

Draft

Constitution of the Resident Student Association

Article I - Name of the Organization

- A. The name of this organization shall be the Resident Student Association of the University of Delaware, hereinafter referred to as the RSA.
- B. The governing body of the RSA shall be the Inter-Hall Assembly, hereinafter referred to as the IHA.

Article II - Purpose of the Organization

- A. The RSA shall provide for a cooperative effort in unifying and serving the resident students at the University of Delaware. In particular, the RSA shall provide a means for responsive and effective participation in, and regulation of, resident student affairs.
- B. The RSA shall serve as the official spokesperson of resident students on matters of University concern and provide for both mutual and beneficial understanding between resident students and the University.
- C. Furthermore, the RSA shall support student rights and their corresponding responsibilities, enhance the educational, social, functional, and cultural aspects of residence life, and evaluate the problems concerning resident students and facilitate their solution.
- D. Finally, the RSA shall develop and maintain programs and concepts for the effective self-government within and among residence halls.

Article III - Powers of the Organization

Section 1 - Authority and Legitimacy

The authority and legitimacy of the RSA derives from:

- A. Resident students being cognizant of the need to constitute an effective self-government above the level of Residence Hall Governments.

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- B. Residence Hall Governments uniting in one self-governing institution for the purpose of advancing their common interests, providing for their common needs, and acting on their common wishes to better serve resident students.

Section 2 - Legislative Authority

- A. All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in the IHA of the RSA.
- B. Any piece of legislation, policy, or program considered and passed by the IHA shall be established and executed by governing resident students and Residence Hall Governments. Legislation, policies, or programs shall be designed to further the purposes outlined in Article II of the RSA Constitution.
- C. In the cases of conflict between the actions and/or Constitution/By-Laws of a Residence Hall Government and the actions and/or Constitution/By-Laws of the RSA, the latter shall prevail.

Section 3 - Powers

- A. The RSA, through the IHA, shall review, formulate, and recommend policies pertaining to Resident Students to the appropriate University office or Committee.
- B. Any support or affiliation of the RSA must be approved by the IHA or by Executive Decision.
- C. The IHA, for just cause as defined in the By-Laws and by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the IHA that are present and voting at any regular or special meeting, shall have the power to remove any Executive Board member or Residence Hall Representative following procedure set forth in the By-Laws of the RSA.

Article IV - Membership of the Organization

- A. All University of Delaware students shall have the right to:
 - 1. Attend any meeting of the IHA.
 - 2. Present matters to the IHA.
 - 3. Participate without a vote in the proceedings of any IHA meeting.

- B. All students living in Residence Halls and only these students are members of the RSA, each having the right to:
1. Vote in the annual RSA elections.
 2. Elect a Residence Hall Representative to the IHA from their Residence Hall Government.
 3. Stand for office as provided for in the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.
 4. Serve on a RSA Committee.

Article V - The Executive Board

Section 1 - Function and Structure

- A. The Executive Board shall direct the IHA in consideration and action concerning RSA-related matters, but shall hold no legislative authority over the IHA.
- B. The Executive Board shall consist of two separate Cabinets - the President's Cabinet and the Vice-President's Cabinet.
- C. The Executive Board shall meet at the President's discretion.
- D. The President shall preside at all Executive Board meetings. In the event the President cannot attend, the Vice-President shall preside.
- E. If a Residence Hall Representative fills a vacancy on the Executive Board, the person shall have the option of holding both positions or having a new Residence Hall Representative elected from their Residence Hall. If the person opts to hold both positions, he or she shall have only one vote in the IHA.

Section 2 - Elected Officers

- A. The President, the Vice-President, and the Faculty Senator shall be elected in a campus-wide election in which all RSA members are eligible to vote.
- B. All persons wishing to seek the office of President, Vice-President, or Faculty Senator shall all have served at least one (1) year on the Executive Board or shall have received a letter of acceptance from the current President.

Section 3 – The President’s Cabinet

- A. The President’s Cabinet shall consist of the President, the Vice-President, the Faculty Senator, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Program Directors, the NACURH Communications Coordinator, the Liaison to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Congress, the Finance Committee Chairperson, and the RSA advisor.
- B. The President shall appoint the members of the President’s Cabinet, with the exception of the elected positions.
- C. The President’s Cabinet shall meet at the President’s discretion and shall guide the RSA towards its purposes as outlined in Article II of the RSA Constitution.
- D. The President shall preside at all meetings of the President’s Cabinet. In the event the President cannot attend, the Vice-President shall preside.

Section 4 – The Vice-President’s Cabinet

- A. The Vice-President’s Cabinet shall consist of the Vice-President, the Special Projects Coordinator, the Communications Committee Chairperson, the Dining Committee Chairperson, the Housing Committee Chairperson, the Public Safety Committee Chairperson, and the Social Committee Chairperson.
- B. The Vice-President shall appoint the members of the Vice-President’s Cabinet.
- C. The Vice-President’s Cabinet shall meet at the Vice-President’s discretion and shall guide the RSA towards its purposes as outlined in Article II of the RSA Constitution.
- D. The Vice-President shall preside at all meetings of the Vice-President’s Cabinet. In the event the Vice-President cannot attend, the Special Projects Coordinator shall preside.
- E. The Vice-President shall have the power to create Ad-Hoc Committees if needed to further the purposes of the RSA as outlined in Article II of the RSA Constitution.

Section 5 – Duties of Executive Board Members

A. The President

1. The President shall serve as the official representative of all Resident Students and as the presiding officer of the IHA.
2. The President shall execute the provisions of the RSA Constitution and By-Laws and give direction and leadership to the RSA and the IHA.
3. The President shall have the power to call special IHA meetings when circumstances deem it necessary as defined in the RSA By-Laws.
4. The President shall present the membership of the IHA with an annual written and verbal report on the State of the RSA at the fourth regular meeting of the IHA in the Spring semester.
5. The President shall supervise and coordinate the President's Cabinet.
6. The President shall maintain proper and current files of all correspondence pertaining to RSA business.
7. The President shall appoint RSA Delegates to non-RSA Committees, Boards, and Task Forces. These Delegates shall report as necessary to the Executive Board and the IHA.
8. The President shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

B. The Vice-President

1. The Vice-President shall be the executive assistant to the President and will serve as the presiding officer of the RSA in the absence of the President.
2. In the event that the President cannot complete his or her term, the Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President until the IHA elects a new President.
3. The Vice-President shall supervise and coordinate the Vice-President's Cabinet.

4. The Vice-President shall work in conjunction with the President and the Faculty Senator when executing any of these duties.
5. The Vice-President shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

C. The Faculty Senator

1. The Faculty Senator shall represent the RSA in the University Faculty Senate.
2. The Faculty Senator shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

D. The Secretary

1. The Secretary shall keep a written record of all RSA business.
2. The Secretary shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

E. The Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all financial matters pertaining to the RSA.
2. The Treasurer shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

F. The Program Directors

1. The Program Directors shall administer any fundraising programs undertaken by the RSA.
2. The Program Directors shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

G. The NACURH Communications Coordinator (NCC)

1. The NCC shall represent the RSA to both CAACURH (Central Atlantic Association of College and University Residence Halls) and NACURH (National Association of College and University Residence Halls).

2. The NCC shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

H. The Finance Committee Chairperson

1. The Finance Committee Chairperson shall supervise the allocation of Finance Grants.
2. The Finance Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

I. The Liaison to the Delaware Undergraduate Student Congress (DUSC)

1. The DUSC Liaison shall represent the RSA to the DUSC.
2. This person must execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the DUSC and/or the RSA and/or their respective Constitutions and By-Laws.

J. Special Projects Coordinator

1. The Special Projects Coordinator shall be responsible for coordinating special projects relevant to the RSA as deemed necessary by the President or the Executive Board.
2. The Special Projects Coordinator shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

K. The Communications Committee Chairperson

1. The Communications Committee Chairperson shall supervise and coordinate all communications and publicity for the RSA.
2. The Communications Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

L. The Dining Committee Chairperson

1. The Dining Committee Chairperson shall communicate the concerns and comments of resident students to Dining Services.
2. The Dining Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

M. The Housing Committee Chairperson

1. The Housing Committee Chairperson shall communicate the concerns and comments of resident students to Housing and Conference Services.
2. The Housing Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

N. The Public Safety Committee Chairperson

1. The Public Safety Committee Chairperson shall communicate the concerns and comments of resident students to Public Safety.
2. The Public Safety Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

O. The Social Committee Chairperson

1. The Social Committee Chairperson shall organize all social events for the RSA.
2. The Social Committee Chairperson shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 7 - Duties of Retiring Executive Board Members

- A. All retiring Executive Board Members shall transfer to their successors the office in good order and in current condition all files, computer disks, records, minutes, and written material pertaining to the RSA.

- B. Each retiring Executive Board Member shall submit an end-of-the-year report to the incoming President prior to vacating their position.

Article VI- The Inter-Hall Assembly

Section 1 - Structure of the Inter-Hall Assembly

- A. The voting membership of the IHA shall consist of RSA Executive Board members, Residence Hall Representatives, and Non-Elected Voting Members.
- B. Each voting member of the IHA and only these members shall cast one vote on matters presented to the IHA and shall introduce legislation pursuant to Article II of the RSA Constitution for consideration and action by the IHA.
- C. A non-voting advisor to the IHA will be selected from the professional staff of the Office of Residence Life, subject to the approval of the IHA.

Section 2 - The Residence Hall Representative

- A. The Residence Hall Representative is the elected delegate from a Residence Hall Government to the IHA.
- B. The Residence Hall Representative shall be elected by the members of a Residence Hall during the first two weeks of each fall semester in elections conducted by their Residence Hall Government, the Office of Residence Life, and the RSA.
- C. Duties of the Residence Hall Representative
 1. Residence Hall Representatives shall attend all regular and special meetings of the IHA. Residence Hall Representatives that are unable to attend a given meeting shall be responsible for sending a substitute in their place.
 2. Residence Hall Representatives shall assume the responsibility of determining recommendations for Residence Hall and RSA policy.
 3. Residence Hall Representatives shall keep their Residence Hall Governments and fellow resident students well informed of all RSA proceedings.

4. Residence Hall Representatives shall be responsible for keeping the RSA informed of the needs and activities of their constituents through the IHA.
5. Residence Hall Representatives shall participate in RSA programs or activities. The number of required programs or activities shall be at the President's discretion.
6. Residence Hall Representatives shall execute these duties and any other duties assigned by the IHA and/or the RSA Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 3 - Representation in the Inter-Hall Assembly

- A. Residence Hall Governments shall elect a minimum of one (1) Residence Hall Representative up to a maximum of one (1) Residence Hall Representative per building that is under the jurisdiction of the Residence Hall Government, unless specified otherwise subsequently in this section.
- B. Each Pencader Residence Hall Government shall send a minimum of one (1) Residence Hall Representative up to a maximum of four (4) Residence Hall Representatives.
- C. The Christiana Towers shall send a minimum of one (1) Residence Hall Representative up to a maximum of six (6) Residence Hall Representatives.
- D. Each Special Interest Community shall send one (1) Residence Hall Representative.
- E. If Residence Hall Governments opt to send less than the maximum number of Residence Hall Representatives, then the absence of the other possible Residence Hall Representatives shall not be counted against the quorum at IHA meetings.

Section 4 - Non-Elected Voting Members

- A. An individual shall be a Non-Elected Voting Member of the IHA if he or she lives in a Residence Hall, attends 3 consecutive IHA meetings, and joins a Committee.
- B. Non-Elected Voting Members are subject to the same duties as Residence Hall Representatives.

Section 5 - Referendum and Recall

- A. Any proposal shall be submitted to a referendum vote of all RSA members upon the affirmative three-quarters (3/4) vote of the members of the IHA that are present and voting at any regular or special meeting.
- B. Any member of the Executive Board can compel the IHA to reconsider a proposal previously passed by the IHA with a petition signed by one hundred (100) RSA members.
- C. Any legislation passed by the IHA will be reconsidered with a petition containing the signatures of a majority of Residence Hall Government Presidents that expresses dissatisfaction with said legislation.
- D. A motion previously passed can be recalled during that same academic year by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the IHA that are present and voting at any regular or special meeting.

Article VII - Amendment Process

- A. The RSA Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the IHA by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the IHA that are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the IHA.
- B. Amendments must be published and presented to the IHA seven (7) days prior to the IHA meeting when the proposed amendment is to be voted upon.
- C. In addition, copies of the proposed amendment along with notification of the location and time of the vote shall be posted in all residence halls at least seven (7) days prior to the vote.

Article VIII - Ratification

- A. The RSA Constitution shall become effective upon ratification by an affirmative two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members of the IHA that are present and voting at any regular or special meeting of the IHA.
- B. Copies of the RSA Constitution along with notification of the location and time of the ratification vote shall be posted in all residence halls at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting at which the Constitution is to be voted upon.