

CONSTITUTION

of the

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION

PREAMBLE

The students of Oregon State University Residence Halls, seeing a similarity of interests, desiring a unity of action, and recognizing a need for effective representation, do hereby establish this government for the residence halls. The Residence Hall Association is established to foster a high academic atmosphere within the halls, to provide for the social and educational development of the students, to represent the students of the residence halls to the entire campus and community, and to promote the general welfare of Oregon State University.

We, the Residence Hall Association strives to create an accepting, diverse, open, and safe living environment where residents are treated equally and respectfully. The Residence Hall Association will not discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, veteran status, or any other identity protected in accordance with University Policies, Federal and State laws.

ARTICLE I

NAME

This organization shall be known as the Residence Hall Association, hereafter called the RHA.

ARTICLE II

MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the RHA shall consist of all students attending Oregon State University who reside in the Residence Halls, but formal registration shall be limited to officers. University Housing and Dining Services (UHDS) live-in Student Staff shall be nonvoting ex officio members.

ARTICLE III

PURPOSE

The purpose of the RHA is to represent the members of the residence halls in addressing their concerns related to their residential experience and to coordinate or sponsor activities relevant to the residence halls. The RHA shall also be a vehicle of communication and representation between its members and other student organizations, Associated Students of Oregon State University (ASOSU), UHDS, the Division of Student Affairs, and other offices of the university.

ARTICLE IV

STRUCTURE

1. The RHA shall be divided into three governing bodies:
 - a. These bodies shall include:
 - i. The Executive Council
 - ii. The General Assembly
 - iii. The Area Councils
 1. The Area Councils shall include:
 - a. East Side Area Council
 - b. South Side Area Council
 - c. West Side Area Council
 - b. The powers and duties of each body shall be outlined in the articles pertaining to each body in this constitution.
 - c. Each governing body shall be advised by UHDS-appointed professional faculty advisors.
 - d. Each body shall be led by a Presiding Officer.
 - i. The responsibilities of the Presiding Officer of each body shall be outlined in the articles pertaining to each body in this constitution.

ARTICLE V

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

1. Membership
 - a. The RHA Executive Council shall consist of the following members:
 - i. The RHA President

- ii. The Administration and Finance Officer (AFO)
- iii. The Media and Social Activities Coordinator (MSAC)
- iv. The National Communications Coordinator (NCC)
- v. The Leadership and Development Activities Coordinator (LDAC)
- vi. The Social Justice Activities Coordinator (SJAC)

2. Quorum

- a. A quorum of two-thirds of the membership of the EC and a UHDS advisor must be present to conduct and vote on business.

3. Powers and Duties

- a. The EC shall act as the guiding body of the RHA.
- b. Any business to be presented to the GA shall first be approved by the RHA President.
- c. The EC may order the closure of a session of the GA and/or the Area Councils at the recommendation of the President with the unanimous consent of the EC and the approval of the UHDS advisor.
- d. While the GA and ACs are not in session as prescribed by art. VI, § 5. cl. b. and art. VIII, § 5., cl. b., respectively, the EC shall assume the full powers and duties of the GA and the ACs granted in the RHA Constitution and other recognized governing documents until such time as the GA and the ACs resume session.
 - i. The EC may not assume the power to amend the RHA Constitution, granted in art. VI, § 3, cl. b(i).
 - ii. All business conducted by the EC in the place of the GA and the ACs shall be presented to the GA and the ACs in the first meeting of each body following the opening of session.
 - iii. The GA shall have the ability to amend any business conducted by the EC in the place of the GA by a supermajority vote.
 - iv. The ACs shall have the ability to amend any business conducted by the EC in the place of each AC by a supermajority vote of each council.
 - v. The UHDS advisor must approve any action taken by the EC in the place of the GA and/or the ACs while those bodies are not in session.

4. Presiding Officer

- a. The RHA President shall serve as the Presiding Officer over all meetings of the EC.

5. Meetings

- a. The EC shall meet weekly during Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms.
 - i. The EC may optionally meet the tenth week or eleventh weeks of a given term.
- b. The EC shall conduct at least one virtual meeting per month during Summer Term.
- c. The Presiding Officer may call special meetings of the EC.
- d. All business requiring a vote must be passed by a simple majority unless otherwise prescribed in the RHA Constitution or other recognized governing documents. Abstentions shall not be counted in determining the majority.
- e. Meetings of the EC shall be conducted using modified parliamentary procedure as determined by the Presiding Officer.

6. Term of Office

- a. The Term of Office of each of the members of the EC shall begin the eleventh week of Spring Term the year of election and shall terminate the eleventh week of Spring Term of the following year.
- b. A transition meeting shall be held by the ninth week of Spring Term for the newly elected members of the EC.

ARTICLE VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

1. Membership

- a. Voting members of the General Assembly shall include:
 - i. Residents of On-campus housing at Oregon State University who have paid the Social fee.
 - ii. The UHDS Advisor, under the recommendation of the President reserves the right to strip voting powers from delegates.
- b. Non-voting members
 - i. Non-voting members shall include any student residing within a residence hall on the campus of Oregon State University that does not pay the social fee.
 - ii. Non-voting members shall be able to actively participate in meetings of the GA and act with the same rights as voting members; however, nonvoting members shall not be able to vote on or otherwise act upon business conducted within the GA.

2. Quorum

- a. Quorum shall be six voting delegates, including a minimum of one delegate from each side, as well as a UHDS advisor.
- b. The aforementioned quorum must be met to conduct and vote on business.

3. Powers and Duties

- a. The fiscal powers of the RHA are vested in the GA.
 - i. The GA has control of the RHA budget and the power of approval of Budget Committee recommendations.
 - ii. The GA must approve the RHA budget and any changes to the budget.
 - iii. The GA must approve all expenditures except where otherwise defined in the RHA Constitution and other recognized governing documents.
 - iv. The GA shall assume budgetary authority over a given AC in the event that that AC fails to meet quorum for two consecutive meetings in a given term. The GA shall maintain such budgetary authority until that AC can meet quorum.
- b. The legislative powers of the RHA are vested in the GA.

- i. The GA may amend the constitution and any other recognized governing documents.
 - ii. The GA may approve proposed agreements/legislation/resolutions introduced by members of the Executive Council, non-voting members, and voting members.
 - iii. The GA may negotiate Memoranda of Understanding.
- 4. Presiding Officer
 - a. The RHA President shall serve as the Presiding Officer over all meetings of the GA.
 - b. The Presiding Officer shall only vote in the event of a tie.
 - c. The Presiding Officer may cancel meetings of the GA with the consent of a majority of the GA and the Executive Council.
 - d. The Presiding Officer may call special meetings of the GA.
 - e. The Presiding Officer shall prepare the official agenda for the meeting
 - f. All Legislation presented to the GA must first be sponsored by the President
- 5. Meetings
 - a. The GA must be convened by the fifth week of Fall Term and must conclude by the 11th week of spring term
 - i. Sessions of the GA may be temporarily closed as ordered by the EC in accordance with art. V, § 3, cl. c.
 - ii. Upon a supermajority vote of the EC, and approval of the UHDS advisor, The powers and duties of the GA shall be temporality delegated to the EC until such time as the session is reconvened, with the exception of the power to amend the RHA Constitution, granted in art. VI, § 3, cl. b(i).
 - a. When invoked, actions taken by the EC must be reported at the next GA.
 - b. The GA shall meet at least every other week during Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms.
 - i. The GA may optionally meet the tenth week and eleventh weeks of a given term.
 - c. The first meeting of each term shall be no later than the second week of the term, excluding Fall Term, in which the first meeting shall be convened by the fifth week of the term.
 - d. All business requiring a vote must be passed by a simple majority of the voting members unless otherwise prescribed in the RHA Constitution or other recognized governing documents.
 - e. All regular meetings and minutes of the GA shall be open to the public.
 - f. Members of the public shall be entitled to speak if a member yields the floor to them but shall not be granted voting rights.
 - g. Meetings of the GA shall be conducted using modified parliamentary procedure as determined by the Presiding Officer.
- 6. Retroactivity
 - a. No legislation shall act retroactively unless specifically stated in the legislation.
 - b. Any changes in remuneration, position requirements, appointments, or recall procedures will take effect no earlier than the beginning of the next term of office.

ARTICLE VII

COMMITTEES

1. Formation and Structure
 - a. Each council of the RHA has the power to form and disband committees.
 - b. A member of RHA must chair each committee of the RHA.
 - i. Committee chairs are responsible for reporting to their respective councils at a date and time set by that council.
 - ii. Committee chairs may appoint subcommittees.
 - iii. It is the responsibility of the chair to recruit and appoint members of the committee.
 - c. Committees are made up of members of RHA and other members as designated by the chair.
 - i. Non RHA members should represent partner organizations relevant to the purpose of the committee.
2. Standing Committees and Representatives to University Committees
 - a. Standing and ad-hoc committee chairs, and representatives to university committees on behalf of RHA must attend all meetings of their respective committees and give reports when asked by the RHA President, GA, or the chair of the respective council.
 - b. The terms of office for standing committees and representatives to university committees shall run a length of time specified by their respective councils, not to exceed the end of the academic year.
 - c. If university committees are formed, representatives of the RHA to these committees must be appointed by GA.

ARTICLE VIII

AREA COUNCILS

1. Membership
 - a. There shall be one Area Council per side of campus. They shall be known as:
 - i. East Side Area Council (ESAC)
 - ii. South Side Area Council (SSAC)
 - iii. West Side Area Council (WSAC)
 - b. The membership of an AC shall consist of all residents of the halls on their respective side of campus.
 - i. ESAC shall represent the following halls:
 1. Callahan Hall
 2. McNary Hall/Dixon Lodge

3. Tebeau Hall
 4. Wilson Hall
 - ii. SSAC shall represent the following halls:
 1. Bloss Hall
 2. Finley Hall
 1. Halsell Hall
 2. The International Living-Learning Center
 - iii. WSAC shall represent the following halls:
 1. Buxton Hall
 2. Cauthorn Hall
 3. Hawley Hall
 4. Poling Hall
 5. Sackett Hall
 6. Weatherford Hall
 7. West Hall
 - c. Each AC is optionally composed of the following elected officers:
 - i. The Treasurer
 - ii. The Secretary
 - iii. The Marketing Officer
 - iv. The Programming Coordinators
 1. There shall be one Programming Coordinator to represent each hall on a given side of campus.
 - d. Each AC shall appoint a number of delegates from their membership to represent their respective side as apportioned by art. VI, § 1., cl. a(i). of the RHA Constitution.
2. Quorum
- a. The aforementioned quorum must be met to conduct and vote on business.
 - b. If any AC does not meet quorum for two consecutive meetings in a given term, the financial powers of that AC shall be revoked and vested in the GA until that AC meets quorum.
 - c. Quorum for each AC shall be two total members
3. Powers and Duties
- a. The ACs shall have budgetary authority over their respective budgets.
 - b. The ACs must host at least two events per term, with the exception of fall term, only requiring one event.
 - c. The ACs shall develop marketing and publicity for aforementioned events.
 - d. The ACs must follow conduct guidelines established by UHDS and the RHA.
 - e. The ACs may form committees pertinent to carrying out their duties.
4. Presiding Officers
- a. A different member of the EC shall serve as Presiding Officer for each AC.
 - i. The member acting as Presiding Officer of a given AC shall be designated in the RHA Statutes and is subject to change from year to year.
 - b. The EC member serving as Presiding Officer reserves the right to yield the duties of the position of Presiding Officer to a member of their respective AC.

5. Meetings

- a. The ACs shall meet weekly in Fall, Winter, and Spring Terms.
 - i. The ACs may meet optionally the tenth or eleventh weeks of a given term.
- b. The ACs shall be in session beginning the second week of Fall Term and may close session the eleventh week of Spring Term.
 - i. Sessions of the GA may be temporarily closed as ordered by the EC in accordance with art. V, § 3, cl. c.
 - ii. The powers and duties of the ACs shall be delegated to the EC until such time as the session is reconvened.
 - i. The purpose of each AC meeting shall be to discuss business pertaining to the halls on each respective side of campus, the area as a whole, and any other business pertaining to the residents of each respective side of campus.

ARTICLE IX

ELECTIONS, APPOINTMENTS, and HOLDING OFFICE

1. RHA Executive Officers

- a. Elections
 - i. Elections shall be facilitated and organized by the Elections Committee.
 - 1. The duties, powers, and membership of the Elections Committee shall be outlined in the RHA Statutes.
 - ii. The elections process for officers of the RHA EC shall be outlined in the RHA Statutes.
- b. Requirements for Candidacy
 - i. Candidates for any elected or appointed office of the RHA must:
 - 1. Be a full-time OSU student or OSU Degree Partnership Program student with a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.00 or greater.
 - 2. Be on-campus residents at the time of their application to run for office.
 - a. Candidates who live off-campus during the application window may submit a request to the Elections Committee to allow their application.
 - 3. Maintain good academic and conduct standing with both OSU and UHDS.
 - 4. Obtain the approval of the UHDS advisor before holding any other paid position at OSU during the year for which they are elected to serve.

- a. Such a position shall not conflict with the execution of the powers and duties of the office to which the candidate is elected to serve, as defined in the RHA Constitution and other recognized governing documents.
- b. UHDS live-in Student Staff (e.g. RA, ALA, DLA, CA) are eligible to run for and hold RHA Executive Officer position.
- c. UHDS live-in Student Staff (e.g. RA, ALA, DLA, CA) cannot hold both RHA EC and live-in Student staff positions during the same academic year.

C. Holding Office

- i. RHA Executive Officers must:
 - 1. Maintain a GPA of 2.00 or more. A GPA of less than 2.00 during one academic term while holding office shall result in possible removal from office upon decision of the UHDS advisor.
 - 2. Remain in good conduct standing with both OSU and UHDS.
 - 3. Live in the residence halls during their term of office, with the exception of Summer Term.
- ii. RHA Executive Officers shall become non-voting members of all ACs upon taking office.

d. Vacancies and Appointments

- i. The procedures for filling vacant offices of the EC shall be outlined in the RHA Statutes.

2. AC Officers

a. Elections

- i. The elections process for officers of each AC shall be outlined in the RHA Statutes.

b. Requirements for Candidacy

- i. Candidates for elected AC offices must:
 - 1. Maintain good conduct standing with both OSU and UHDS.

RECALL

1. Recall Guidelines

- a. Members of the RHA, including EC, Area Councils, and Area Council standing committees shall not be subject to recall until six weeks after their election/appointment, provided they remain in good conduct standing.
- b. Initiating Recall of members of EC or Area Councils
 - i. If recall proceedings are initiated for any Officer or Area Council member, there shall be a probation period for the member in question. The RHA President or Interim President and the RHA Advisor shall determine the length of this probationary period and the steps to be followed.
 1. This probationary period will not exceed one month, and be agreed upon by the majority of EC.
 - ii. Recall proceedings of the RHA Executive Officers, shall be initiated by petition of no less than Simple Majority of the RHA EC membership or by no less than Simple Majority of the voting membership of GA.
 - iii. Recall proceedings for Area Council Officers shall be initiated by petition of no less than Simple Majority of the Officers, no less than Simple Majority of the member's constituency, or by no less than Simple Majority of the voting membership of the Area Councils.
- c. The RHA Officers or Area Council Officers that are being subjected to recall have the right to appeal this motion at GA. If the officer does not wish to execute their right to appeal, a written notice shall be given to the RHA President or Interim President.
- d. Recall shall take effect after approval by Super Majority of the voting members of the GA
- e. A motion for recall shall be presented at one GA meeting and voted on at the next GA meeting.
- f. If an EC member is unable to complete their term of office or is recalled, a review committee composed of an Officer, two members of GA, and the Advisor shall determine the appropriate level of remuneration. The officer in question may attend the remuneration hearing.

ARTICLE X

JUDICIARY

1. Governing Documents Alignment

- a. The RHA Constitution or Statutes shall not conflict with the OSU Student Conduct Code or the UHDS Policy Guide. These documents will supersede the Constitution and Statutes in the case of a conflict or contradiction.
- b. Amendments requested by UHDS shall be mediated by the RHA President or acting chair of the constitution committee.
 - i. Any requested amendments shall follow the amendment procedure as outlined in Article XIII.
 - ii. If at any time in the amendment process the requested amendments are rejected, then the acting chair shall reenter mediation with UHDS.

2. Appeals

- a. This process will be utilized by any member of the RHA requesting an appeal of a recall decision.
 - i. This process shall be in accordance with University and Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act guidelines.
 - ii. The member will formally request an appeal of the decision in writing, within 5 business days.
 1. No appeals will be considered for a Title IX related decision.
 2. Members deciding to appeal must waive their FERPA rights to one of the Assistant Directors within Residential Education. One of the Assistant Directors will set a meeting within 10 business days of receiving the written appeal to meet with the member
 - iii. Once an Assistant Director of Residential Education has given their decision, the member can submit an appeal to the Director of Residential Education.
 1. Members deciding to appeal must waive their FERPA rights to the Director of Residential Education
 2. The Director of Residential Education or designee will set a meeting within 10 business days of receiving the written appeal to meet with the member
 - iv. The decision of the Director of Residential Education is final and will supersede previous decisions.

ARTICLE XI

FINANCE

1. Funds

- a. The RHA Budget shall be supported financially by the RHA Social Fee, miscellaneous UHDS support, and fundraisers.
 - b. Any proposed increases in social fees for the following year must be approved by GA by the end of January and moved forward to UHDS as a recommendation by the first of February.
- 2. Budget
 - a. The budget shall follow the fiscal year beginning July 1 and ending June 30.
 - b. The RHA Budget Committee shall prepare the General RHA budget for the following year and submit it to UHDS for approval by the fifth week of the spring term.
 - i. The Executive Director of UHDS, the Director of Residential Education and the Director of Finance must review the RHA budget.
 - c. The approved general budget will be presented to GA with more specific detail delineating expenses and initiatives no later than the eighth week of the Spring term. The budget must be approved or denied by the GA no later than the eighth week of the spring term.

ARTICLE XII

STATUTES

- 1. Content
 - a. A statute system shall be established to include the duties of the RHA Executive Officers and the RHA Advisor, a description of all standing committees of the RHA, and structures for all formal procedures.
 - b. There shall be a section in the statutes establishing the duties and responsibilities of Area Councils, AC officers, AC advisors, and the AC elections process.
- 2. Changes
 - a. Changes to the statutes shall be presented to GA and require a super majority for approval.

- b. As a departmentally sponsored student organization, the sponsoring department must approve all Statute changes to maintain departmental sponsorship.
 - i. University Housing and Dining Services is the current sponsoring department of the RHA.

ARTICLE XIII

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments

- a. Proposed amendments to the RHA Constitution shall be presented at one GA meeting and voted on at the next GA meeting, unless postponed until a date specified by GA.
- b. Amendments to this constitution shall become effective after review and approval by a super majority of the voting membership of GA.
- c. As a departmentally sponsored student organization, the sponsoring department must approve all Constitution changes to maintain departmental sponsorship.
 - i. University Housing and Dining Services is the current sponsoring department of the RHA.
- d. An amendment must be passed in this order:
 - i. Approved by simple majority in Constitution Review Committee
 - ii. Approved by the Executive Council with a super majority
 - iii. Presented to the GA
 - iv. After a minimum of one week to allow the Area Councils to review the changes, approved by the GA with a super majority
 - v. Approved by the sponsoring department

APPENDIX

1. AFO

- a. Administration and Finance Officer

2. Closed Meeting

- a. Only voting members may be present

3. Droop Quota

- a. Number of votes cast divided by one more than the number of available positions, quantity plus one

4. EC

- a. Executive Council
- 5. GA
 - a. General Assembly
- 6. LDAC
 - a. Leadership and Development Activities Coordinator
- 7. MOU
 - a. Memorandum of Understanding
- 8. NCC
 - a. National Communications Coordinator
- 9. NRHH
 - a. National Residence Hall Honorary
- 10. Plurality
 - a. The largest portion of votes for one topic given several options.
- 11. Professional Staff
 - a. Full time staff employed by UHDS Residential Education
- 12. RHA
 - a. Residence Hall Association
- 13. Simple Majority
 - a. Over 50% of the current quorum
- 14. Single Transferable Voting (STV)
 - a. When multiple positions are to be filled, each candidate and no confidence is numbered by preference on a ballot. The ballots are then collected. The first pick for each ballot is counted. The candidate which wins a Droop Quota is then elected into a position and removed from the ballot options. The modified ballots are used again, with the Droop Quota adjusted for there being one fewer positions available, and the process is repeated until the positions are filled, no more candidates can meet the Droop Quota, or until there are no remaining candidates.
- 15. SJAC
 - a. Social Justice Activities Coordinator
- 16. SLI
 - a. Student Leadership and Involvement
- 17. MSAC
 - a. Media and Social Activities Coordinator
- 20. SSO
 - a. Student Sponsored Organization
- 21. Student Staff
 - a. Live in student employed by UHDS Residential Education
- 22. Super Majority
 - a. Two thirds of the current quorum rounded up to the nearest whole number
- 23. UHDS
 - a. University Housing and Dining Services
- 24. Unanimous Approval
 - a. Lack of opposition on a vote

Approval Amended:

February 22, 1984

January 30, 1985

January 22, 1986

February 25, 1991

May 1, 1991

February 26, 1992

April 14, 1993

April 17, 1996

April 11, 1998 April

18, 2001 Addition

:

Non-discrimination clause, page 1, paragraphs 2.

Approved by RHA President's Council, May 6, 1992. Dr. Jo Anne Trow, May 22, 1992.

Approved:

RHA President's Council, January 22, 1986

Student Activities Committee, February 12, 1986, Dr. Jo Anne Trow

Vice President for Student Affairs, February 5, 1986

RHA President's Council, February 10, 1988

Students Activities Committee, February 23, 1988

RHA President's Council, March 1, 1989

Student Activities Committee, February 25, 1991

RHA President's Council, March 6, 1991

RHA President's Council, March 11, 1992

Dr. Jo Anne Trow, March 16, 1992

RHA President's Council, April 26, 1993

Dr. Jo Anne Trow, April 30, 1993

RHA President's Council, March 30, 1994

Dr. Jo Anne Trow, April 1, 1994

RHA President's Council, April 19, 1995

Dr. Jo Anne Trow, April 1995

RHA President's Council, April 17, 1996

Dr. Larry Roper, May 1996

RHA Presidents Council, April 11, 1998 RHA

President's Council, February 2, 1999

Dr. Larry Roper,

Vice Provost for Student Affairs

RHA President's Council, April 18, 2001 Dr.

Larry Roper,

Vice Provost for Student Affairs RHA

President's Council, April 28, 2004 Dr.

Larry Roper,

Vice Provost for Student Affairs

RHA President's Council, March 30, 2005

RHA President's Council, June 1, 2006

RHA President's Council, June 2010
RHA President's Council, March 2011
RHA President's Council, March 2015 RHA
President's Council, March 8 2017
RHA President Nathan Schmidt, Oct 30th
2023

Decision of the General Assembly
Approved ☒ / Denied []

Presiding Officers Signature:  _____