurer shall ensure that all meeting minutes and related records are properly maintained in a [designated folder](#) for organizational reference and archival purposes. These records shall be openly available to all members.
- c) The Secretary-Treasurer shall coordinate the management of S3S funds with the Professional Development Coordinator.
- d) It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary-Treasurer to communicate the state of the previous meeting's minutes and an up to date state of funds at each board meeting.

B.5. Archivist

- a) The Archivist is responsible for ensuring that all relevant dissertation defenses, oral exams, guest speakers, and special events are audio and video recorded, contingent upon presenter's approval.
- b) The Archivist is responsible for procuring and maintaining such written approval from presenters.
- c) Storage and display locations of recorded materials such as meeting minutes and guest speaker recordings will be determined by the S3S Officers, subject to presenter's approval if recording is to be made public.

B.6. Communications Director

- a) The Communications Director shall be responsible for maintaining the S3S social media accounts and overseeing the creation and distribution of communication materials, including but not limited to email announcements, newsletters, event promotions, and online campaigns.

- b) The Communications Director may assemble and lead teams to complete online or communications-related projects as needed, add posts on S3S' social media, and ensure that all communications reflect the values and mission of S3S.
- c) It shall be the responsibility of the Communications Director to communicate the state of communications affairs at each board meeting.
- d) The Communications Director will maintain the Society of the Third Sophistics [website](#) by updating it weekly with updates about the RCID community.

B.7. Professional Development Coordinator

- a) The Professional Development Coordinator shall be responsible for compliance with the requirements of the Rhetoric Society of America.
- b) The Professional Development Coordinator shall actively seek professionalization, service, and funding opportunities for S3S from sources internal to and external to Clemson as appropriate. The Professional Development Coordinator will be responsible for maintaining the S3S TigerQuest page, and also ensuring S3S's Re-Recognition via TigerQuest by updating and uploading both the membership roster spreadsheet and this constitution to reflect the names of current members.
- c) It shall be the responsibility of the Professional Development Coordinator to communicate the state of Professional Development affairs at each board meeting.

B.8. First-Year Student Liaison

- a) The First-Year Student Liaison shall serve as a point of contact between S3S and the incoming graduate student cohort. The Liaison shall be responsible for welcoming new students by providing informational resources related to living in Clemson, including housing options, local dining and recreational activities, and general community engagement.
- b) This position shall be responsible for maintaining and updating a comprehensive resource list covering both university-related and local city-wide information to assist with new students' transition and integration.
- c) The Liaison shall help foster an inclusive and welcoming community by supporting connections among incoming students, current members, and the broader RCID network, with attention to belonging, accessibility, and mutual support. It shall be the responsibility of the Liaison to communicate the state of first year student affairs at each board meeting.

B.9. Graduate Student Government Senator

- a) Before the beginning of each fall semester the S3S members will also choose two students to fill the positions of Graduate Student Government Senators.

Section C.

Elections

A call for nominations shall be issued by the incumbent S3S Board prior to the end of their tenure. Voting will be conducted electronically. All S3s officers shall be elected by a vote from the RCID student body. Elections shall be held every year and the elected candidates announced immediately upon the closing of the elections but in any event no later than the start of the fall semester.

Section D.

Vacancies, Resignation and Impeachment

1. In the event of a vacancy in offices other than the President or either Vice President, the President can appoint an S3S member to hold any officer position. Such appointments must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the other S3S officers. In the event of a vacancy of the President, a general approval or vote from among the S3S executive board will be necessary to fill the office of the President. The same procedure shall apply in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Vice President.
2. **Resignation clause:** In the event that an officer cannot fulfill their duties for any reason, a formal resignation email should be sent to the S3S Board. The procedures for appointments, as detailed in Article III, Section C, will then take effect.
3. **Impeachment clause:** In the event that the president, or other elected official, is no longer acting in accordance with this constitution, within the purview of the S3S and RSA mission statements, or is no longer acting in the organization's best interest, it is the responsibility of the S3S officers to provide said elected official with a formal notice of the alleged misconduct. If the misconduct continues, any officer can present a letter of impeachment to the other S3S officers. In order for the officer to be impeached, the S3S board must approve by a 2/3 majority vote. If the impeachment is approved, the procedures for appointments, as detailed in Article III, Section B, will then take effect.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section A.

Membership is extended to all graduate students in the RCID program at Clemson University.

Section B.

Members are expected to remain active and support S3S-organized events.

Section C.

As outlined in Rhetoric Society of America's [student chapter guidelines](#), S3S must maintain a minimum of three (3) paid student RSA members per year as well as an RSA member as faculty sponsor in order to retain chapter membership.

ARTICLE IV: ACTIVITIES

Section A.

Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, S3S shall not engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the purposes of S3S. In particular, S3S shall not attempt to influence legislation or participate to any extent in a political campaign for or against any candidate for public office, including the Graduate Student Government.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section A.

A two-thirds majority of the executive board may initiate the process of amendment to the Constitution.

Section B.

After no fewer than seven (7) days following the distribution of a proposed amendment, a full-membership ballot shall be distributed by the President. A two-thirds majority of those voting shall be required for adoption of an amendment.

Section C.

A Transition Document will be maintained by the President and hosted in a shareable GoogleDoc which will include all pertinent information on the transferring of roles from one academic year to the next. Such documentation will include, but is not limited to, good standing processes, recommended S3S election calendar, listserv information, and web administration.