



**Constitution of  
The Residence Hall Association of  
Washington State University**

**Amended  
September 16, 2024  
Constitution of  
The Residence Hall Association of  
Washington State University**

## **Preamble**

We, the members of the Residence Hall Association, in order to promote the residence hall as a living, learning, and leading experience, provide a unified voice and opportunity for students living in the residence halls to speak on pertinent issues, and promote an atmosphere conducive to embracing and celebrating individual differences and lifestyles, do hereby establish this constitution.

## **Article I- Name**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be “The Residence Hall Association of Washington State University,” hereafter to be referred to as RHA.

**Section 2.** The mission statement of RHA shall be “To encourage resident involvement through on-campus support, university-wide communication, and student-led advocacy.”

## **Article II- Membership**

**Section 1.** Membership in RHA shall be achieved by the residents living in the halls, which pay dues to RHA and have a hall constitution recognized by RHA.

**Section 2.** For the purpose of determining representation, a residence hall shall consist of all students who pay dues within a residence hall. Divisions within a designated area or a particular residence hall will not normally be considered separate organizations when determining membership in the council.

1. In order for a hall constitution to be recognized by RHA, it must include by-laws with job duties for each of those halls’ government members regardless of compensation for duties assigned to them.

**Section 3.** Any request for deviations from Article II-Membership for representation may be presented to the RHA General Council for consideration. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the RHA General Council will be required to approve the request

**Section 4.** RHA will not deny membership to any student because of race, religion, sex, age, color, creed, national or ethnic origin, physical, mental, or sensory disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, use of a guide dog or service animal, and/or veteran status.

## **Article III- RHA Council**

**Section 1.** The RHA General Council shall be the governing body of RHA.

**Section 2.** Membership in the RHA Council shall consist of an RHA Executive Cabinet and two representatives from each residence hall, as defined in Article IV. The RHA Executive Cabinet members shall not be considered in the determination of quorum. The only exception to this being the RHA Executive President who shall vote in the case of a tie.

**Section 3.** All representative positions in the RHA Council shall correspond to a constitutionally recognized position within each hall. In order for a representative to be certified with the RHA Vice President of Administration and Leadership as an official voting member of the RHA Council, a hall must have on file in the RHA Office a current copy of the hall's constitution showing that each representative position for the hall is officially recognized as a member of the hall government and is required to attend hall meetings.

**Section 4.** The means by which representatives are chosen by a hall, and whether they are voting members in hall government, shall be left to the discretion of each hall.

**Section 5.** The duties of each RHA Council member will be:

1. To attend or send an alternate to all RHA Council and assigned RHA Standing or Ad Hoc Committee meetings;
2. To take all issues back to hall constituents for feedback and input;
3. To act as an information link for the representatives' hall;
4. To be a liaison between RHA and the hall governments;
5. To sit on at least one RHA Standing Committee;
6. To assist RHA Standing Committees in recruiting members from each hall for committee work.

**Section 6.** All voting members of RHA Council are equal in power and voice. Voting will be proportional to the number of residents in their residence hall. Representatives are expected to perform their assigned duties.

## **Article IV- Executive Cabinet**

**Section 1.** The RHA Executive Cabinet shall consist of the elected positions of Executive President, Vice President of Finance, Vice President of Communications, Vice President of

Programming, Vice President of Administration and Leadership, and a National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) Executive Member, as designated by NRHH

**Section 2.** The RHA Executive Cabinet shall represent the RHA Council to administrators and students: they shall provide leadership to support the overall goals and purpose of RHA.

**Section 3.** All members of the RHA Executive Cabinet shall receive one vote in matters dealt with by the RHA Executive Cabinet. The exception shall be the Executive President who shall vote only in the case of a tie.

**Section 4.** All RHA Executive Cabinet members shall be, ex-officio, non-voting members of the RHA Council, with the exception of the Executive President who shall vote only in the case of the tie.

**Section 5.** All members of the RHA Executive Cabinet will be required to create a transition report for their successor and be required to conduct a transition meeting with the new Executive entering their position.

**Section 6.** The RHA Advisor(s) shall serve, ex-officio, as a non-voting member of the RHA Executive Cabinet.

**Section 7.** Executives shall be present at all programming events, forums, and council meetings. Acceptations will be made based on the discretion of the RHA Executive Cabinet.

## **Article V- Election of Executive Officers**

**Section 1.** Elections of the RHA Executive Cabinet for the upcoming school year shall be held no later than the first week of April.

**Section 2.** Voting shall be by closed ballot.

**Section 3.** All candidates for RHA Executive Cabinet positions must have a minimum of an official cumulative Washington State University GPA of 2.5.

**Section 4.** It is strongly recommended that terms of office for the new RHA Executive Cabinet begin at the next scheduled meeting of the RHA Council after elections. New members of the RHA Executive Cabinet should work with outgoing officers until commencement in May, with

the exception of the Vice President of Communications, whose term will run until the last day of the NACURH Conference during their election year. Attendance of transition training sessions will be required for all newly elected officers.

**Section 5.** The RHA Executive Cabinet officers shall be elected in the following manner:

1. Executive President
2. Vice President of Communications
3. Vice President of Finance
4. Vice President of Programming
5. Vice President of Leadership and Development
6. Chief Justice
7. No positions can run as a ticket.
8. All Executive officers shall be elected by a simple majority. If no candidate receives a simple majority, there shall be a run-off between the two candidates who received the most votes.
9. All elections shall include the option of “No Confidence.”
10. The NRHH shall elect a President according to the NRHH constitution.

**Section 6.** The RHA Advisor shall be selected from the members of the Residence Life Staff with an agreed upon process developed by Residence Life and RHA.

## **Article VI- The RHA Judicial Board**

**Section 1.** The RHA Judicial Board shall have the following purpose:

1. To review all cases and controversies under the RHA Constitution and By-laws of a member against the RHA, the RHA against a member, and a member against another member.
2. Judicial Review.
3. Perform Constitutional review and recommend alterations of the By-Laws and Constitution to the council.

**Section 2.** The RHA Judicial Board shall consist of six total members; two residents at large who do not serve on council, one member from each standing RHA committee, and a proxy member that can be added at the digression of the standing President and Chief Justice.

**Section 3.** Members of the RHA Judicial Board must be nominated by the Executive President, and then confirmed by RHA Council by two-thirds (2/3) vote to take position on the Board.

**Section 4.** The Judicial Board shall reserve the use of judicial review when they suspect a possible infraction of the Constitution and By-laws of the RHA.

**Section 5.** The Judicial Board will conduct consistent Constitutional review, and review of the Bylaws, with the additional presence of a non-voting RHA Executive Cabinet, recommending changes and alterations to the council when the Board deems necessary, with a minimum of one review per semester.

1. Proposals to the general council will only occur if suggested alterations arise from review.
2. The Judicial Board will hold an open forum each semester to allow general comments and input about the constitution review.

**Section 6.** The RHA advisor shall hold the Judicial Board accountable.

## **Article VII- Meetings**

**Section 1.** RHA Council meetings shall be held at least twice each month during the academic year. The RHA Executive Cabinet shall meet at least twice each month during the academic year unless it is the months of August, December, or May.

**Section 2.** The Executive President shall have authority to cancel RHA Council and/or RHA Executive Cabinet meetings if there is insufficient business to warrant a meeting.

**Section 3.** Special RHA Council meetings can be called by a simple majority vote of the RHA Council, by the Executive President, or by a petition signed by a minimum of thirty percent (30%) of all RHA Council members.

**Section 4.** All meetings of the RHA Council shall be open to the public.

**Section 5.** Meetings of the RHA Executive Cabinet may, at the discretion of the Executive in charge, be closed to the public.

**Section 6.** A quorum of the RHA Council shall consist of enough members to equal two-thirds (2/3) of the total votes as determined by Article III, Section 2. Vacant representative positions shall not be considered in the determination of quorum. A simple majority of the seated RHA Executive Cabinet shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 7.** Issues presented to the RHA Council during a meeting shall not be voted on until the following regular meeting. To allow for special circumstances, the RHA Council, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may proceed to vote on an issue during the same meeting at which the issue is presented for action.

**Section 8.** RHA Standing and Ad Hoc Committee meetings shall be held at the discretion of the Committee Chair or based on urgency of an issue.

## **Article IX- Rules of Order**

**Section 1.** The RHA Constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting provided that the proposed amendment is previously submitted at a regular or special RHA Council meeting. Approval must be by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the RHA Council.

**Section 2.** A master copy with the dates of any voted changes, amendments, or revisions to the Constitution and/or By-Laws will be kept on electronic file in the RHA Office and at the Residence Life Office for a minimum of three years.

**Section 3.** All amendments shall be presented in a strike/bold format to RHA Council (Enumerated in Article XIV, Section 4 of the RHA By-Laws).

### **Revised**

Rev. 08/10/94

Rev. 05/03/95

Rev. 04/17/96

Rev. 10/20/97

Rev. 02/02/98

Rev. 02/23/98

Rev. 03/09/98

Rev. 02/16/99

Rev. 09/11/99

Rev. 04/10/00

Rev. 10/16/00

Rev. 11/27/00

Rev. 04/09/01

Rev. 10/22/01

Rev. 04/15/02  
Rev. 09/30/02  
Rev. 04/07/03  
Rev. 09/10/03  
Rev. 03/22/04  
Rev. 04/05/04  
Rev. 04/03/06  
Rev. 04/10/06  
Rev. 04/17/06  
Rev. 05/23/07  
Rev. 04/14/08  
Rev. 12/08/08  
Rev. 04/20/09  
Rev. 04/26/10  
Rev. 04/11/11  
Rev. 03/26/12  
Rev. 11/18/13  
Rev. 11/04/14  
Rev. 04/20/15  
Rev. 02/22/16  
Rev. 11/28/16  
Rev. 03/06/17  
Rev. 03/07/18  
Rev. 04/08/19  
Rev. 09/16/24