

# CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF

## *Tierra Tinta*

### PREAMBLE

Be it known that this organization was founded in the spring of 2004 after a group of Graduate Students of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics at the University of Oklahoma attended different Foreign Language and Literature conferences across the nation and returned with a desire to host a literary conference at the University of Oklahoma.

### ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this student association shall be Tierra Tinta, which in Spanish means, “tinted earth.” The name pays homage to the red earth native to Oklahoma.

### ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of Tierra Tinta shall be to host an annual Modern Languages Conference at the University of Oklahoma. The conference will encourage dialogue and research in the fields of Latin American, Spanish, Luso-Brazilian Studies, French, and Francophone.

### ARTICLE III. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

All students that qualify according to Article IV are encouraged to join and take part in Tierra Tinta.

Membership in, association with, and benefits emanating from this student organization and its related activities shall be based upon such considerations as performance, educational achievement, and other criteria related to the goals of this organization and purposes of its activities. Judgments in this regard based solely on an individual’s race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, veteran status, marital status, or political belief are not judgments based on such considerations. Further, the purpose of this organization shall be consistent with public policy as established by prevailing University Community standards.”

### ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP

**Section 1.** The membership of this organization shall be composed of two classes: active and associate.

**Section 2.** Active membership is open to undergraduate and graduate students.

**A.** A student, to be eligible for active membership, must be a Modern Languages major or minor.

**B.** All faculty members of the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures, & Linguistics shall automatically be considered associate members of the society.

**C.** Any member who ceases to be a student but continues to take part the organization may continue to participate as an associate member.

## **ARTICLE V. ADVISOR & OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The society shall have an advisor who is a full time member of the University faculty or staff.

**Section 2.** The officers of the society shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer.

**A. The President**

- a.** Shall call and preside at all meetings of the organization.
- b.** Shall be a member of all committees.
- c.** Shall appoint the chair of standing or special committees.
- d.** Shall perform the duties of the Treasurer when that position is unoccupied.

**B. The Vice-President**

- a.** Shall perform all the duties of the president in the absence or disability of the latter.
- b.** Shall be responsible for the planning and presentation of the website.
- c.** Shall perform the duties of the Secretary when the position is unoccupied.
- d.** Shall serve as President of Tierra Tinta for the next school year if willing to do so.

**C. The Secretary**

- a.** Shall keep the minutes of all regular and special meetings.
- b.** Shall be the custodian of all records pertaining to the office.
- c.** Shall conduct all correspondence.
- d.** Shall maintain a correct and complete list of all members, chairs, and members of all committees, and of all classifications and types of memberships.

**D. The Treasurer**

- a.** Shall be responsible for the collection and disbursement of all funds of the organization.
- b.** Shall sign, in conjunction with the president, all checks against the funds of the society.
- c.** Shall present a report to the members at the last meeting of each semester.

**Section 2.** All active members shall be eligible for an office.

**Section 3.** The election of officers shall be at the time of the first regular meeting, and the term of the office shall be for one academic year.

**A.** All nominations for officers shall be made from the floor, and the voting shall be made by ballot.

**B.** Officers are eligible for reelection in the same office or in another office if willing to do so.

## **ARTICEL VI. STANDING COMMITTEES.**

**Section 1.** All active and associate members shall be eligible to chair a committee.

**A.** Committee chairs shall be chosen by election during the first meeting of the year.

**Section 2.** The standing committees will consist of the following: publicity committee, housing & transportation committee, catering and venue committee, registration & program committee and website and artwork committee. Each committee will have a chair.

**A.** Publicity Committee Chair

- a.** Shall be in charge of sending out the Call For Papers and conference flyers.
- b.** Shall coordinate publicity at the local level in the University and Norman Community.

**B.** Housing, Transportation Committee Chair

- a.** Shall be in charge of coordinating accommodations at local hotels for out-of-town presenters.
- b.** Shall arrange home-stays for presenters with graduate student volunteers.
- c.** Shall resolve transportation issues for out-of-town presenters.

**C.** Catering & Venue Committee Chair

- a.** Shall be in charge of arranging catering for the conference banquet.
- b.** Shall be in charge of arranging a venue for the conference.
- c.** Shall be in charge of arranging audio-visual equipment and refreshments for the day of the conference.

**D.** Registration & Program Committee Chair

- a.** Shall be in charge of registration for the conference which includes receiving abstracts and arranging them into possible session categories
- b.** Shall name a moderator for each conference session.
- c.** Shall compile a list of conference attendees
- d.** Shall be in charge of the producing the conference program.

**E.** Website & Artwork Committee Chair

- a.** Shall secure a web space for the conference.
- b.** Shall create and maintain the conference website.
- c.** Shall create and maintain the conference email account.
- d.** Shall assist with the design of the publicity posters and Call for Papers.

**Section 3.** All other committees will be appointed as needed by the president of the organization.

## **ARTICLE VII. MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** Regular meetings shall be held at least once a month.

**Section 2.** Special meetings may be called at any time that the officers see fit or upon the petition of at least three members.

## **ARTICLE VIII. EMBLEMS**

**Section 1.** The society colors shall be crimson and turquoise

**Section 2.** The symbol of the association shall be a dreamcatcher.

## **ARTICLE IX. QUORUMS**

**Section 1.** Two-fifths ( $\frac{2}{5}$ ) of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of all business.

## **ARTICLE X. ADDITIONAL GOVERNING PRINCIPLES**

**Section 1:** Tierra Tinta is subject to Local, State, and Federal Laws.

**Section 2:** Tierra Tinta is not affiliated with any parent organization and this Constitution subject to the University of Oklahoma Student Code, is the sole governing document.

## **ARTICLE XI. AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** This constitution may be amended at any meeting by an affirmative  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of the active membership present, providing a copy of the proposed amendment has been sent in writing to the secretary at least one meeting before the meeting at which the action is proposed to be voted on.

## **ARTICLE XII**

**Section 1.** The rules contained in Robert's Rule of Order Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable, provided they are not inconsistent with this constitution.

**Section 2.** This constitution shall go into effect November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

## **BY-LAWS**

**Section 1.** The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting with a quorum present.