

Executive Council approves *All Access* model

August, 2022

The Covid-19 pandemic led to unprecedented disruptions in higher education and professional associations. These disruptions have been wide-ranging, from the switch to online meetings and events to decisions by universities and research institutions, especially in developing countries, to cut salaries and reduce or eliminate research funds and travel support for faculty members. Professional associations based in the United States were able to sustain operations over these past three years in part due to the rapid delivery of financial emergency aid from the U.S. government to nonprofit (501 c3) organizations aimed mainly to protect employees. The other key factor was the continued support and loyalty of LASA members.

Now that we are slowly moving out of the pandemic, the elected members of the Executive Council of LASA reached a consensus agreement that this is an opportune moment to rethink the way LASA operates. How do we best serve our loyal membership? How do we make sure that LASA continues to be a diverse and inclusive association? What is the future of the LASA international Congress? The Executive Council of LASA has been discussing these questions for a long time. While we recognize that there are many possible paths forward, we have engaged in careful deliberation in the hopes of ensuring that LASA continues to be the home for academics from all disciplines and regions of the world studying Latin America, as well as activists, practitioners and policymakers whose work focuses on the region.

In that spirit, we are pleased to announce a new affiliation model that provides more affordable access to LASA membership and participation in the annual international Congress, particularly for residents of Latin America, the Caribbean and other developing regions of the world; for students worldwide; and for retired professors, contingent faculty, independent scholars, and practitioners. This new model consists of an *All Access*¹ fee that will allow LASA members to receive all current benefits of the affiliation such as access to grants and fellowships, access to the online LASA Member Directory and the opportunity to participate in the governance of the Association among many others, plus registration to the annual international Congress. Future congresses will be offered in a hybrid mode (in person and virtual) so even if a person is not able to travel to the Congress location, they will be able to attend all sessions as if they were on-site.

This *All Access* model will be applied during the coming year to evaluate its sustainability, in order to determine whether this new approach is viable for LASA's long-term financial viability. The model requires at least 9,000 affiliates to be sustainable. The current and past Executive Councils have made an enormous effort to “think outside the box” to evaluate the best possible alternatives for LASA's current and future members in today's unpredictable world.

¹ Members with a LASA multi-year membership will be automatically upgraded to the *All Access* model that includes Congress registration until their membership expires or the *All Access* model is modified or a new model is implemented. All LASA Life members will have Congress registration included beginning LASA2023 until the *All Access* model is modified or a new model is implemented. The new *All Access* model does not include Section membership fees nor LASA Continental Congresses registration.

The following table provides a comparison of current costs of membership and registration for the LASA congress versus the *All Access* fee. The Executive Council sincerely hopes that this new model will help serve all of the LASA membership and will make the association attractive and accessible to a new generation of members.

| Membership and Registration | Current Model | | <i>All Access</i> Model | |
|---|---------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | 1 | 2,3&4 | 1 | 2,3&4 |
| Categories of Countries | | | | |
| Regular Membership (\$80,000 or more) | \$ 323 | \$ 323 | | |
| Congress Registration (2020) | \$ 275 | \$ 275 | | |
| Total | \$ 598 | \$ 598 | \$ 325 | \$ 325 |
| Regular Membership (\$30,000 – \$79,999) | \$ 156 | \$ 118 | | |
| Congress Registration (2020) | \$ 275 | \$ 275 | | |
| Total | \$ 431 | \$ 393 | \$ 300 | \$ 300 |
| Regular Membership (Below \$30,000) | \$ 98 | \$ 74 | | |
| Congress Registration (2020) | \$ 275 | \$ 275 | | |
| Total | \$ 373 | \$ 349 | \$ 275 | \$ 275 |
| Retired, independent, non-academic, contingent, adjunct | \$ 93 | \$ 70 | | |
| Congress Registration (2020) | \$ 275 | \$ 275 | | |
| Total | \$ 368 | \$ 345 | \$ 150 | \$ 125 |
| Student Membership | \$ 65 | \$ 49 | | |
| Congress Student Registration (2020) | \$ 150 | \$ 150 | | |
| Total | \$ 215 | \$ 199 | \$ 75 | \$ 50 |

| | Category of Countries 1 | | Categories of Countries 2, 3 & 4 |
|------------------|---|---|---|
| Countries | Andorra Australia Austria Bahrain Belgium Brunei Darussalam Canada Croatia Cyprus Czech Denmark Estonia Faroe Islands Finland France French Polynesia Germany Gibraltar Greece Greenland Guam Hong Kong SAR, China Hungary Iceland Ireland Isle of Man Israel Italy Japan Jersey Kuwait Latvia | Liechtenstein Lithuania Luxembourg Macao SAR, China Malta Mauritius Monaco Nauru Netherlands New Caledonia New Zealand Northern Mariana Islands Norway Oman Palau Poland Portugal Qatar Romania San Marino Saudi Arabia Seychelles Singapore Slovakia South Korea Spain Sweden Switzerland Taiwan, China United Arab Emirates United Kingdom United States | Latin America & Caribbean All other developing regions |

Country categories are based on a two-dimensional model with information from the Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations and the World Bank classification of income economies. Although some Latin American countries are classified in category 1 by these organizations, LASA has decided to place them in category 2 in order to provide more accessible rates to all people residing in Latin American countries.

LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION

4338 Bigelow Blvd
 Pittsburgh, PA 15213
lasa@lasaweb.org
 Tel: 412-648-7929
 Fax: 610-492-2791

