

**CONSTITUTION OF THE  
VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES FOR TEACHER EDUCATION**

**PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Association is to improve and support education of professional school personnel in Virginia.

**ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the “Virginia Association of Colleges for Teacher Education” (VACTE).

**ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of this Association shall be:

- A. To promote collaboration among institutions for teacher education, the Association for Teacher Educators in Virginia (ATE-VA) and other organizations for the purpose of improving teacher education.
- B. To facilitate research, experimentation, and evaluation in teacher education and in related problems of learning and teaching; to serve as a clearing house for information and reports on these matters; and to publicize the findings of studies that have significance for the improvement of teacher education.
- C. To be an effective voice for teacher education institutions at the state level on legislative, policy, and regulatory issues related to teacher education.
- D. To recognize outstanding contributions in the field of teacher education.
- E. To maintain effective communication with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE) and other State units.

**ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

- A. **Membership.** Four year colleges and universities with state approved programs in teacher education in the Commonwealth of Virginia shall be invited by the Executive Committee to join this Association as members with voting privileges. Each member institution in good standing shall have one vote. Voting representatives (or appointed proxies) for state members shall be identifies by the institutions when annual dues are paid.

- B. Honorary Ex Officio Membership. Individuals may be identified by the Executive Committee to be elected *ex officio* member in VACTE for designated terms.
- C. Affiliate Membership. Affiliate membership in VACTE shall be open to community colleges, four-year colleges and universities seeking approval program status, and the Virginia Department of Education. Others may petition the Executive Committee to seek affiliate membership. Affiliates shall be non-voting members of VACTE.

#### ARTICLE IV – LIAISONS

Liaisons may be established with associations and agencies with an interest in the preparation of professional school personnel.

#### ARTICLE V – OFFICERS

The officers of the Association shall be a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, and Treasurer-Membership Chair. Individuals from member colleges and universities shall be eligible for election.

Elections shall be held at a Fall meeting of the Association. Officers shall serve for a period of two years on a staggered term basis. The President and President-Elect will assume office on January 1 of the odd-numbered years, and the Secretary and Treasurer-Membership Chair on January 1 of even-numbered years.

Unexpired-term vacancies among the officers of Executive Committee members shall be filled with appointments made by the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE VI - COMMITTEES

There shall be an Executive Committee composed of the five officers, chairs of standing committees, and two other institutional representatives. Members of the Executive Committee must represent institutional diversity. Those members who are not officers shall also serve staggered, two year terms beginning on January 1. At the discretion of the Executive Committee, representatives from ATE-VA, the Virginia Community College System (VCCS), and other organizations may be included in its meetings.

A Nominating Committee composed of two members and the Immediate Past-President who shall serve as Chair shall be appointed each year by the Executive Committee to recommend candidates for each Executive Committee vacancy. The Nominating Committee shall assure institutional diversity in VACTE leadership positions.

A Government Relations Committee composed of at least three members shall be appointed each year by the Executive Committee to facilitate development of legislative priorities and position statements; monitor actions of the General Assembly, Board of Education, and Department of Education impacting teacher education; and work collaboratively with ATE-VA and others to represent teacher education before the governing bodies.

The Executive Committee shall appoint at least three members each year to serve as the Scholarship and Awards Committee. This Committee shall publish guidelines, solicit nominations, and select recipients for VACTE scholarships and awards.

#### ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

VACTE shall meet at least twice each year. The rules of parliamentary procedure as outlined in Robert’s Rules of Order (Revised) shall govern the deliberations of this Association, subject to such special rules as may be agreed upon by the membership.

#### ARTICLE VIII – FINANCES

The fiscal year for this Association shall begin January 1. Institutions shall pay annual dues to VACTE at a rate approved by the majority of members, and dues shall be paid by September 1. Affiliate members shall pay 50% of current institutional dues. Such dues shall be used to support the administrative expenses of VACTE. The Association is not organized for profit and no part of its funds shall accrue to the benefit of any member. Any assessments to finance special projects shall require the approval by at least fifty percent of the voting membership. An annual audit shall be conducted at the end of each fiscal year by a committee appointed by the Executive Committee.

#### ARTICLE IX – AFFILIATION

The Association maintains an affiliation with the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education (AACTE).

- A. For purposes of obtaining and maintaining affiliation, the state unit membership shall consist of at least 51% of the AACTE Member institutions in the state.
- B. Continuance of affiliation shall also be contingent upon:
  1. Submission to the AACTE Board of Directors of an annual state activity report to include a review of program and fiscal activities and a certification of membership within the state unit.
  2. Biennial review by the AACTE Board of Directors.

3. Adoption and maintenance of a constitution and by-laws.
- C. The President of VACTE normally shall serve as liaison to the Advisory Council of State Representatives (ACSR) of AACTE. In the event that the President is not from an AACTE member institution, the Executive Committee shall appoint a representative from an AACTE member institution to the Advisory Council of State Representatives.

#### ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution shall be proposed for discussion and approved at a regular meeting of the Association. A copy of each proposed amendment shall be sent by the President to each institutional representative for information and approval by mail ballot. An amendment shall be considered ratified when approved by more than one half of the membership and by the AACTE Board of Directors.

#### ARTICLE XI – BY LAWS

By-laws may be adopted or amended in the same manner as amendments to the constitution are made.

The foregoing amended constitution was adopted on by a vote of more than one half of the membership of VACTE.

AMENDED – September 27, 2002.