



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT

Students' Association Constitution

Students' Association Constitution

As Amended April 2018

We the undergraduates of the College of Arts and Sciences and Engineering, in order to form a more perfect Association, provide for a unified student voice to influence decisions of the university administration; ensure that student activity fees are appropriately spent on student activities; promote open, straightforward, and inclusive student governance; and create a university environment in which students can pursue their interests; do ordain and establish this Constitution of the University of Rochester Students Association.

Article I

Section 1. All undergraduates of the College will be full voting Members of the Students' Association, provided the students have paid the student activities fee.

Section 2. All full-time students enrolled in the Eastman School of Music will be granted Associate Memberships in the Students' Association. Associate Memberships will not include the right to vote in elections and referenda. The Senate may define additional Associate Memberships.

Section 3. No person will hold any office of profit or trust within the Students' Association who is not a full Member of the Association.

Article II

Section 1. The legislative powers herein granted will be vested in the Senate of the Students' Association. The Senate will be responsible for management of, and appropriations for, the Students' Association and its affiliated organizations. Senators will represent concerns of their constituents to the Executive Branch when applicable.

Section 2. The delegates on the Senate will be in number no more than twenty and no fewer than ten at any time. Senators will be elected for the term of one year by the Full Members of the Students' Association. The Senate will determine the method of elections and will choose its Speaker and other officers. Each Senator will have one vote. Should the number of Senators fall below seventy-five percent (75%) of the total seats in the Students' Association Senate, special elections will be called in a timely manner to fill all vacant seats.

Section 3. Members of the Senate will be chosen at one of two regular elections held during the course of the academic year. Fall semester delegates will be elected to represent the freshmen class; spring semester delegates will be elected corresponding to other classifications in accordance with the bylaws of the Students' Association. These classifications will be reevaluated at least every five years with the assistance of the Student Activities Office.

Section 4. The Senate will meet at least every other week while classes are in session. Two-thirds of the active Senate will constitute a quorum to do business. For the purposes of quorum, vacancies of office will not be counted toward the total membership of the Senate. The Senate

will provide in the bylaws a procedure to fill vacancies that may occur. In the absence of a Speaker of the Senate the meeting will be called for and presided over by the SA President; the only item of business will be the election of a new Speaker.

Section 5. The Senate will create standing committees to carry out the legislative and executive directives of the Students' Association government. The Senate may create any ad hoc committees that it deems necessary to the implementation of certain tasks that will be charged to such committees.

Section 6. The Senate will have power:

To lay and collect a student activities fee or other fees.

To raise, appropriate, and spend money.

To make rules for the Students' Association government.

To make rules for the recognition, derecognition, and funding of affiliated organizations.

To set broad goals for student programming.

To publicize the activities of the Students' Association.

To make all bylaws which will be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers.

Section 7. The Senate will require a 2/3 vote of the entire body to enact or change a bylaw.

Section 8. The Senate will appropriate money necessary to fund and support the President and the All-Campus Judicial Council.

Section 9. A Senator may be recalled by petition of one-third (1/3) of that Senator's constituents. Said petition will be presented to the Speaker of the Students' Association Senate, who will call for an election within two weeks of the presentation of the petition. Senators may also be removed by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Senate.

Article III

Section 1. The executive and advocacy power of the Students' Association will be vested in a President. The President will be the official representative of the student body. The President will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Senate. There will be a Vice President who will fill in the absence of the President and may serve as the official representative of the student body for the areas of concern delegated to him or her by the President as well as carry out any duties designated to him or her by the President.

Section 2. The President and Vice President will be directly elected by the full members of the Students' Association. The term of office will last for the period of one academic year. The bylaws will determine the method of such election and provide for a procedure to fill vacancies in the office of the President and Vice President.

Section 3. The President will nominate committee chairs to the standing committees that the Senate has established, except for the appropriations committee, whose chair will be elected according to the bylaws. These appointments must be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate. The appointment of any student to a Faculty and/or Administration committee must also be confirmed by a majority vote of the Senate.

Section 4. The President will be responsible for the execution of all legislation of the Senate as well as the implementation of the decisions of the All-Campus Judicial Council.

Section 5. The President will have the right to veto legislation duly ratified by the Students' Association Senate. This veto will be subject to reversal by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Senate in accordance with the bylaws of the Students' Association.

Section 6. The Students' Association President and Vice President may be removed from office upon the presentation of the Senate of a petition containing the signatures of one-third (1/3) of the full members of the Students' Association. The President may also be removed from the position by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Students' Association Senate.

Article IV

Section 1. The judicial power of the Students' Association will be vested in the All-Campus Judicial Council.

Section 2. The Justices of the Council will hold their offices for the term of their enrollment at the College. The Council will consist of eleven Justices. New justices will be confirmed by the Senate. The Council will select its Chief Justice from among its members.

Section 3. The Council may review all cases and controversies arising between elements of the Students' Association for conflict with this Constitution, bylaws, or appropriate procedure and policy manuals. The decisions of the Council will not be subject to review or reversal by the Senate or the Students' Association President. The judicial power of the Council will also extend to those cases to which the University delegates its authority to adjudicate, where the Council's authority will be constrained as determined by the University.

Section 4. A Justice may be removed from the All Campus Judicial Council by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire Students' Association Senate or upon the vote of the entire Council less two.

Article V

Section 1. The rights listed below will not be violated by any entity of the Students' Association:

Once recognized, any affiliated organization will have complete autonomy and jurisdiction within the limits of its own constitution and the constitution and bylaws of the Students' Association.

Section 2. The Students' Association and all affiliated organizations shall abide by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.

Affiliated organizations whose existence or activities depend upon following gender-exclusive membership policies set by an external governing body, such as a national organization or intercollegiate league, or otherwise believe that gender-exclusive membership policies are warranted must apply for a gender exclusivity waiver. This waiver must be approved annually to retain affiliation by the Students' Association. Through this waiver, these groups must demonstrate that their membership policy and selection processes are integral to the mission of the organization, are openly advertised, and are non-discriminatory on all other grounds.

Section 3. No ex post facto bylaw will be passed.

Section 4. All Students will be afforded the rights of due process through the hearings of the All Campus Judicial Council.

Article VI

Section 1. The Senate, whenever three-quarters of the body deem it necessary, will propose amendments to this Constitution, or, on the application of one-fifth of the members of the Students' Association, which, in either case, will be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of this Constitution, when ratified by a majority of the Members of the Students' Association voting on the amendment during one of the regularly scheduled elections.

Article VII

Section 1. This Constitution, and the bylaws which will be made in pursuance thereof, will be the highest law of the Students' Association.

Section 2. Each branch of the Students' Association government will keep a record of its proceedings and activities, and from time to time publish the same, excepting such parts as may in their judgment require secrecy; and even in cases of secrecy the voting record of the members of the Senate on any question will, at the desire of one-fifth of those present, be entered on the public record. The records of each branch will publicize the mechanism of the government and serve as the historical journal of the Students' Association government.

Article VIII

Section 1. The ratification of more than one third of the Members of the Students' Association will be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution.

Section 2. A team of students, elected concurrently with the ratification of this Constitution, will be granted the authority to make appointments, set dates of expiry, establish bylaws, and provide for the general transition from the previous government to the one established under this Constitution. This authority will extend only until May 23, 2005.