

PREAMBLE

We, the students of the University of Minnesota Rochester, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the administration of student government.

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this association shall be the University of Minnesota Rochester Student Association, hereinafter referred to as RSA.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of RSA shall be to act as the supreme student governing body in the regulation and coordination of all phases of student self-government and to serve as an agency through which relationship between UMR leadership, faculty, students, and the general public may be maintained.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

All students currently attending the University of Minnesota Rochester will be considered members of RSA and will be entitled to take part in all activities of RSA as hereinafter outlined.

ARTICLE IV. POWERS

RSA, acting through its processes, shall have the following powers, in-so-far as these powers do not conflict with general University regulations established by the Board of Regents.

Section 1. Powers Relating to Organizations

- A. To recognize all proposed new student organizations and to approve their constitutions, without which recognition and approval an organization shall not be permitted to function as a recognized student organization.
- B. To establish, by majority vote of the Full Board, new and uniform conditions for the continued approval of existing student organizations to demand compliance with said new conditions within a reasonable and stated length of time.
- C. To revoke, by majority vote of the Full Board the constitution and rights of student organizations failing to comply with standards set by RSA.
- D. To assist in and/or conduct all student elections of general University interest.
- E. To review, for approval, actions taken by student groups when such actions are of concern to the student body. Student groups shall include but are not limited to student organizations, advising boards, and all functional groups of RSA.

Section 2. Powers Relating to Ad Hoc Assemblies

- A. To approve and/or regulate all student rallies, migrations, or assemblies sponsored by members of the student body.

Section 3. Powers Relating to Removal or Disqualification

- A. To disqualify, suspend, or dismiss from RSA, by 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA, any student who shall violate duly-enacted ordinances, regulations, or other legislation of RSA.
- B. To suspend or dismiss from office, by 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA, any student executive of RSA who refuses to carry its legislation into effect.

Section 4. Powers Relating to Liaison

- A. To serve as liaison between students and other governing bodies, between students and faculty, between students and the staff, between students and the Board of Regents and/or their representatives, and between students and the general public at which time as the general welfare of the students and/or the University shall require such service.

Section 5. Powers Relating to Information Gathering

- A. To call upon students, staff, faculty, the general public to present information to the student body, within a reasonable time-frame and request.

Section 6. Powers Relating to General Welfare

- A. To exercise any powers necessary for the general welfare of the student body.

Section 7. Powers of Implementation

- A. To enact such legislation as may be necessary for the execution of the powers granted in this Article.

ARTICLE V. BOARDS

The Full Board and Executive Board of RSA shall be as follows:

Section 1. The Full Board

- A. Composition. The Full Board shall consist of elected representatives from the student body with voting privileges, the members of the Executive Board, and the President, Vice President, and Representative to the Board of Regents who shall serve without voting privileges except as hereinafter noted.
 - 1. Elected members. The elected members shall be chosen in accordance with Article VI below. First-year, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Health Sciences students will each have 1 representative per 150 students. Nursing, Health Professions, and Occupational Therapy will have 1 representative per 150 students. Each Residence Hall and each Living Learning Community will have 1 representative.

2. Replacements for elected members. In case of a vacancy in elected representatives, a replacement to fill out the unexpired term shall be appointed by nomination and majority approval from the Full Board. The replacement must meet all the regular requirements of the office.
3. Additional representatives. Additional representatives will be added once a threshold of 150 students per representative is exceeded, a new residence hall is added, or a new LLC is created. These positions may be removed if any conditions change that would impact representation.

B. Eligibility.

1. Elected members. To be eligible for election to the Full Board, a candidate must:
 - a. Be a regularly enrolled member of the student group (Health Sciences, Health Professions, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, the Residence Halls, Living Learning Communities) they propose to represent and agree in writing to resign if they should terminate their enrollment or association with said group during the term of office they seek for election.
 - b. Meet University regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.

C. Terms of Office.

1. Elected members. Elected members shall assume office at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Full Board post the Spring General Election. Members shall serve 1 year.

Section 2. The Executive Board

A. The President

1. Election. The President of RSA shall be elected by a majority vote of the students voting in the election or be elected by a margin over the next higher candidate of at least 10 percent of the total vote cast at the general election under the provisions of Article VI.
2. Eligibility. To be eligible for election to the Presidency of RSA, a candidate must:
 - a. Meet all University regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.
 - b. Have completed 24 semester hours on the Rochester campus immediately preceding the academic term in which office is sought, and have completed the previous semester in residence.
 - c. Be continuously enrolled in at least 6 credit hours on that campus (excluding independent study and summer session credits), upon written verification by the Registrar or their designee.
3. Term of Office. The term of office of the President shall be the same as an elected member of the Full Board.
4. Replacement. If the President of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, or impeachment, the Vice President of RSA shall

assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

B. The Vice President

1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Vice President of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
2. Replacement. If the Vice President of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, or in the event of succession of the Vice President to the President of RSA, the Secretary of RSA shall assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

C. The Representative to the Board of Regents, herein after referred to as the Rep to Regents

1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Rep to Regents of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
2. Replacement. If the Rep to Regents of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the Vice President of RSA shall assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

D. The Secretary

1. Appointment. The President of RSA shall appoint the Secretary of RSA post the general election, and approved by the Full Board.
2. Eligibility and Term of Office. The eligibility and term of office for the Secretary of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
3. Replacement. If the Secretary of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the President of RSA shall appoint a new Secretary, with approval from the Full Board, to assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

E. The Treasurer

1. Appointment. The President of RSA shall appoint the Secretary of RSA post the general election, and approved by the Full Board.
2. Eligibility and Term of Office. The eligibility and term of office for the Treasurer of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
3. Replacement. If the Treasurer of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the President of RSA shall appoint a new Secretary, with approval from the Full Board, to assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

- F. The Senator to Minnesota Student Association, hereinafter referred to as the Senator to MSA
 - 1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Vice President of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
 - 2. Replacement. If the Senator to MSA of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the Student Representative to CLI All-Faculty Body of RSA shall assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

- G. The Student Representative to CLI All-Faculty Body
 - 1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Vice President of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
 - 2. Replacement. If the Student Representative to CLI All-Faculty Body of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the Student Representative to Staff Assembly of RSA shall assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

- H. The Student Representative to Staff Assembly
 - 1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Vice President of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
 - 2. Replacement. If the Student Representative to Staff Assembly of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the President of RSA shall appoint a replacement, with approval from the Full Board, to assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

- I. The Student Senate Consultative Committee Representative, herein after referred to as SSCC
 - 1. Election, Eligibility, and Term of Office. The election, eligibility, and term of office for the Vice President of RSA shall be identical with those of the President.
 - 2. Replacement. If the SSCC of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the Student Representative to CLI All-Faculty Body of RSA shall assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

- J. The Advisor
 - 1. Appointment. The President of RSA shall appoint the Advisor of RSA post the general election, and approved by the Full Board.
 - 2. Eligibility. The advisor shall be a member of the administrative staff.

3. Term of Office. The advisor shall serve for the time period established by the President of RSA.
4. Replacement. If the Advisor of RSA is unable to fulfill their duties by reasons of disqualification, disability, death, impeachment, the President of RSA shall appoint a replacement, with approval from the Full Board, to assume the powers and duties of the office and serve for the remainder of the original term.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. The Electoral Commission

- A. Composition. The Electoral Commission shall consist of 3 commissioners: the Advisor to RSA, a faculty member appointed by the President of RSA and approved by the Full Board, and a student appointed by the President and approved by the Full Board, who will serve as the Director.
- B. Eligibility. To be eligible for appointment to the Director seat on the Electoral Commission, a nominee must be a regularly enrolled, full-time student, and meet University regulations for participation in extracurricular activities.
- C. Term of Office. The Director of the Electoral Commission shall be nominated at the start of March in preparation for the Spring General Election, and serve for the remainder of the year until the next spring election cycle.
- D. Duties. The duties of the Electoral Commission shall be:
 1. To announce filing and schedule election dates for all elections conducted by RSA.
 2. To publicize the dates and procedures for filings and elections, and to issue at the request of candidates advisory opinions as to the legality of proposed methods in election campaigns.
 3. To utilize web-based online voting as the primary method for casting votes.
 - a. To establish a system of protocol outline web-based online voting procedures.
 - b. To select a vehicle for implementing web-based online voting procedures.
 - c. To create the ballot.
 - d. To validate results with all members of the Electoral Commission present.
 - e. To keep a record of the votes and have them publicly accessible for 30 days following an election.
 4. To consider a paper ballot as a supplemental voting system.
 - a. To establish polling places and to supervise balloting at each polling place, either in person or through agents authorized and announced by the Electoral Commission at least 1 week prior to the election.
 - b. To tabulate the ballots, with each member of the Electoral Commission present.
 - c. To seal the ballots, tabulations, and computations for safe-keeping for a 30 day period.

d. To keep a record of the votes and have them publicly accessible for 30 days following an election.

5. To announce the complete results of the election, including the number of votes cast for each candidate and to be prepared, upon request, to issue a break-down of total votes cast for President, amendments, and referenda.

E. Powers. The powers of the Electoral Commission shall be:

1. Issue decisions on alleged infractions of electoral or rules, to impose sanctions against those individuals or groups violating electoral rules, and to enforce such sanctions. All appeals to the decision of the Electoral Commission shall be referred to the Full Board, and decided by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA.
2. Annul, by 2/3 majority of the Electoral Commission, any election for good cause and to reschedule the election within 10 class days.
3. Reapportionment. The Electoral Commission shall reapportion by direct apportionment the representation of the Full Board among the different representative groups of UMR according to enrollment of the first semester. The apportionment shall be completed and the results publicized by the first day of September.
4. Establish at the beginning of each semester election regulations with consent of the Full Board.

F. The Electoral Commission shall be responsible to the President of RSA.

Section 2. Election of the President, Vice President, and the Rep to Regents of RSA.

A. Election. The President, Vice President, and the Rep to Regents shall be elected as a slate.

ARTICLE VII. POWERS OF THE BOARDS

Section 1. The Full Board

The Full Board elected under this Constitution shall have the following powers:

- A. To determine its own rules of procedure, provided that these rules do not infringe upon powers granted by this Constitution to other boards of RSA.
- B. To enact regulations, ordinances, statements of policy and other legislation of RSA by simple majority, provided at least 2/3 majority of the entire voting membership of RSA is present. The entire voting membership of RSA shall be defined as the number of members presently holding a Full Board seat, excluding the President, Vice President, and Rep to Regents.
- C. To enact Bylaws of RSA, i.e., acts concerned with functions of RSA as noted elsewhere in this Constitution, by a 2/3 majority of the entire voting membership of RSA.

- D. To adopt, in the name of RSA, resolutions on public issues.
- E. To adopt recommendations concerning the affairs which affect the University at large by simple majority, provided that 2/3 of the entire voting membership of RSA is present at the meeting, and to present these recommendations to the University official concerned.
- F. To authorize expenditures brought forth by the Treasurer of RSA according to the procedures of Article VII below, and to initiate RSA assessments.
- G. To call itself into special session on 24 hours notice by a petition signed by at least 1/3 of the voting membership of RSA, and verified by the Vice President of RSA.
- H. To ratify by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA articles of impeachment against any member of the Full Board, and appoint prosecutors enact the process.
- I. To ratify articles of impeachment by a 2/3 majority of the entire voting membership of RSA against the President, Vice President, or Rep to Regents of RSA, and to appoint prosecutors to enact the process.
- J. To establish by bylaw procedures for the recognition of new student organizations and the approval of their constitutions.
- K. To enact, alter, or amend regulations pertaining to all student organizations in the interests of the University as a whole.
- L. To sponsor, authorize, or regulate rallies, assemblies, and convocations of students and student migrations, subject to the restrictions of the bylaws of the Board of Regents.
- M. To establish such permanent or ad-hoc legislative committees as it sees fit, providing that permanent committees be established by bylaw.
- N. To express student opinions and attitudes, through its separate members, on all issues and aspects of student life as those opinions and attitudes exist in the college community.
- O. To settle matters of the impeachment or removal from RSA.
- P. To settle matters of interpretation of this Constitution.
- Q. To settle matters of contested elections.
- R. To settle matters concerning student organizations when referred to RSA by UMR leadership, the Executive Board, or an individual student.
- S. To settle other matters arising under the Bylaws, or ordinances of RSA, or powers of the President, Vice President, or Rep to Regents of RSA.

Section 2. The Executive Board

- A. President. The President of RSA, chosen under this Constitution shall have the following powers:
1. To introduce into RSA measures designated as "RSA Bills".
 2. To set the agenda, by notice given in writing to the Vice President at least 24 hours prior to each regular RSA Full Board Meeting, which agenda may be altered by 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA, and subject to Article IX, Section 1.
 3. To order the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct within 10 class days, a referendum on:
 - a. Any RSA Bill not passed in its original form within 10 class days of its introduction.
 - b. Any non-RSA Bill passed by the Full Board.
 4. To enact, by decree, any RSA Bill approved at a referendum or to declare null and void any bill rejected at a referendum.
 5. To call special sessions of the Full Board on 24 hours notice by means of a request to the Vice President.
 6. To enact prosecution of individuals or organizations, to the Full Board, for violation of duly-enacted legislation of RSA, and decided by a 2/3 majority of the voting membership of RSA.
 7. To be responsible for the execution of all provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws, to carry out duly enacted legislation of RSA, and to report all such executive action to RSA.
 8. To submit to the appropriate committee an annual budget in accordance with Article VIII of this Constitution.
 9. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before public and official assemblies, and in correspondence.
 10. To meet regularly with the Chancellor.
 11. To meet regularly with the Vice Chancellor and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Success Engagement and Equity.
 12. To meet with other leaders at UMR and in the University of Minnesota System as needed.
 13. To approve, by affixing their signature within 10 class days, all legislation enacted by the Full Board or to veto it within 10 class days and to submit a statement of their objections to Full Board at their next regular meeting after the veto, at which time the veto may be subject to reversal by 2/3 majority of the entire voting membership of RSA.

14. To present an annual written report summarizing the past year's activities of RSA at the first meeting following the Spring General Election or at the first meeting following a run-off election.
15. To preside over meetings of student assemblies sponsored by RSA.
16. To preside over meetings of the Executive Board.
17. To appoint the Secretary, Treasurer, and Advisor of RSA.

B. Vice President

1. To succeed the President in the event of the vacation of that office.
2. To exercise the powers of the President in the absence of that officer.
3. To preside over meetings of the Full Board.
4. To assume such duties as shall be assigned in writing by the President of RSA.
5. To remove, by decree, any member of the Full Board upon 3 unexcused absences. These three absences may be accumulated in the form of missed regular meetings, special meetings, or orientation and training sessions.
6. To remove, by decree, any member of RSA for consistent absences from committee meetings, when such absences are to the detriment of RSA.

C. Rep to the Regents

1. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before the Board of Regents.

D. Secretary

1. The Secretary shall be responsible to the President for the maintenance of all minutes, legislation, decrees, and correspondence and all such duties as shall be assigned by the President.

E. Treasurer

1. The Treasurer shall be responsible to the President for the maintenance of all processes and records relating to budgeting, funds, and purchasing.

F. Student Senator to MSA

1. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before the Minnesota Student Association.

G. SSCC

1. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before the Senate Consultative Committee.

H. Student Representative to CLI All-Faculty Body

1. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before the UMR CLI All-Faculty Body.

I. Student Representative to Staff Assembly

1. To represent RSA in a ceremonial capacity and to state student opinion before the Staff Assembly.

J. The Executive Board

1. The Executive Board shall serve as a coordinating body between the Full Board and Executive Board of RSA.

Section 3. RSA. RSA, acting by petition shall have the following powers:

- A. Initiative. By petition signed by at least 3 percent of the regularly enrolled full-time students, to introduce a measure to the Full Board. If after 10 class days, the Full Board shall not have passed the measure in its original form, another petition in its favor, signed by no fewer than 5 percent of the regularly enrolled full-time students, shall require the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct a referendum on it within 10 class days. Approval by such a referendum shall require the President of RSA to enact it by decree.
- B. Referendum. By petition signed by at least 5 percent of the regularly enrolled full time students, to suspend the enactment of any measure other than the budget passed by RSA, and to require the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct a referendum on it within 10 class days. Rejection of the measure in such a referendum shall require the President of RSA to declare it null and void.
- C. Recall
 1. By a petition signed by 33 percent of all the regular full-time students enrolled in a student group to require the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct within 10 class days a special election for a RSA seat from that student group by the final appointment at the Spring General Election.
 2. By a petition signed by 33 percent of all the regularly enrolled full-time students of the entire University, to require the Electoral Commission to schedule and conduct within 1-class days a special election for the Presidency, Vice President, or Rep to Regents of RSA.
 3. Recall Procedure. In all cases of recall, the official recalled shall continue in the powers of their office until the special election and may be a candidate in that election. The

special election shall be conducted under the rules promulgated by the Electoral Commission and resembling as closely as possible those prescribed in this Constitution for the Spring General Election. Candidates elected at the special election shall serve only for the unexpired term of the recalled official.

- D. Procedure. In all petitions submitted to the Electoral Commission under the provisions of the Article, signatures shall be accompanied by University identification card numbers and shall be validated by the Electoral Commission.

ARTICLE VIII. BUDGET

The President of RSA shall prepare an itemized budget of proposed expenditures of RSA for the coming fiscal year. This budget shall be submitted for approval to the Funding Committee for review.

After approval, the budget shall be introduced to the Full Board as an Appropriations Bill. All monies will be handled by the staff member most associated with Student Activities regardless of source.

ARTICLE IX. MEETING

Section 1. The Full Board

Regular meetings of the Full Board shall be held once every two weeks during the regular academic year on a day to be decided by a legislative act of RSA. All meetings of the Full Board shall be open. Provisions shall be made in the agenda of every meeting for students to present proposals or grievances to RSA. Procedures for meetings will established by the Advisor of RSA.

Section 2. The Executive Board

The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the President.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENT

Section 1. Proposals

Proposals for amendments to this Constitution may be originated by:

- A. A 2/3 majority of the entire voting member of the Full Board.
- B. A petition submitted to the Full Board, signed by not less than 5 percent of the regularly enrolled students of the University. Signatures must be validated by the Electoral Commission.

Section 2. Ratification

- A. If the proposal originates in the Full Board, the proposal shall be included on the ballot at the Spring General Election.
- B. If the proposal originates by petition, the proposal shall be voted on by the students at the special referendum to be held by the Electoral Commission on the date specified in the petition.

The date must occur on a class day during the fall or spring semester, at least 10 class days before the end of fall or spring semester, and no more than 10 class days after the submission of the proposal.

Section 3. Publication

Proposals for amendment must be published in full by the Electoral Commission at least 3 times prior to the election.

Section 4. Vote Required

The amendment shall be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the eligible students voting in the election.

Section 5. Constitutional Convention

- A. A call for a Constitutional Convention may be originated by:
 - 1. A majority vote of $\frac{3}{4}$ of all elected members of RSA.
 - 2. A petition submitted to RSA, signed by not less than 33 percent of the regularly enrolled students of UMR. Signatures must be submitted with University identifications numbers and shall be validated by the Electoral Commission.
- B. The composition of the convention shall be determined by the bylaws of RSA.
- C. The new Constitution result from the convention shall be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the eligible students voting in the election.

ARTICLE XI. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS

Section 1. General Provision

- A. Elected Officials. The officials elected to offices of RSA at the general or special elections shall assume their responsibilities and take the oath of affirmation of office at the first meeting of RSA or within 10 class days after a special run-off election.

Members of RSA shall be sworn in by the outgoing Vice President while the President and Rep to Regents of RSA shall be sworn in by the predecessors.

- B. Appointed Officials. Officials appointed at any time after this Constitution has taken effect shall assume the responsibilities of their offices and take the oath of affirmation within 24 hours after the approval of their nomination by RSA.
- C. Form of the Oath. Officials shall swear or affirm upon assuming their responsibilities to uphold the processes prescribed by this Constitution, to use the powers of their office to the best of their wisdom, and to fulfill conscientiously the responsibilities of their offices.