

Reacting Consortium

Charter Statement

Approved by the Reacting Advisory Board 2012; Revised 2014, 2016

The Reacting Consortium (RC) is an alliance of college and universities and individual faculty committed to developing and publishing the *Reacting to the Past* series of role playing games for higher education and providing programs for faculty development and curricular change to implement the games.

History:

The Reacting Consortium is a continuation of the *Reacting to the Past* Institute, originally developed by Dr. Mark Carnes and supported in its first decade by Barnard College, with major grants from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (U.S. Department of Education), the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the Teagle Foundation. The Reacting Advisory Board determined in 2012 to develop and charter a membership organization, housed at Barnard College, to expand instructional support and development opportunities for affiliated faculty.

Mission:

The mission of the Reacting Consortium is to promote imagination, inquiry, and engagement as foundational features of teaching and student learning in higher education through the development and dissemination of Reacting to the Past role playing games.

Purpose:

The Reacting Consortium develops *Reacting to the Past* (RTTP) role playing games to inform and transform student learning in American higher education. These games effectively support the achievement of critical thinking, historical and intercultural knowledge, empathy, leadership, integrative learning, effective communication skills, and intellectual curiosity among students. They promote innovative teaching by faculty and administrators of higher education.

The Consortium develops *Reacting to the Past* (RTTP) games for publication through a partnership with an established publisher. It provides faculty with opportunities to learn the highly interactive RTTP pedagogy and to join a community of practice in the support of undergraduate teaching and learning. It provides institutions with effective programs of faculty development and with tools for innovation in curriculum design to encourage advanced accomplishment across both disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs.

Article I – Name

The name of this organization shall be the Reacting Consortium (RC).

Article II – Statement of Goals

The goals of this organization shall be to:

- A. Develop and publish or otherwise disseminate *Reacting to the Past* (RTTP) role playing games for higher education.
- B. Empower students to be active in their own education.
- C. Create a community of practice to support game development and implementation in disciplinary and interdisciplinary programs.
- D. Support individual faculty in learning and teaching role playing games.
- E. Assist member organizations in faculty and curriculum development.
- F. Collaborate with member institutions to assess the effectiveness of RTTP pedagogy.
- G. Secure stable funding for its programs and staff.
- H. Develop and implement a rolling strategic plan for furthering achievement of its goals.
- I. Involve students and alumni in the RTTP Community.
- J. Collaborate as appropriate with other organizations that promote learning, curriculum development, liberal education and/or civic engagement in higher education.
- K. Serve as a catalyst in higher education to encourage faculty implementation of innovative pedagogies and to enhance student engagement with learning.

Article III – Host Institution

Functioning as an independent organization in governance and programming, the Reacting Consortium will be hosted by Barnard College and broadly guided by its fiscal and administrative policies. Barnard College extends to the Reacting Consortium the free use of the *Reacting to the Past* trademark for use in publication, programming, and marketing the RC and its initiatives. The Reacting Consortium will identify Barnard College as its host institution in its communications and marketing.

Article IV – Membership

Membership shall be open to

- a. Individual faculty members, staff and administrators, alumni and friends of Reacting
- b. Accredited colleges and universities

Article V – Governance

The RC shall be governed as follows:

- A. **Reacting Consortium Board:** Overall governance will be provided by Reacting Consortium Board (RC Board) composed of 17-8 members including the Executive Director and Administrative Director ex officio (non-voting), the Editorial Board Chair ex officio (non-voting if not otherwise holding a seat on the RCB), the Chair elected by the RCB, the Vice-Chair elected by the RCB from its faculty/administrative members, and twelve (12) members who will be drawn from affiliated faculty with experience in game or course development or administrators drawn from member institutions. A new Board member is elected to a three-year term by a majority vote of the current Board. The members of the board will hold three-year staggered appointments and may be re-elected once for a total of two terms. A member who has achieved the term limit must wait at least two years before being eligible for nomination to the Board again. Under extraordinary circumstances the Board may extend the term of an individual member who

is a key leader in an RC initiative In addition there will be two alumni members who are current students or recent graduates who have participated in a course using RTTP. The alumni members will hold two year terms. New members will be selected by the RC Board after soliciting nominations from RC members. Officers initially will include 1) the Executive Director; 2) the Chair of the RC Board; 3) the Vice-Chair of the RCB and 3) the chairs of subcommittees created by the Board. The RC Board will determine matters of policy and make recommendations on the annual budget, game development and publication, communication, external funding, and strategic planning. Board membership will begin July 1 after elections take place during Board's Spring Quarterly meeting. New members who attend the Annual Institute prior to their July 1 start date may attend board meetings as a courtesy, but expenses will not be paid by the RCB unless they are also performing another function such as serving as a gamemaster at the Institute. Board membership continues from July 1 for three years until June 30 at the end of the third year.

- B. Selection of the Executive and Administrative Directors, and Membership and Outreach Coordinator.**
 - a. The Executive Director is selected by a 2/3 vote of the Board for a continuing term. In extraordinary circumstances of failure or inability to perform the duties of the office the Board by a 2/3 vote may remove an ED. The Board will review the performance of the Executive Director on a regular basis.
 - b. The Administrative Director is selected by the Executive Director in consultation with the Reacting Consortium Board. The Membership and Outreach Coordinator is chosen by the Executive Director and the Administrative Director in consultation with the Board Executive Committee. Both these positions will be evaluated by the ED annually and are eligible for reappointment pending good performance and sufficient budgetary resources.
- C. Selection of the Reacting Consortium Board Chair.** The Chair of the Board will be elected to a three-year term by a majority vote of the Board and is a separate seat from the membership of the board as a whole. The chair may possibly be re-elected for one additional term. If the elected Chair of the board must vacate his or her position on the regular board to serve as Chair, then the vacated seat will be filled at the next round of elections to restore the board to 12 regular members.
- D. Selection of the Reacting Consortium Board Vice-Chair.** The Vice Chair will be chosen annually for a one-year term from the Board members and is not separate from the Board membership. The Vice Chair will also keep minutes and coordinate with the Chair and the Director of Membership and Outreach when minutes are compiled after Board meetings. If Vice Chair or Director of Membership and Outreach are not available, a substitute may be selected from the board. Minutes will be approved in a timely manner by the Board.
- E. Committee Chairs.** The Executive Director and Chair of the Board, in consultation with the board as a whole, will appoint committee chairs.
- F. Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee of the RC Board shall consist of the Executive Director, Administrative Director, Chair of the RC Board, the Vice-Chair, and the Editorial Board Chair. The Executive Committee will handle the business of the Consortium when the Board is not in session, consulting committee chairs as needed, be

responsible for the implementation of policies and strategic initiatives approved by the Board, and prepare, approve, and supervise the budget of the Reacting Consortium in consultation with the Board.

- G. **Subcommittees:** The Subcommittees of the RC Board are 1) Editorial Board, 2) Outreach and Conferences, 3) Publications and 4) Development. Other committees or working groups may be developed as needed.

Article VI – Meetings

- A. The RC Board will be convened at the annual institute each June and at other times as needed through electronic communication.
- B. The Executive Committee will be convened quarterly.
- C. Subcommittees will be convened as needed by chairs appointed by the RC Board.
- D. The RC Board or Executive Committee may enter executive session if needed to discuss publishing contracts, game proposals, personnel issues, or other like matters.

Article VII – Budget and Dues

The RC's revenues will be drawn from contributions made by the host institution (as detailed below), publishing revenues, external grants, donations, and both individual and institutional membership dues. Barnard College will hold such funds in the established Reacting to the Past Program account until distributed for programming purposes approved by the RC.

A. Host Institution and In-kind Support

The host institution shall be Barnard College in New York City. The host institution will provide in-kind support to the RC to include office space, utilities, internet capabilities, meeting space, etc. The host institution will employ RC personnel and provide the Consortium with access to benefits and accounting services.

B. Dues

Current dues for the 2016/17 academic year are given below. The dues structure for each subsequent year will be reviewed and set by the RC Board at its annual meeting.

Individual faculty, staff or administrators -- \$75

Associate Membership for Students -- \$25

Institutions -- \$750

Article VIII – Benefits of Membership

The benefits of membership will be set each year by the RC Board and may be revised as needed. The current benefits are

Individual members will receive –

- Regular newsletters and other communications from the RC.
- Full access to the instructor resources on the RC web library of materials for game implementation and course development including:
 - Post-publication expansions and game variations.
 - Examples of Reacting course syllabi, related assignments, grading rubrics, assessments, and other material that will facilitate teaching a variety of courses with individual games.
 - Institutional narratives of curriculum change using Reacting
 - Resources shared at RC conferences and the Institute.
- Editorial support for game development and the opportunity to have their games considered for play testing at Reacting Consortium conferences or the annual institute.

Institutional members – receive the individual benefits for ten faculty, as detailed above, plus they

- May designate up to ten faculty or administrators on their campus to receive full access to on-line library of teaching resources;
- May designate up to ten faculty or administrators to receive the member discount at RC Conferences;
- Will receive a 20% discount over non-members for RC regional or traveling workshops;
- Will receive consultation on course or curriculum design; and
- Will be invited to participate in assessment and planning for the development of future games or pedagogy workshops.

Article IX– Amendment of Charter Statement

This charter statement may be amended by a majority vote of the RC Board.

Appendix

Roles and Responsibilities

Reacting Consortium Board

The governing body of the Reacting Consortium, the RC Board is responsible for determining organizational policy and making programmatic recommendations to the Executive Committee. The Executive Director will report directly to the RC Board.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee will be responsible for recommending programmatic direction and preparing the agendas of the RC Board, for implementing the programs of the Consortium between meetings of the Board, and for fiscal oversight of the Consortium's budget. Meetings of the Executive Committee are called by and presided over by the RC Board Chair and agenda materials will be prepared by the Executive Director in collaboration with the Administrative Director. While normally seeking recommendations from the RC Board, the Executive Committee is empowered to make decisions and conduct the business of the RC when consultation is not feasible or cannot be done in a timely manner.

Executive Director

The Executive Director will serve as the executive officer of the RC and be responsible for the operation of the RC in accord with its mission, purpose, and goals; the directives of the Executive Committee; the policies of the RC Board; and the policies and procedures of the host institution. The Executive Director will be housed at the host institution and will make annual reports to the president. S/he will normally have an earned doctorate. The Executive Director will serve as the "face" of the RC in relations with publishers and foundations, in seeking grant funding, and in promoting the role of Reacting to the Past to higher education institutions and related organizations. S/he will prepare the meetings of the RC Board in collaboration with the Board Chair and the Administrative Director and the ED will supervise the Administrative Director. The Executive Director will be appointed by the RC Board and his/her performance will be reviewed by the Board every three years.

Administrative Director

The Administrative Director reports to the Executive Director and will be responsible for the daily operations of the RC. S/he shall prepare an annual budget for review and approval as well as strategic planning information and updates for presentation to and adoption by the RC Board and the Executive Committee. The Administrative Director in accordance with policies of the RC and the host institution shall designate the duties and supervision of RC employees. The Administrative Director will be a staff position. The Administrative Director will hold a minimum of a bachelors degree, with an appropriate masters or relevant higher education experience preferred.

Membership and Outreach Coordinator (when Consortium funding is available)

The Membership and Outreach Coordinator is a staff position that reports to the Administrative Director and assists with the coordination of conferences and meetings, communication with the membership, and other duties as assigned by the Administrative or Executive Directors. The Membership and Outreach Coordinator is appointed by the Executive Director in consultation with the RC Executive Committee.