



***BYLAWS OF THE
PUERTO RICO SECTION
OF THE
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY**

**BYLAW I
Name**

This organization shall be known as the Puerto Rico Section (hereinafter referred to as the “Section”) of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY (hereinafter referred to as the “SOCIETY”). The Section is incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

**BYLAW II
Purposes**

Section 1. The Purposes of the Section shall be those of the SOCIETY as stated in the ACS Governing Documents, which consist of the Charter, Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules, Schedule of Membership, and Regulations. In particular, the Purposes shall be to ensure an inclusive environment in which all members strive and include promoting:

- a. communication with all those interested in Chemistry and all its branches,
- b. scientific interests and inquiry for the general welfare of the members of the Section,
- c. cooperation with the SOCIETY and its Local Sections and technical Divisions, as well as with other scientific groups and societies,
- d. chemical education at all levels,
- e. chemistry and its role in our society to the local community and its leaders, and
- f. means of professional interaction and networking among Section members.

Section 2. Nothing in these bylaws shall be inconsistent with the ACS Governing Documents.

Section 3. The Section is organized exclusively for charitable, educational, and scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations that qualify as exempt

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organizations under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

BYLAW III Territory

The territory of the Section shall be that assigned to it by the SOCIETY.

BYLAW IV Members and Affiliates

Section 1. The rolls of the Section shall include those MEMBERS and STUDENT MEMBERS (hereinafter collectively referred to as “members”) and Society Affiliates of the SOCIETY residing within the territory of the Section provided that any exceptions to this rule shall be made in conformity with the ACS Governing Documents.

Section 2. STUDENT MEMBERS shall be entitled to all privileges of membership except that of holding an elective position of the SOCIETY and serving as an officer of the Section. A STUDENT MEMBER may not serve as a Councilor, Alternate Councilor, or the Temporary Substitute Councilor, and may not hold an elective position of the Section as noted elsewhere in these bylaws. A STUDENT MEMBER may be appointed as a committee chair.

Section 3. The Section may have Local Section Affiliates as authorized in the ACS Governing Documents. A Local Section Affiliate shall retain affiliate status only so long as payment is made of Local Section Affiliate dues of not less than two dollars (\$2.00) per annum. A Local Section Affiliate may not (1) hold an elective position, (2) vote on Articles of Incorporation and bylaws, (3) vote for Councilor(s) or Alternate Councilor(s), or (4) serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors. Except as mentioned above, a Local Section Affiliate may not vote for an elective position of the Section, but may be appointed as a committee chair.

Section 4. Society Affiliates may be assessed dues in the amount specified by the Board of Directors. A Society Affiliate may not (1) hold an elective position, (2) vote on Articles of Incorporation and bylaws of the Section, (3) vote for the Councilor(s) or Alternate Councilor(s), or (4) serve as a voting member of the Board of Directors. Except as mentioned above, a Society Affiliate may not vote for an elective position of the Section, but may be appointed as a committee chair.

Section 5. Members and affiliates, which include Society Affiliates and Local Section Affiliates, shall have such rights and privileges as accorded to them by the ACS Governing Documents and these bylaws.

BYLAW V Officers, Board of Directors, and Councilor(s)

Section 1. The officers of the Section shall be MEMBERS of the SOCIETY and the Section and shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. The Board of Directors shall be MEMBERS of the SOCIETY and the Section, and shall consist of the Chair, Chair-Elect, Immediate Past Chair, Secretary, Immediate Past Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past

Treasurer, the Councilor(s), Alternate Councilor(s), the Northeast Regional Delegate, and the Southwest Regional Delegate.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall be the governing body of the Section and as such shall have full power to conduct, manage, and direct the business and affairs of the Section in accordance with the ACS Governing Documents and these bylaws. The Board of Directors shall have control of the administrative and financial affairs of the Section and all other matters not otherwise provided for in these bylaws. The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the Section.

Section 3. The Chair and Chair-Elect shall serve for a term of one year beginning on January 1 or until their successors take office. At the end of the Chair-Elect's term of office, the Chair-Elect shall succeed to the office of Chair. The Secretary and Treasurer shall serve for a term of two years beginning on January 1 or until their duly elected successors take office; they shall be elected in alternate years, whenever possible, to provide for a rotation of terms. The Northeast and Southwest Regional Delegates shall serve for a term of one year beginning on January 1 or until their successors take office. Except for the Chair, Chair-Elect, and Immediate Past Chair, the incumbent of any position is eligible for reelection. The Chair is not eligible to serve in the position of another Section officer until the end of the term as Immediate Past Chair.

Section 4. The duties of the officers, the Northeast Regional Delegate, and the Southwest Regional Delegate shall be such as usually pertain to their offices, together with those required by these bylaws and by the ACS Governing Documents, and such other duties as may be assigned to them from time to time by the Board of Directors.

- a. The duties of the Chair shall be to preside at meetings of the Board of Directors, to carry into effect the decisions and recommendations of that Committee, to preside at meetings of the Section, conduct governance business, to appoint, with the approval of the Board of Directors, all committee chairs and others serving on committees, as provided elsewhere in these bylaws, to serve as a member of the Budget and Finance Committee, to follow up on the completion of required reports and official forms, to motivate members, to serve as a spokesperson for the Section, and to carry out the duties required by these bylaws and the ACS Governing Documents.
- b. The duties of the Chair-Elect shall be to assist the Chair with the direction and management of the Section, to preside over the Nomination Committee and oversee the next election as described elsewhere in these bylaws. In the absence of the Chair, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the Chair-Elect.
- c. The duties of the Immediate Past Chair shall be to assist the Chair with the transition and provide advice for direction and management of the Section. The Immediate Past Chair shall compile and prepare the Section's annual report for approval by the Board of Directors by January 31.
- d. The duties of the Secretary shall be to keep a record of the minutes of the meetings of the Section and the Board of Directors, to maintain a list of members and affiliates, to send to members and affiliates such notices as the business of the Section may require, to submit a report to the Section at its annual meeting, and to carry out the duties required by these bylaws and the ACS Governing Documents. The Secretary shall preside over meetings in the absence of both the Chair and Chair-Elect.

- e. The duties of the Immediate Past Secretary shall be to assist the Secretary with the transition and provide advice with administrative protocols and procedures of the Section. The Immediate Past Secretary shall help with the Section's annual report and other documents as needed.
- f. The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the Section, keep an accurate record of all receipts and disbursements, receive dues, and make those disbursements approved by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer shall render an account of all transactions and the Section's financial condition to the Board of Directors at times set by the Committee and shall submit such reports as are required by the ACS Governing Documents.
- g. The duties of the Immediate Past Treasurer shall be to assist the Treasurer with the transition and provide guidance on Treasurer procedures, such as filling out tax forms, record keeping, and other administrative functions, to warrant the transparency of financial transactions.
- h. The Northeast and Southwest Regional Delegates shall attend meetings and activities of the Section, represent the Section in their Regions, collaborate with Section committees to organize at least one Section-sponsored activity in their designated Regions, to bring before the Board of Directors items of concern to the members of the Section that have been brought to their attention, and to carry out any duties assigned by the Board of Directors.
- i. The Northeast Region shall be comprised of, but not restricted to the following towns: Arecibo, Aguas Buenas, Aibonito, Barceloneta, Barranquitas, Barranquitas, Bayamón, Caguas, Camuy, Canóvanas, Cayey, Ceiba, Cidra, Comerio, Corozal, Culebra, Dorado, Fajardo, Florida, Guaynabo, Gurabo, Hatillo, Humacao, Juncos, Las Piedras, Loíza, Luquillo, Manatí, Maunabo, Naguabo, Naranjito, Orocovis, Río Grande, San Juan, San Lorenzo, Toa Alta, Vega Alta, Vega Baja, Vieques, Yabucoa.
- j. The Southwest Region shall be comprised of, but not restricted to the following towns: Adjuntas, Aguada, Aguadilla, Añasco, Arroyo, Cabo Rojo, Ciales, Coamo, Guánica, Guayama, Guayanilla, Hormigueros, Isabela, Jayuya, Juana Díaz, Lajas, Lares, Las Marías, Maricao, Mayagüez, Moca, Mona, Morovis, Patillas, Peñuelas, Ponce, Quebradillas, Rincón, Sabana Grande, Salinas, San Germán, San Sebastián, Santa Isabel, Utuado, Villalba, Yauco.

Section 5. Vacancies

- a. In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Chair-Elect shall assume the duties of Chair for the remainder of the term. In such case, the Chair-Elect moving into the position of Chair shall also hold that position during the normal term as Chair as part of the leadership transition.
- b. All other vacancies, except for Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s), shall be filled by majority vote of the Board of Directors through interim appointment for the period up to the next annual election. At that time, the procedures for election as outlined in the bylaws of the Section shall be followed.
- c. An interim appointee to the vacated office of Chair-Elect shall not automatically succeed to the office of Chair. At the next election, both a Chair and a Chair-Elect shall be elected.

Section 6. Councilor(s), Alternate Councilor(s), and Temporary Substitute Councilor

- a. The Section shall have Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) as provided in the ACS Governing Documents. The Section's Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) shall carry out

those duties assigned to them by the ACS Governing Documents. In particular, the Councilor(s) (or Alternate Councilor(s) or Temporary Substitute Councilor if so designated to serve in place of the Councilor for a particular meeting), shall attend meetings of the Council of the SOCIETY and represent the Section at such meetings.

- b. Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) shall be elected by ballot from among the MEMBERS for three-year terms beginning January 1. Reelection is permissible. Councilor(s) shall be elected in separate years, whenever possible, to provide for a rotation of terms in accordance with the Constitution of the SOCIETY. A partial term of one or two years shall be used whenever necessary to establish or to restore rotation of three-year terms provided that the Councilor and/or Alternate Councilor agree to the partial term before the election.
- c. In the event that a Councilor is unable to attend a specified meeting of the Council of the SOCIETY, the Chair of the Section shall appoint one of the Alternate Councilor(s) to serve as Councilor at the specified meeting. Such appointment of an Alternate Councilor shall be for only one meeting.
- d. If every Councilor and Alternate Councilor of the Section will be absent from a Council meeting, thus leaving the Section without representation at such meeting, the Board of Directors may designate one MEMBER of the Section as a Temporary Substitute Councilor in accordance with the ACS Governing Documents.
- e. The Board of Directors shall designate one or more Councilor(s) to be disqualified under the provisions of the ACS Governing Documents for reallocation of Councilor(s) among the Sections.
- f. Any vacancy in the position of Councilor or Alternate Councilor shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term at the time of the next annual election. The vacancy may be filled by a special election; by appointment by the Board of Directors until the next annual election; or as described elsewhere in the ACS Governing Documents and in these bylaws.

BYLAW VI

Manner of Election

Section 1. The election of officers shall be conducted by a ballot distributed to the members of the Section in accordance with the ACS Governing Documents and these bylaws. Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) shall be elected by a ballot distributed to all members of the Section; affiliates may not vote for Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s).

Section 2. Nominations

- a. Prior to September 1, the Secretary shall notify the Board of Directors and the Nomination Committee, as described elsewhere in these bylaws, of the elective positions to be filled. The Board of Directors may decide that for Councilor(s), the candidate(s) with the majority of votes shall be declared elected as Councilor(s); the candidate(s) with the next largest number of votes shall be declared elected as Alternate Councilor(s). The Nomination Committee shall be promptly notified of such a decision.

- b. In September of each year, the Nomination Committee shall report to the membership its list of nominees for each office, for Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s), and for any other elective position(s).
- c. Prior to October 31, any member of the Section may, in writing or from the floor at a meeting to conduct governance business, nominate additional candidates for office, provided that the candidates are MEMBERS of the Section for officers, other elective positions, and Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s), as required elsewhere in these bylaws. Nominations so made shall be equally valid as those from the Nomination Committee. All candidates nominated shall have indicated willingness to serve if elected.

Section 3. When a ballot is used, the candidates for each office and Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) shall be listed in alphabetical order by last name. The ballot shall be distributed by November 1 to eligible voters as noted above. Affiliates may not vote for Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s). The ballot shall provide for a write-in candidate for each position to be filled. A paper ballot shall be provided to any eligible voter who requests it.

Section 4. The ballots shall be tabulated and validated not later than November 21. The candidate for each position receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote for any position, the Board of Directors, by ballot, shall elect from among the candidates who share the tie vote; the candidate receiving the largest number of votes shall be declared elected.

Section 5. The results shall be announced by the Section Chair or the Chair's designee as soon as possible after the election, and also sent by email and published in the Section's newsletter, social media and/or website soon thereafter. The results shall be certified to the Chief Executive Officer of the SOCIETY not later than December 1.

Section 6. In accordance with the ACS Governing Documents, balloting procedures should ensure fair balloting that is open to all eligible members, protection against fraudulent balloting, and the timely reporting and archiving of balloting results.

BYLAW VII

Recall of Elected Officials

Section 1. The officers and elected Board of Directors members, but not Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) are subject to recall for neglect of duties or conduct injurious to the SOCIETY.

Section 2. The recall of an official shall be initiated when a signed petition, indicating in writing the specific charges and reasonable substantiating evidence, is submitted to the Chair from at least five members of the Section. In the event the Chair is the official in question, the Chair-Elect shall receive the petition and shall assume the duties of the Chair with respect to this issue until the issue is resolved.

Section 3. The Chair shall, without delay, determine that the petitioners are aware of the gravity of their actions and the procedures to be followed. The Chair shall seek an alternate resolution to the problem and a withdrawal of the petition at this time. In the absence of a resolution to the problem, the Chair shall notify the members of the Board of Directors and call a special meeting within thirty days.

- a. The Board of Directors shall promptly continue the recall process or dismiss the petition as ill-founded or find an alternative solution to the problem. The Chair shall promptly inform the petitioners and the official of the decision of the Board of Directors. If no contact with the

official can be made after a reasonable effort, the Board of Directors may remove the official in question with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining members.

b. If the proceedings continue:

- (1) The Chair shall assign the duties of the official to another qualified member or MEMBER of the Section, as required elsewhere in these bylaws, until the issue is resolved.
- (2) The official shall be offered an opportunity to answer the allegations in the petition before the Board of Directors. A certified letter shall be sent to the last known address on the official SOCIETY membership roll. Upon notification, the official shall have thirty days to make a written response to the allegations.
- (3) The Board of Directors shall decide whether to proceed after studying the official's response. The Chair shall inform the official and the petitioners of the decision of the Board of Directors. If the Board of Directors decides that the proceedings shall continue, the official shall choose one of the following options:
 - (a) The official may resign.
 - (b) The official may request a recall vote. Section members shall be informed, through brief written statements prepared by the Board of Directors and the official, of the issues involved with the recall vote. Both statements shall be distributed to the members with the ballot. A paper ballot shall be provided to any member who requests it. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast shall be required for the official to be removed from office. The membership shall be informed of the results of the recall vote.
 - (c) The official may request a hearing and a recall vote by the remaining members of the Board of Directors. At least a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the remaining members of the Board of Directors shall be required to recall the official.
 - (d) The official may choose not to respond and thus forfeit the position.

Section 4. The vacancy provisions of these bylaws shall be used to fill a vacancy caused by a recall process. The Chief Executive Officer of the SOCIETY shall be informed of the recall and the filling of the vacancy.

BYLAW VIII

Committees

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall establish committees as necessary for the proper operation of the Section. Any individual serving on a committee shall be a member or affiliate of the Section as provided elsewhere in these bylaws. Except as noted elsewhere in these bylaws, the committee chairs may appoint their committee members.

Section 2. The Section shall have the following standing committees: Nomination, Budget and Finance, Bylaws, Program, Social Media, and Awards.

- a. The Nomination Committee shall solicit, select, interview, and nominate potential candidates for officers, other elective positions, and Councilor(s) and Alternate Councilor(s) for each annual or special election. Prepare a ballot for electing the candidates for election and include any amendments to the Section's bylaws that the Bylaws Committee (appointed as *ad-hoc* by the Board of Directors) and Board of Directors have approved.
- b. The Budget and Finance Committee shall provide financial oversight for the Section that covers budgeting and financial planning, creation of internal controls, and the financial reporting obligations of the Section. The Treasurer shall preside over this committee.
- c. The Bylaws Committee shall ensure that these bylaws are known and respected by the Board of Directors and all members of the Section. The committee shall revise these bylaws, as needed.
- d. The Program Committee shall organize annual meetings, invite main speakers/presenters for talks, workshops, and/or panel discussions; obtain titles of proposed presentations, abstracts, biographical information, and equipment needs; create program schedule; and monitor the costs, expenses, and venues for meetings and events. Expenses should be approved by the Board of Directors.
- e. The Section Chair shall appoint a Social Media Director, to serve for a term of one year on January 1 or until their successor takes office. Social media shall be used to promote the Section's goals and objectives, activities, and notifications and activities of the SOCIETY. Social media should be handled to provide a safe environment to exchange information with the Section's members.
- f. The Awards Committee shall formulate a general program designed to meet the needs of the Section in the matter of awards and honors, coordinate the activities of the awards subcommittees, and periodically report the status of awards/honors to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. The Chair or Chair-Elect of the Section may appoint a committee of no fewer than three members of the Section whose duty shall be to examine the financial transactions for the Section for the fiscal year immediately preceding the date at which the Chair-Elect shall assume the office of Chair. The report of this Committee shall be presented to the membership for approval at the first regular meeting following the end of the fiscal period.

Section 4. The Chair of each committee shall submit a written report to the Chair of the Section by December 31, summarizing the committee's activities for the year. This report will be used in preparing the annual report to the SOCIETY.

BYLAW IX

Meetings

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall designate the times and places of the Section's meetings as it finds necessary or desirable for the proper functioning of the Section. The Section shall hold at least one meeting annually to conduct governance business; however, the Board of Directors may modify this requirement.

Section 2. The Chair shall set the order of business for meetings of the Section to conduct governance business. The order of business may be suspended by a majority vote of the members present.

Section 3. The Section may hold special meetings to conduct governance business upon the written request of a majority of the Board of Directors or upon the written request of 15 members of the Section. To be valid, such request shall be received by the Secretary at least ten days before the date requested for the meeting and shall state the exact nature of the business to be transacted. No other business shall transpire at such meetings.

Section 4. Meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of the Section to conduct governance business, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may be held by means of electronic communications technology that permits those in attendance to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, and for voting members to vote as needed.

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall meet upon due notice either at the call of the Chair or upon request of a majority of its members. A quorum for a Board of Directors meeting shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the Committee. In the absence of a quorum, called meetings of the Board of Directors shall adjourn to a specific date.

Section 6. Due notice of the Section's meetings, not including committee meetings, shall be sent to each member and affiliate of the Section. A quorum for the transaction of governance business at such a Section meeting shall consist of 15 members of the Section. No governance business shall be conducted in the absence of a quorum.

Section 7. The Board of Directors shall decide the fee for registration at any special meeting.

Section 8. The most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters not covered in these bylaws or in the SOCIETY's documents.

BYLAW X

Finances

Section 1.

- a. Members of the Section may be assessed voluntary Local Section dues in an amount set by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have the option to waive or discount dues for STUDENT MEMBERS and for emeritus members.
- b. Society Affiliates may be assessed annual dues in an amount set by the Board of Directors.
- c. The annual dues of Local Section Affiliates shall be determined by the Board of Directors in accordance with the ACS Governing Documents, and as mentioned elsewhere in these bylaws.

Section 2. The Section may raise or collect funds to be expended for local purposes and may have the entire management and control of such funds insofar as such management and control shall not conflict with any provision of these bylaws or with the ACS Governing Documents.

Section 3. The Section may receive donations or bequests made to it and may expend or invest the same on behalf of the Section. Such expenditures or investments shall be made by the Treasurer of the Section upon authorization by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. An annual audit of the books of the Treasurer and of any other transactions regarding the Section's funds shall be conducted by two or more disinterested members or individuals, appointed by the Board of Directors. The audit report shall be submitted to the Board of Directors by January 31.

Section 5. Use of Section funds that are \$3,000 or greater shall require approval by at least two-thirds (2/3) votes of the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The Board of Directors may receive reimbursements of expenses due to activities related to the Section. Those expenses should be approved in advance by the Board of Directors prior to the activity, whenever possible. Reimbursements of expenses to the Board of Directors shall be paid after a proper activities and expenses report has been received by the Board of Directors.

BYLAW XI

Affiliation with Other Technical Organizations

Section 1. The Section may affiliate with other technical organizations operating within the territory of the Section provided that such affiliation does not contravene the ACS Governing Documents. Such affiliation must be approved by the Board of Directors of the Section, by confirmation by the Council Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, and in compliance with the specific requirements of the ACS Governing Documents.

Section 2. The affiliation with the technical organization shall become effective upon authorization by the Board of Directors of the Section, by the Council Committee on Local Section Activities, and by confirmation by the Council Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 3. The Board of Directors may terminate the affiliation with any technical organization by notifying, in writing, the governing body of the technical organization. The technical organization may terminate the affiliation upon written notice to the Section's Board of Directors. Affiliations shall terminate after five years unless reauthorized by the Board of Directors. The term of each subsequent reauthorization shall not exceed five years.

BYLAW XII

Amendments

Section 1. A petition to amend the bylaws may be initiated by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least 15 members of the Section. If the proposed amendment is approved by the Board of Directors, if practical, it shall be submitted to the SOCIETY's Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for review.

Section 2. The Board of Directors will then incorporate all the required changes and either accept or reject any recommended changes that are suggested by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws. The revised bylaws shall then be submitted to the Section members for adoption. This may be accomplished at a business meeting of the Section provided that a minimum of four weeks' prior notice is given to the Section members.

Section 3. If a proposed amendment is not approved by the Board of Directors and if the petition is signed by at least 15 members of the Section, if practical, it shall be submitted to the SOCIETY's Committee on Constitution and Bylaws for review before being distributed to the members of the Section.

Section 4. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast shall be required to approve the amendment. This may be done at a Section meeting to conduct governance business provided a quorum is present. Alternatively, or failing the presence of a quorum, the vote may be taken by a ballot distributed to all members of the Section. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the valid ballots returned must be affirmative for adoption.

Section 5. The Secretary shall distribute the outcome of the vote regarding the amendment(s) to the Section members and within thirty days shall meet all requirements for submitting the results to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 6. Amendments to these bylaws, after adoption by the Section, shall become effective upon approval by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws, acting for the Council of the SOCIETY, unless a later date is specified.

BYLAW XIII

Dissolution of the Section

Upon the dissolution of the Section, any assets of the Section remaining thereafter shall be conveyed to such organization then existent, within or without the territory of the Local Section, that is dedicated to the perpetuation of Purposes similar to those of the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, or to the AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY, so long as whichever organization is selected by the governing body of the Local Section at the time of dissolution shall be exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 as amended or under such successor provision of the Code as may be in effect at the time of the Section's dissolution.