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## Constitution of the Rural Sociological Society

Article I. NAME: This organization shall be called the Rural Sociological Society, hereinafter also referred to as the Society. The acronym of the Society is RSS.

Article II. MISSION: The Rural Sociological Society (RSS) is a professional association that promotes the generation, application and dissemination of social scientific knowledge. The Society seeks to enhance the quality of rural life, communities and the environment, both in North America and elsewhere in the world. The Society shall be operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes; no part of the Society's net income or assets during the life of the organization or at dissolution shall inure to the benefit of any member, private individual, or organization which is not tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

Article III. MEMBERS: Any person who is interested in the mission of the Society may become a member upon application and payment of dues. Members are in good standing when their dues are current. Officers and committee members must be members of the Society in good standing.

Article IV. RSS LEADERSHIP COUNCIL: The RSS Leadership Council, hereinafter referred to as the Council, shall be the governing body of the Society. The Council shall consist of sixteen voting members, plus the Executive Director/Treasurer as a non-voting member. Nine voting members constitute a Council quorum. Council members include five officers, the Executive Director/Treasurer, six active or emeritus members elected at-large, two students elected at-large, four active or emeritus members appointed from the general membership, and one or two appointed Chair(s) of the Program Committee. Council members elected at-large or appointed from the general membership serve simultaneously as Chairs-elect and Chairs of five standing committees, excluding the Program, Nominations, and Ethics committees. In this way, the five standing committees have representation on Council. The terms of office for officers are specified in Article V. The terms of office for members elected at-large and students are two years, staggered. The terms of office for members appointed from the general membership are two years, staggered, with a seat on Council and voting privileges only in the second year of service when serving simultaneously as standing committee Chair. The term of office for the Program Committee Chair(s) is/are one year and the Committee has one vote on Council. To avoid a conflict of interest, the Chairs of the Ethics and Nomination Committees do not have a seat or voting privileges on Council.

Article V. OFFICERS: The officers of the Society shall consist of President-elect, President, and Past President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Executive Director/Treasurer. The President-elect shall be elected by general election to serve a one-year term that automatically ascends to President and descends to past-President, each for one-year terms. The Secretary shall be elected by general election every third year to serve a three-year term. The Executive Director/Treasurer shall be appointed by the President, subject to ratification by the RSS

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Leadership Council, to serve a three-year term that may be extended or renewed subject to ratification by the Council.

Article VI. ELECTIONS: Elections shall be conducted by secure electronic ballot. The President-elect, Vice-President, three At-large members of the council, one student member, and two members of the nominations committee shall be elected annually by a simple majority of the members who cast ballots. The Secretary shall be elected every third year by a simple majority of the members.

Article VII. ANNUAL MEETING: The Society shall meet annually at which time an annual business meeting will be held. The time and place of the annual meeting shall be determined by the Council.

Article VIII. AMENDMENTS: The Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds consensus of members who vote, subject to the following provisions. Written notice of the proposed amendment(s) shall be sent to the Executive Director/Treasurer no later than two months before the scheduled vote. The Executive Director/Treasurer shall transmit notice of the proposed amendment to the voting members of the Society at least two weeks before the scheduled vote. Amendments may be proposed by five members of the Society; committees of the Society through submission to the Council; or by the Council. Publication in the official journal or in another organ of the Society or by email to voting members is an accepted method of transmitting notice of the proposed amendment. The vote may be scheduled for the annual business meeting for in-person balloting or any other time of year for secure remote electronic balloting. Proposed amendments may be modified at the annual business meeting by a vote of two-thirds of those present and voting. Proposed amendments may not be modified when the voting is conducted remotely.