

Description of Association Launch and Conference Business Meetings

After two years of planning it is finally here! At the 2014 Chicago conference we will **launch an international Latina/o studies association**, the first organization dedicated to the comparative and interdisciplinary study of Latinas/os. Our goal is to carve out an **international space** for dialogue and fruitful debate, and invite participation from all disciplines and fields. This is a **grassroots initiative** that welcomes all input and requires enthusiastic collaboration so that the development of the association is organic, inclusive and successful. The launch will take place over the course of three luncheon/business meetings; please know that the first 50 attendees will receive a free boxed lunch. We hope that you will join us for this exciting opportunity to shape the future of our field!

July 17, 2014: Vote to Establish Association and Discuss Mission Statement

Moderators: Raúl Coronado and Carmen Lamas

During our first business meeting, we will vote to launch our organization! If you registered for the conference, then you are by default a voting inaugural member. But what should we call ourselves? And what's your vision for our organization? We will share the proposed association names submitted via Facebook/email and encourage any last minute suggestions in order to produce a list of possible names for the organization. We generate an itemized list of priorities that we'd like our organization to focus. Within a few months after our conference, there will be two online votes held, one for the association's name and one for the mission statement. A mission statement committee will use the list from the conference discussion, produce a mission statement, circulate it to the membership, and have an open comment period prior to the vote. **This meeting will result in:** 1) vote to launch our organization, 2) finalize a list of possible names for our organization, 3) generate list of priorities we'd like our mission statement to address, and 4) generate a list of self-nominees to the mission statement committee.

July 18, 2014: Organization Structure Discussion

Moderators: Elena Machado and Lourdes Torres

During our second meeting, we will vote on an initial governing body to get the association off the ground and running! Our priority is to create an association that is a living organism, ensuring processes for organic change. Association members will review for approval the proposed basic leadership structure in order to establish a governing body. We need your feedback since this initial structure is open to change: this is your chance to shape the future of this association! **This meeting will result in:** 1) a vote on an initial organizational structure, 2) a list of potential revisions to the basic structure, based on member feedback, and 3) self-nominations for the election committee (addresses officer nominations and deadlines), conference open bidding process committee and incorporation committee (reaches out to other associations for experiential models).

After researching over 25 academic organizations, we are proposing an **Initial Leadership Structure that includes 9 voting and 3 non-voting positions**. The Executive Council of 5 voting members will include: a Chair (two-year term), Chair-Elect (two-year term), Past-Chair (two-year term, but not filled for the first two years of new association), Treasurer (three-year term), Archivist/Chief Administrator (three-year term). The Members at Large are 4 voting open rank positions with staggered three-year terms (comprised of at least one graduate student rep. and at least one adjunct/independent researcher rep.). The 3 Non-voting Members will serve continuous terms and will include the Communications/Website Committee Chair, the Local Conference Site Committee Chair, and the Conference Program Committee Chair.

July 19, 2014: Envisioning and Expanding the Association

Moderators: Isabel Porras and Deb Vargas

Dreamers, movers and shakers will be most excited by our third meeting, which will identify the committees necessary for the success of the association. If you're passionate about creating this additional institutional space for Latino Studies, then we need to hear your voice! This is an opportunity to build the association from the ground up. Members will self-nominate for committees of interest at the meeting as well as via email (in order to include our colleagues who are unable to attend the conference but are eager to participate). **This meeting will result in:** 1) a list of committees that ensure a working framework for the association, and 2) a community-building initiative of engaged scholars who will actively create the association through their activism and scholarship, from a variety of backgrounds, institutions and regions.

Opportunities to put your talent and enthusiasm to work include the following proposed committees:

- 1) webpage committee (content development, digital humanities approaches)
- 2) promotional committee (attract/retain membership, community outreach to non-profits, centers, journals)
- 3) fundraising committee (institutes, donors)
- 4) other possibilities (to be proposed at meeting)