

# RECE Charter

## 1. RECE Governance

The RECE organisation consists of scholars, practitioners and activists whose work is part of the reconceptualising movement in early childhood education. Every scholar or activist who is registered attendee of the RECE annual conference, or who pays a membership fee online, is a member for the following year until the next RECE conference.

The RECE Steering Committee is the elected body that represents the RECE Membership and provides strategic direction and governance to the organisation. The RECE Steering Committee provides recommendations to RECE members on the annual Conference site, makes financial decisions on behalf of the organisation, and is responsible for official RECE communication.

The RECE Steering Committee is responsible to and reports to its beneficiaries - RECE members – and provides recommendations and seeks approvals from them during the RECE Business Meeting.

The RECE Business Meeting is organised and run annually by the RECE Steering Committee. The RECE Steering committee will:

- issue a call for agenda items
- distribute all formal documents at least 4 weeks in advance of the meeting
- chair the meeting
- write and distribute minutes to the RECE community.

The RECE Steering Committee presents its yearly report at the RECE Business meeting, including a financial report. Other standing reports are presented by the Programme and Host Committees, and RECE Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups, if applicable.

RECE Members who cannot attend the RECE Business Meeting are allowed to select a proxy to act on their behalf.

The RECE Steering Committee is required to clearly communicate its work and decision making to the RECE membership.

### a) The RECE Steering Committee

The RECE Steering Committee is comprised of 12 full voting members:

- Past 6 Conference Host Chairs, via a carousel system (each year one steps down, one steps in)
- Treasurer – Chair of the Finance Committee (3 year-term)
- One representative of RECE Elders (Bloch Award recipient) (3 year-term)
- One Indigenous representative (3 year-term)



- One new RECE member representative (of less than 3 years) (2 year-term)
- Two at-large-RECE members (3 year-term)

The RECE Steering Committee meets annually in person during the beginning of the annual RECE Conference, and at their meeting they appoint the Chair for the following year.

When a position on the Steering Committee becomes vacant, the Steering Committee calls for Expressions of Interest from RECE members. The Steering Committee will make a recommendation from the pool of interested candidates to fill the vacant position. This recommendation is presented to the RECE members for approval at the RECE Business meeting.

The RECE Steering Committee agrees that within the next 3 years it will explore possibilities, and will implement mechanisms, for a voting system to fill these vacancies by direct votes from RECE members.

- The RECE Steering Committee meets regularly throughout the year via Zoom, organised by the Chair.
- Any 7 members represent a quorum to hold a meeting.
- The RECE Steering Committee is responsible for submitting all formal documents for approval to the RECE members at least 4 weeks before the RECE Business meeting
- The RECE Steering Committee can invite non-voting members as needed to support the work of the Committee.
- If anyone steps down from the RECE Steering Committee before their term is up, or a past Conference Host Chair opts to not take up a position on the Committee, the RECE Steering Committee will appoint another RECE member in their place for the duration of the prior term.

#### **b) RECE Membership**

All registered participants of the RECE Conference are members of RECE for the following year. RECE membership fees are included in the annual conference registration or paid via the RECE membership site for those who do not attend the conference.

#### **c) RECE Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups**

RECE welcomes the formation of Standing Committees and Ad Hoc Working Groups, which further promote RECE's vision.

**Standing Committees** – are long-term groups essential to the long-term viability and operations of RECE

**Ad Hoc Working groups** – are established to address specific challenges for RECE and the broader Early Childhood community

Proposals to establish Standing Committees and Ad Hoc working groups may be submitted to the RECE Steering Committee at any time. It is expected that the Steering Committee will initiate some of these groups, while others will come from the membership. All proposals should include a 250-word mission statement, and contact person (for both the RECE Steering Committee and RECE membership).

All Standing Committees and Ad Hoc working groups are established by and report to the RECE Steering Committee. Standing Committees and Ad Hoc working groups can draw upon RECE resources if necessary, and should provide a short written report to the RECE Steering Committee in preparation for the annual RECE Business Meeting.

#### **d) RECE Communication**

The RECE organisation and the RECE Steering Committee communicates via the RECE website, which is accessible everywhere around the world. RECE Facebook, Twitter and list-serv are some of the means by which RECE members may share resources or ideas; however, the only official channel remains the RECE website which holds the accurate, approved and up-to-date information.

RECE aims to develop a new RECE communication system and explore expanded official communications including to mobilize and engage more members and encourage communication.

## **2. RECE Conference**

#### **a) RECE Conference Principles**

RECE hosts an annual conference. The conference is organised as an inclusive, accessible meeting accommodating the diverse needs of RECE members. The key guiding principles and long-term traditions of the RECE Conference are that:

- It is affordable for graduate students, teachers, practitioners, retired RECE members, local communities and other groups
- It follows the established structure and planning processes
- each RECE presenter may only appear once on the programme
- there are no invited paid keynote presenters
- it demonstrates a commitment to marginalised communities, including locations outside of the Global North
- Host Site and Programme Committee are expected to work closely with the RECE Steering Committee to ensure RECE traditions are followed

Appendix A has more detailed RECE Conference Guide and Planning

#### **b) Appointing the Conference Host Site**

- The call to host the RECE Conference is open, and is discussed at every RECE Business Meeting. The future Host site is presented by one or more experienced RECE members.
- The future Host site representatives inform the Steering Committee of their interest at least 2 years prior to the conference. Some Host sites may be determined up to 3 or 4 years in advance, and include North American and international locations.
- The Host site is determined 2 years before the conference is held. At the RECE Business meeting, the proposed Host site representatives will present their proposal, including dates, site, budget, accommodation, proposed theme and other details that are needed (Appendix B includes Conference Proposal exemplars)
- Often there are multiple conference Host site proposals. They will be discussed at the RECE Business Meeting. In the light of the members' discussion and feedback, and merit of the proposals, the RECE Steering Committee makes a decision after the RECE Business meeting. The RECE Steering Committee may request additional documents from the potential host sites, if needed.
- If there is only one proposal to host the conference, the RECE Business Meeting can confirm the location.

**c) The Host site**

- The Host site decides and identifies the Host Chair and Host Committee, whose composition will depend on the local needs
- The Host Chair preferably has experience as a prior Programme Chair or in the Programme Committee
- Host Co-Chairing is allowed
- The Host Chair will be invited to regularly meet and update the Steering Committee regarding the progress and organisation of the conference in the year leading up to it
- All critical communication is discussed with the RECE Steering Committee before sending it to the RECE membership

**d) Programme Chair**

- The Programme Chair should be an experienced RECE member who is independent from the Host Site
- The Programme Chair should be appointed at the same time as the Host site is decided (2 years before the conference) at the RECE Business meeting. Alternatively, if the Host Site is decided by the RECE Steering Committee, so is the Programme Chair.
- There are two ways the Programme Chair can be nominated:
  - a) By a RECE member
  - b) Self-Nomination
- Programme Co-chairing is encouraged
- All Programme Chairs are appointed in consultation with the Host Chair
- Host Site and Programme Chair are expected to work closely together

- The responsibilities of the Programme Chair are listed in Appendix A and C
- e) **Programme Committee**
- All RECE members may volunteer for the Programme Committee
  - It is the responsibility of the Programme Chair and the Programme Committee to organise and call for proposals, review proposals, develop the conference programme, and be available for virtual meetings as required by the Chair
  - All important communication (e.g. the call for proposals) is discussed with the RECE Steering Committee before communicating to the RECE membership via the RECE website

### **3) RECE AWARDS**

Every year, the RECE Steering Committee appoints Chairs for the two current RECE awards at their initial meeting during the RECE Conference, and announces the Chairs during the RECE Business Meeting. The awards are:

- Bloch Distinguished Career Award
- Rhedding-Jones Dissertation Award

Self-nominations for the Chair positions of these awards can be sent to the RECE Steering Committee.

The Chairs of the Committee appoint a committee of 3-5 members, which is representative of the diversity and different strengths of RECE's international community and publish a call for nominations around the time that the CFP for the conference is released. This committee will then review the nominations and will decide on the recipients of the awards.

It is expected that the RECE Steering Committee is consulted and informed about the progress of RECE Awards Committees.

The conference Host site is responsible for buying gifts and preparing plaques for the recipients of these awards.