Constitution of University of Minnesota Rochester Student Association

Preamble:

By integrating core curricula to obtain transferable skills, establishing a student-faculty alliance for the purpose of enhancing learning efficiency, and providing a resource for open discussion pertaining to academics and student welfare, we endorse collaborative learning.

By utilizing advanced technologies for the purpose of addressing multiple academic needs and designing an atmosphere for optimal learning, we embrace innovation.

By interacting with experts within a variety of relevant fields to explore occupational pathways, promoting the magnitude of academic achievement and integrity, and committing to developing future leaders in our local and global communities, we advocate professionalism.

To implement these core values into our collegiate experience, we, the students of the University of Minnesota Rochester, do hereby establish this constitution.

Article I - Establishment

Section 1. Naming

The name of this organization shall be the University of Minnesota Rochester Student Association (RSA).

Section 2. Purpose

RSA shall provide a means for open communication between students, faculty, and administration.

Section 3. Governing Document

The governing document of this organization shall be this Constitution and its Bylaws.

Section 4. Membership

All students who pay the Rochester Student Services Fee will be members of RSA.

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individuals for reasons of race, national origin, color, religion, gender, age, veteran status, sexual orientation, and/or ability status.
Voting members will consist of only Full Board members as defined in this document.

**Article II - Executive Board**

The Executive Board is the administrative body for the RSA and is responsible for the coordination of activities with other student organizations. It cannot override decisions of the RSA Full Board or student body.

**Section 1. Members**

The Executive Board voting members shall be:
- a) President
- b) Student Activities Board Chair
- c) Secretary
- d) Treasurer
- e) Student Concerns Board Chair

**Section 2. President**

The duties of the President are to:
- a) Maintain relationships between students, faculty, administrators, and the Rochester community
- b) Act as the primary spokesperson for the UMR student body
- c) Appoint ad-hoc committee chairpersons (see Article V, Section 2 of Bylaws)
- d) Appoint and oversee all committee chairpersons and assignments
- e) Execute the Constitution and Bylaws’ rules of the RSA meetings
- f) Preside over all of RSA Full Board and Executive Board meetings
- g) Only votes in the case of a tie

**Section 3. Student Activities Board Chair**

The duties of the Student Activities Board Chair are to:
- a) Preside as Chair of the Student Activities Board
- b) Perform the President’s duties in the event the President is absent
- c) Act as the liaison between the Student Activities Board, Executive Board, and Full Board

**Section 4. Secretary**

The duties of the Secretary are to:
- a) Keep minutes and notify members of meetings for the purpose of keeping the student body informed
b) Keep record of all RSA Full Board and Executive Board proceedings

c) Maintain event calendar for RSA activities, events, and operations

d) Maintain and update the RSA document archives

e) Perform other special circumstantial duties as defined in Constitution and Bylaws

f) Preside as Chair of the Committee on Committees (See Article V, Section 1a of Bylaws)

Section 5. Treasurer

The duties of the Treasurer are to:

a) Prepare, maintain, and report accurate financial records for the RSA’s, Student Activities Board’s, and Clubs’ and Organizations’ budgets

b) Assist President and other chairpersons in preparing financial budgets

c) Prepare and present a budget at the beginning of each semester for approval by the RSA Full Board

d) Connect with staff to ensure timely purchases in accordance with RSA votes

e) Presides as chair of the Finance Committee (see Article V, Section 1c of Bylaws)

Section 6. Student Concerns Board Chair

The duties of the Student Concerns Board Chair are to:

a) Preside as chair of the Student Concerns Board (see Article V, Section 1f of Bylaws)

b) Act as primary liaison between academic faculty and RSA

c) Strive to provide students with accessible mediums through which they can voice their opinions and provide input

Article III – Full Board

The RSA Full Board shall serve as the legislative authority for the actions of the student government, and no policy shall become the official policy of the RSA until in approval in a manor set forth by the Full Board. The RSA Full Board has the right to accept, amend, or reject the actions of the officers, RSA Executive Board, or RSA committees.

Section 1. Members

The Full Board voting members shall be:

a) All members of the Executive Board (See Article II Section 1)

b) Nursing College Board Representative

c) First-Year Student Representative

d) Representative to the Board of Regents

e) Senator
f) Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative  
g) Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition Representative(s)  
h) Student Representatives to Administrative Committees  
i) Representative at Large(s)  
j) Representative to Resident’s Assistants

The Full Board non-voting members shall be:  
a) One representative from each recognized student group

Section 2. Nursing College Board Representative

The duties of the Nursing College Board Representative are to:  
a) Act as liaison between NCB and RSA

Section 3. First-Year Student Representative

The duties of the First-Year Student Representative are to:  
a) Provide a voice for new First-Year Students

Three Representatives will be elected in the Fall (see Bylaws Article I Section 2)

Section 4. Representative to the Board of Regents

The duties of the Representative to the Board of Regents are to:  
a) Represent the students of UMR to the Board of Regents and central administration  
b) Support the goals of the UMR administration and faculty when in the best interest of the students  
c) Report back to the RSA on the Board of Regents meetings  
d) Maintain links to other student associations in the University via their student representatives to the Board of Regents

Section 5. Senator

The duties of the Senator are to:  
a) Facilitate communication between Student Senate and RSA  
b) Share draft policies and policy amendments in Student Senate with RSA for discussion on Senate action  
c) Distribute information to RSA and Full Board on significant matters before the Senate and solicit views on such issues

Section 6. Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative
The duties of the Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative are to:
   a) Act as a liaison between the RSA and Student Senate Consultative Committee
   b) Advocate for the inclusion of the interests of the Rochester campus to the University of Minnesota system as a whole

**Section 7. Student Representatives to Administrative Committees**

The duties of the Student Representative to Administrative Committees are to:
   a) Provide input to administrative committees from a student point of view
   b) Act as liaison between assigned committee and RSA
   c) The President, in conjunction with the Student Concerns Board Chair, shall appoint students to serve on administrative committees in consultation with the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs on an as needed basis
      i. The number of representatives will vary from year to year, depending on the needs of the University of Minnesota Rochester and RSA

**Section 9. Representative at Large**

The duties of the Representative at Large are to:
   a) Provide general student input to RSA

**Section 10. Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition Representative**

The duties of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition are to:
   a) Represent to interests and concerns of RSA at the legislative level
   b) Inform RSA of the actions of the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition
   c) Act as a liaison between RSA and the Minnesota Student Legislative Coalition

**Section 11. Representative to Resident’s Assistants**

The duties of the Representative to Resident’s Assistants are to:
   a) Present the perspective of students living in university housing
   b) Assist in advertising events and concerns of RSA to students living in university housing

**Section 12. Vacancies**

Should an Executive Board member vacate their position, a replacement shall be voted in by the Full Board.
   a) Only Full Board members shall be eligible
All other vacancies shall be filled by the following procedure:
   a) Interested students shall file an application for the vacant position
   b) The Executive Board shall appoint replacements for the remainder of the term from those filing for office

Article IV – Organization Funding

Section 1. Requirements for Funding

To receive funding from RSA:
   a) Applicants must be a recognized organization at UMR
   b) The organization must file a formal funding application at least three weeks (21 days) before the money is needed

Section 2. Allocation of Funds

   a) RSA Finance Committee shall be responsible for reviewing applications and deciding how to allocate funds (see Article V, Section 1c of Bylaws)
   b) Two hundred dollars shall be the maximum limit that a recognized organization may request per semester
   c) The RSA Full Board may vote to approve additional funding if:
      i. The organization submits a one-page informal summary to the Finance Committee explaining why their cause should be allocated more than the allowed amount
      ii. A representative attends a Full Board meeting to explain why their cause should be allocated more than the allowed amount
   d) No recognized organization shall receive any money if their event was held prior to the submission of their request for additional funding

Article V – Referendums

Section 1. Procedure

   a) Formal notice from any student(s)/group(s) must be given in writing or via email to the RSA President within 24-hours of the passage of the original measure
   b) Upon receiving notice, the RSA President shall delay action on the contested measure for five in-session school days
   c) Within that five day period, a petition bearing the signatures of 20% of the student body must be submitted to the RSA President for verification
   d) Upon receipt, the RSA President has five in-session school days to verify the signatures on the petition
e) Five in-session school days following the verification of signatures, there will be a student body referendum to pass or fail the Full Board action
f) Two-thirds of the votes cast by the student body in opposition to the Full Board will serve to nullify the measure

Article VI – Amendments

Section 1. Proposal

a) Any RSA voting or non-voting member may propose a Constitutional amendment
b) Full Board must approve the proposed amendment with a two-thirds vote

Section 2. Voting

a) RSA President must make available the proposed amendment as well as the date on which it will be voted to all RSA members immediately following the Full Board approval of the proposal
b) Voting on the amendment shall take place at the first Full Board meeting at least one week following its publication

Section 3. Acceptance

a) Upon the approval of the majority of the student body, the amendment shall become a part of the Constitution and the revision shall be immediately accepted