

# **The Rehabilitation Psychology Specialty Council**

## **By-Laws**

**Ratified on October 5, 2018**

### **ARTICLE I. NAME**

1. The name of this organization, formerly known as the Rehabilitation Psychology Synarchy, shall be the Rehabilitation Psychology Specialty Council (RPSC), hereinafter referred to as the RPSC.

*A synarchy, as concerns specialty councils, is process governance through joint sovereignty, and consists of professional groups and organizations that represent major educational, training, and professional constituencies and stakeholders relevant to the particular specialty in professional psychology. (<http://cospp.org/faqs>)*

### **ARTICLE II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the RPSC is to

1. Promote high quality scholarship, education, training, credentialing, and practice in Rehabilitation Psychology.
2. Represent all major stakeholders of the specialty of Rehabilitation Psychology and facilitate communication with the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS), the APA Commission on Accreditation (CoA), the APA Commission for the Recognition of Specialties and Proficiencies in Professional Psychology (CRSPPP), the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) and with other professional organizations and with the general public.
3. Serve as a coordinating body among the sponsoring organizations to develop and promote the specialty of Rehabilitation Psychology.
4. Assure that the education and training guidelines relevant to the specialty of Rehabilitation Psychology are maintained.
5. Assure that Rehabilitation Psychology specialty recognition is maintained.

### **ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP**

1. Professional organizations whose major objectives include the development, scholarship, promotion, education, training, or practice of Rehabilitation Psychology shall be eligible for membership.
2. Foundational co-sponsoring organizations of the RPSC shall be (a) APA Division 22, (b) American Board of Rehabilitation Psychology (ABRP), (c) Council of Rehabilitation Psychology Postdoctoral Training Programs (CRPPTP), (d)

Foundation for Rehabilitation Psychology, and (e) Academy of Rehabilitation Psychology.

3. Additional organizations seeking representation on the RPSC must be accepted by existing members by unanimous vote.
4. The membership of the RPSC shall consist of the President or Chair of each co-sponsoring organization plus the RPSC Chair as described in Article IV.
5. Considering the triumvirate nature of the Division 22 presidency (President-elect, President, and immediate Past-President), in order to ensure continuity on the RPSC, the Division 22 President-elect and immediate Past-President shall sit as non-voting members of the RPSC.
6. Representatives to the RPSC commit to regular participation and attendance at meetings.

#### ARTICLE IV. RPSC OFFICER/CHAIR

1. The RPSC Chair shall be a person appointed by the majority vote of RPSC members and shall be a member of at least one of the sponsoring organizations. The Chair may not serve as President or Chair of a sponsoring organization while serving as RPSC Chair.
2. Term of office is 3 years. The Chair may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Partial terms are not considered a full-term, so that only full-terms are considered within the maximum length of office. Term of office will begin on the first day of January following appointment. Should the office of Chair become vacant during a term, an interim Chair, who shall meet the same requirements set forth in Article IV(1), shall be appointed by the majority vote of RPSC members to complete the term of office.
3. The Chair will be a voting member of the RPSC.
4. The Chair will preside, or delegate the authority to do so, at the business meetings of the RPSC. The Chair will hold a minimum of one meeting each year and maintain minutes of the meetings. Meetings may be face-to-face, telephonic, or via email. RPSC may address business matters outside of regularly scheduled meetings. Voting may be conducted by telephone, mail, e-mail, or fax.
5. The Chair will prepare and submit an annual operating budget to the sponsoring member organizations for approval at the annual business meeting.
6. The Chair will serve as the RPSC's representative to the CoS, or delegate the authority to do so. The Chair will attend all meetings of the CoS, or delegate the authority to do so. The CoS attendee will communicate the issues and concerns identified at CoS meetings to the RPSC.
7. The Chair will submit a report biannually to the CoS, or when requested, documenting the relevant activities of the RPSC and communicate any issues and concerns of the RPSC to CoS, including any action items required for the CoS meeting agenda.

#### ARTICLE V. COUNCIL FINANCES

1. Expenses incurred by the RPSC are approved by a majority vote of the co-sponsoring organizations
2. Approved expenses are shared among the co-sponsoring organizations by mutual agreement of the co-sponsoring organizations.
3. Expenses include, but are not limited to, CoS membership dues, CoS special assessment fees, and attendance at CoS meetings.

#### ARTICLE VI. BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

1. The initial By-Laws must be approved by a unanimous vote of the RPSC's member representatives.
2. Following ratification, amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by any RPSC member by submitting such proposal to the RPSC Chair in writing. The Chair will distribute the proposed amendment(s) for consideration at the next RPSC meeting.
3. Amendments to the Bylaws may be made by a majority vote of the RPSC members. Mail or electronic ballots may be utilized providing a discussion of the matter had taken place at a prior meeting and allowed for a 21-day response period following the discussion.