

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

Hereby resolved: We, the members of the University of Northern Colorado Residence Hall Association help to ensure UNC student success and strive to maintain a positive working relationship between the UNC Department of Housing & Residential Education and the students who live in the UNC residence hall system. We strive to do the following: provide communication and promote cooperation between the administration and residents; work toward satisfying the needs of both the residents and the Department of Housing & Residential Education; actively and positively participate in campus and community life while encouraging residents to do the same; help develop and recognize leadership in the residence life community; become a widely used resource for residence life; prepare students of residence life to become effective community leaders. To this end, we pledge to uphold this Constitution and work within the parameters of the mission of UNC and the Department of Housing & Residential Education.

ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Residence Hall Association (RHA).

ARTICLE II - AFFILIATION

RHA shall meet all the requirements and maintain good standing with the following organizations:

1. National Association of College and University Residence Halls, Incorporated (NACURH)
2. Intermountain Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (IACURH)
3. National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH)

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

All UNC students holding an active housing contract for any Residential Education property, which is comprised of the residence halls and University-owned apartments and houses, are granted RHA membership. Members shall be entitled to all rights and privileges as outlined in this Constitution. The General Council shall consist of the Executive Board (as defined herein), voted/elected Representatives, and any other student who holds an active housing contract with the Department of Housing & Residential Education (HRE).

ARTICLE IV - REPRESENTATIVE BODY

The General Council shall be entitled to all powers and privileges granted to it by this Constitution.

ARTICLE V - RHA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

An RHA Executive Board Member shall be any student selected to fill one of the Executive Board positions described herein. All Executives shall be responsible for upholding and defending this Constitution and its Bylaws, and fulfilling any other duties or obligations outlined herein.

Section A - President

The RHA President shall act as the official Representative and spokesperson for RHA. The President shall chair all RHA General Council and Executive Board meetings, and shall oversee the affairs of RHA. The President shall chair a Presidents' Council.

Section B - The National Residence Hall Honorary President (NRHH President)

The National Residence Hall Honorary President shall be responsible for the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) and upholding its constitution and bylaws. The NRHH President shall also be responsible for NRHH membership and implementing the four pillars as they pertain to RHA.

Section C - National Communications Coordinator (NCC)

The National Communications Coordinator shall be responsible for conference delegations, committees, and fulfillment of all duties of an NCC established by RHA and NACURH. The NCC shall be RHA's Representative at Student Senate and shall serve as the parliamentarian for RHA.

Section D - Business Administration and Technology Coordinator (BATC)

The Business Administration and Technology Coordinator shall be responsible for the actions of RHA encompassing the finance, business, and administrative activities. The BATC shall chair a Treasurers' Council.

Section E - The Social and Traditional Events Coordinator (STEC)

The Social and Traditional Events Coordinator shall be responsible for actions of RHA dealing with the planning, implementation, and evaluation of social programs and events for the members of the residence halls. The STEC shall chair the Residential Program Council (RPC) and shall serve as the official liaison between the University Program Council and RHA.

Section F - Public Relations and Fundraising Coordinator (PRFC)

The Public Relations and Fundraising Coordinator shall be responsible for campus outreach via marketing and publications for RHA. The PRFC shall also be responsible for fundraising for organizational initiatives.

ARTICLE VI – CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THE RHA EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. An Executive must carry and complete a minimum course load of twelve semester credit hours and should not exceed sixteen credit hours per semester. Written request

for permission to take additional hours (17 or more) needs prior approval from the Advisor.

2. An Executive is required to have a 2.5 cumulative GPA at time of employment. An executive must maintain a 2.5 semester GPA while in the position. In the event that an executive drops below the 2.5 semester requirement, a one-semester probationary period may be assigned for the executive to meet the requirement. If a semester GPA is below a 2.0, the executive will be removed from the position.
3. Executives must be in good standing with the University and not be on any probationary period through the conduct sanctioning process.
4. Executives will have feedback throughout the course of employment with HRE and must maintain satisfactory performance of duties in order to continue employment.
5. Verbal or written warnings may determine condition of employment.
6. Executives must maintain an active housing contract while employed.
7. Executives must live in the UNC Residence Halls for at least one semester prior to employment.
8. The National Communications Coordinator must have attended one NACURH sponsored conference before the beginning of their term.
9. Executives must have been actively involved in General Council or the subcommittees of RHA for at least a semester.

ARTICLE VII - ADVISOR

There will be at least one person employed by HRE to work with RHA as an Advisor. With input and recommendations from the Executive Board, the selection of the Advisor shall be the responsibility of HRE.

ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

The RHA General Council shall meet weekly at a place and time determined by the Executive Board. The first meeting of the academic year shall be within thirty days of the first day of class, and the last meeting of the academic year shall be no later than one week before finals week. All General Council meetings shall follow HRE guidelines and policies.

Section A - Quorum

In order to conduct business at each meeting, a simple majority of the RHA Representatives and four of the six Executives must be present.

Section B - Order of Authority

If the President is unable to oversee a General Council meeting or an Executive Board meeting and the meeting is not cancelled or rescheduled, the meetings shall be led as follows:

1. National Residence Hall Honorary President
2. National Communications Coordinator

No special privileges are granted to the Executives in these positions. If the Executive is unable or unwilling to oversee a meeting, the member next in line will assume responsibility. If neither position assumes responsibility, the Advisor must lead

the meeting. If circumstances demand, the meeting may be cancelled at the discretion of the Advisor in conjunction with the Executive Board prior to the meeting taking place.

ARTICLE IX – PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE

Parliamentary procedure used at all General Council meetings will be determined by the precedent set by IACURH and NACURH. See Article XI of the IACURH bylaws.

ARTICLE X - VOTING BODY

The voting body will be made up of elected or appointed RHA Representatives from each Residential Education property. The number of Representatives shall be determined by the number of residents living in each property with each Representative allowed one vote. In addition to these Representatives there will also be a set number of votes allocated to the Student Staff Council. The Student Staff Representative shall be determined at fall training. Eligible members consist of those who attend fall training.

Section A - RHA Representative Allocation

The number of RHA Representatives to be elected or appointed in each Residential Education property is based upon a designation of one Representative for every 150 residents in relation to the design capacity of each property. The set number of Representatives are as follows:

- Harrison: 4
- Turner: 2
- Lawrenson: 3
- North Hall: 3
- South Hall: 2
- Wilson/Wiebking: 4
- Presidents Row: 1
- Central Coalition: 2
- University Apartments/University Owned Houses: 1
- Student Staff Council: 1

ARTICLE XI – PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Section A - Proposal Submission Timeline

1. Any member(s) of RHA may submit a written proposal to the President using the format found on the RHA website. If changes are made to the proposal, the President will present the proposal to the author(s) for their final approval before bringing it to the General Council.
2. The proposal must be submitted to the President five days prior to the introduction of the proposal to the General Council.
3. The proposal will be announced to the General Council, and a copy must be given to each Community Council in writing at the meeting. The General Council can review, discuss, and amend the written proposal. The author(s) of the proposal will be granted five minutes to present their case. The General Council will then

be allotted five minutes for Question & Answer and ten minutes for discussion. A motion to extend time can be entertained.

4. If the proposal is a request of funds or an amendment to the Constitution or its Bylaws, the proposal will be tabled and voted on at the next business meeting. All other proposals may be passed at that meeting.

Section B - Expediting Process

In the event that business must be voted on immediately, a request for expedition may be filed. The request must be submitted to the President five days before it is presented to the General Council, and it must get a majority approval from the General Council to be granted expedited status.

Section C - Constitutional Amendments

Upon a two-thirds vote of the Representatives present, a constitutional amendment may be passed. The Chair shall determine whether the voting method is by hand or ballot.

Section D - Bylaws Amendments

Upon a majority vote of the Representatives present, an amendment to the bylaws may be passed. The Chair shall determine whether the voting method is by hand or ballot.

ARTICLE XII - COMMITTEE ESTABLISHMENT

Committees can be established if deemed necessary by the General Council, the Executive Board, or the Advisor. In order for a committee to be established, a proposal must be submitted to the President. A committee not outlined in this constitution may be renewed each year. If deemed necessary, an amendment to the bylaws may be introduced to make the committee a standing committee and passed by a simple majority.

ARTICLE XIII - COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Each residence hall will establish a Community Council, The name, selection, and function of the Community Councils are stipulated in Chapter Four of the Bylaws.

Section A - Purpose

The purpose of the Community Councils is to work with the hall staff and the students to facilitate, maintain, and create a sense of community and develop leaders. These Councils shall also work as a part of RHA to ensure community is developed, facilitated, and impacted campus wide.

Section B - Duration

The Community Councils shall be standing community groups in each of the residence halls. Their duration shall be permanent as required by HRE.

Section C - Membership

All students living within the residence halls are members of their respective Community Council.

Section D - Operational Procedures

Each Community Council under its respective Hall Director will establish the operational procedures for its Community Council.

Section E - Selection Process of Community Council Officers

The selection process of Community Council Officers is implemented by the RHA Executive Board in the fall semester.

ARTICLE XIV - CONSTITUTIONAL INTERPRETATION

The RHA Advisor and Executive Board, acting as non-biased third parties, shall be the sole interpreters of this constitution and this Bylaws and all rights, responsibilities, and powers outlined within.

ARTICLE XV – ORGANIZATIONAL CONDUCT

RHA assumes an obligation to exhibit conduct in a manner consistent with the University's function as an educational institution. Conduct that is not compatible with the standards set by the University and HRE is subject to disciplinary action, according to the guidelines in the student handbook. Supporting and promoting organizational standards is expected of all RHA members and is expected to be upheld at all on- or off-campus RHA and committee functions. All business and recreational activities associated with RHA must be respectful and inclusive.

ARTICLE XVI – HAZING POLICY

Hazing, as outlined by the Student Rights And Responsibilities Handbook is defined as an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student or that destroys or removes public or private property for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, a group or organization. This behavior will not be tolerated. The express or implied consent of the victim will not be a defense. Apathy or acquiescence in the presence of hazing are not neutral acts; they are violations of this rule.

ARTICLE XVII - AA/EO POLICY

The RHA is an affirmative action/equal opportunity (AA/EO) employer and is firmly dedicated to AA/EO. RHA shall operate pursuant to the policies and regulations set forth by the UNC concerning AA/EO opportunity.

ARTICLE XVIII - DIVERSITY STATEMENT

RHA is comprised of students who are of different abilities, races, ethnicities, sexual identities, sexual orientations, socio-economic status, religions, ages, genders, and political affiliations. As such, RHA is a representative body of a multicultural population and is committed to promoting an atmosphere that is conducive to creating an appreciation of individual differences. We strongly encourage residence halls to build communities that represent the diversity of the people of UNC. Ultimately, we strive for appreciation, understanding, and celebration of diversity.

Ratified: February 28, 2011

Amended: October 3, 2011