**Counseling Psychology Specialty Council**

**Bylaws**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The name of the organization shall be “Counseling Psychology Specialty Council ,” hereafter referred to as the “Specialty Council.” *Specialty Councils comprise a process of governance through joint sovereignty, and consist 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)*

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose**

The purpose of the Specialty Council is to:

1. Represent all major stakeholders of the counseling psychology specialty to the Council of Specialties in Professional Psychology (CoS), American Psychological Association (APA), other professional organizations, and the general public.
2. Promote quality assurance of education, training, practice, research, advocacy, and credentialing in counseling psychology.
3. Promote counseling psychology as a specialty in professional psychology, and to assure that counseling psychology specialty recognition is maintained within CoS and APA.
4. Promote specialties in professional psychology through representation on the CoS.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership**

1. Members of the Specialty Council shall consist of the following organizations: Society of Counseling Psychology, Council of Counseling Psychology Training Programs, American Board of Counseling Psychology, Association of Counseling Center Training Agencies, Student Affiliates of Seventeen, American College Health Association Mental Health Section, Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, Commission for Counseling and Psychological Services of American College Personnel Association, and Division 16 of the International Association of Applied Psychology. Other organizations may request membership on the Specialty Council and become members after approval by at least 2/3 of the voting representatives of all current member organizations.
2. Each member organization shall elect or appoint one representative as voting representative to the Specialty Council, with the exception that the Student Affiliates of Seventeen shall have two voting representatives. The term of service for each voting representative shall be determined by the member organization. The roster of voting representatives shall be confirmed prior to the Specialty Council’s annual meeting each year.
3. Voting representatives shall commit to attendance at the annual meeting of the Specialty Council during the APA Annual Convention.
4. In addition to its voting representative (typically the President), the Society of Counseling Psychology shall appoint ex-officio representatives to the Specialty Council (such as its immediate Past-President, President-Elect, President-Elect-Elect, and association managers).

**ARTICLE IV**

**Chair**

1. Voting representatives shall nominate and elect the Specialty Council Chair. The Chair must be a member of at least one of the member organizations, but may not currently serve as a voting representative for any member organization.
2. The Chair serves a three-year term based on the calendar year, may be re-elected, but may not serve for more than two terms (i.e., a total of six years maximum). Election of Chair shall be conducted at the Specialty Council annual business meeting during the final year of the current Chair’s three-year term. The newly elected Chair shall take office on January 1st after the Specialty Council annual meeting.
3. In the event a Chair is unable to complete one’s term due to resignation, health, or death, the voting representatives may conduct a special electronic vote to elect a new Chair to complete the current Chair’s term. A regular election shall take place at the Specialty Council annual meeting during the new Chair’s final year.
4. In the event that a Chair is unable to serve after the Specialty Council annual meeting during the Chair’s final year of service, the voting representatives shall conduct a special electronic vote to elect a new Chair to complete the current Chair’s term, with an additional three-year team that begins on January 1 after the special election.
5. If a Chair is deemed unfit to continue service due to professional misconduct or consistent failure to fulfill responsibilities as Chair, the Chair may be removed from office by at least 2/3 of the voting representatives of all member organizations. This shall be done via a conference call of the voting representatives, after informal resolution with the Chair failed.
6. The Chair’s responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to, the following:
	1. The Chair will preside at meetings of the Specialty Council, lead the Specialty Council, and represent the Specialty Council to the CoS by serving as a voting member on the CoS.
	2. The Chair shall submit annual reports to the CoS and fulfill other responsibilities as assigned by the CoS.
	3. The Chair will assure that minutes of the Specialty Council meetings are recorded and distributed to voting and ex-officio representatives of the Specialty Council.
	4. The Chair shall not vote on matters during Specialty Council meetings, except in the case of a tie vote. If the Chair is absent for a meeting, an Acting Chair shall be appointed by the Chair. If no Acting Chair is appointed by the Chair, the voting representatives shall elect an Acting Chair from voting representatives to chair the meeting.

**ARTICLE V**

**Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Specialty Council shall be held at least once a year. The Specialty Council annual meeting shall be conducted during the APA Annual Convention.
2. Meetings may be attended by ex-officio representatives, liaisons, observers, and guests by invitation of the Chair.
3. The Specialty Council may address business matters outside of the annual meetings. Votes may be conducted in-person, by mail, or by electronic media.
4. A Quorum shall be defined as at least half of the voting representatives.

**ARTICLE VI**

**Financial Responsibilities**

There is no membership fee for member organizations. The Society of Counseling Psychology sponsors the expenses associated with the Specialty Council annual meeting, Specialty Council’s membership fee for CoS, and the Chair’s travel to the CoS annual meetings. If additional funding is needed, the voting representatives shall vote on authorizing and paying for such expenses.

**ARTICLE VII**

**Amendments**

Amendments to these Bylaws may be made by at least 2/3 of the voting representatives of all member organizations.

***Bylaws approved on August 6, 2020***