THE CONSTITUTION OF THE RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION
AT STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

PREAMBLE

The Stephen F. Austin State University Residence Hall Association is a student led organization whose members’ purpose is to provide communication, education, and leadership development opportunities for students in residence halls across campus. The students who comprise this organization represent the different abilities, races, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations, religions, ages, genders, socioeconomic class, and political affiliations of the students living on campus. The Residence Hall Association is a representative body of a truly diverse population in which individual differences are accepted. We accept the responsibility to act proactively in the education of our members. We strongly encourage residence halls to build hall governments which are truly indicative of the diversity represented by their residents. Furthermore, we encourage members to work together to provide a unified front in order to achieve our basic goal: improving residence halls campus wide.

Article I - Name

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Residence Hall Association, hereafter referred to as RHA.

Article II - Objective

The objective of RHA is to promote residence hall living, develop new student leaders, and act as the official voice of the students living in the residence halls.

Article III - Membership

Section 1: The membership of RHA shall be comprised of all students living on campus.

Section 2: Voting membership shall be comprised of all students living on campus, unless otherwise noted in the Constitution or By-Laws.

Section 3: All Residence Life supervisors and staff shall be recognized as ex-officio members of RHA.

Article IV - Affiliation

Section 1: This organization shall be affiliated with the SFASU Residence Life Department.

Section 2: This organization shall be affiliated with the Richard J. Williams Chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary, hereafter referred to as NRHH.

Section 3: This organization shall be affiliated with the SouthWest Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls, hereafter referred to as SWACURH; and the National Association of College and University Residence Halls, hereafter referred to as NACURH.
Article V – Structure

Section 1 — Executive Board

Clause A: The Executive Board of RHA shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Hall Council Coordinator, Marketing Coordinator, Secretary, and National Communications Coordinator. All officers and candidates for office must have and maintain a 2.3 GPA at SFA, live on campus, be enrolled as a full-time student at SFA and meet any other requirements set forth by the Residence Life Department. Qualifications of the Executive Officers shall be:

1. President – A candidate for president must have completed at least 33 semester hours and have one full semester of experience on the RHA executive board or two semesters of experience in the RHA Senate. For purposes of this constitution, a full semester shall be defined as being elected by mid-semester as stated in the University catalog.
2. Vice President – A candidate for a vice president position must have completed at least 33 semester hours and have one full semester of elected or appointed experience as a Hall Association executive or equivalent.
3. Hall Council Coordinator – A candidate for the position of Hall Council Coordinator must have completed at least 33 semester hours and have one full semester of elected or appointed experience as a Hall Council executive or equivalent.
4. Marketing Coordinator – A candidate for Marketing Coordinator must have completed 15 semester hours and have one full semester of elected or appointed experience as hall council executive or committee representative.
5. Secretary – A candidate for secretary must have completed 15 semester hours and have one full semester of elected or appointed experience as hall council executive or committee representative.
6. National Communications Coordinator, hereafter referred to as NCC – A candidate for the NCC position must have completed at least 15 semester hours, have been elected National Communications Coordinator In-Training, hereafter referred to as NCC-IT or have attended an RHA conference in the absence of a NCC-IT.
7. All candidates that assume office after a regular election will have until the beginning of the next semester to meet the completed semester hour requirement for office.

Clause B: The Executive Board shall hold meetings at least twice a week or as deemed necessary by the president and advisor.

Clause C: All executive officers shall be given at least 24 hours’ notice prior to the announcement or cancellation of a meeting.

Clause D: Members of RHA can be called on to participate in executive board meetings with a simple majority vote of executive officers.

Clause E: Board members shall advise committees as needed.

Clause G: Any officer documented for a violation of University Policy is subject to removal from office by the advisor or with the approval of the Assistant Director or Director of Residence Life.

Clause H: Any officer documented for a violation of this Constitution or its By-Laws is subject to removal from office in accordance with Article 6 of the By-Laws.

Section 2—Senate

Clause A: The Residence Hall Association Senate, hereafter referred to as Senate, shall be the policy making body of this organization. All legislative powers of RHA shall be vested in the Senate except that the right of initiative and referendum shall be exercised upon petition of 25% of the voting membership of RHA. Initiative and referendum measures shall be voted on by the membership of RHA not less than twenty-one calendar days after filing of the petition.
Clause B: Membership of the Senate shall be composed of the members of the Executive Board, the standing committee chairs and the presidents of each residence hall. Members of the Senate shall be elected in a manner as stated in this Constitution and By-laws or the Hall Charter and shall serve for the entire academic year.

Clause C: The duties of the Senate shall be:
1. To create, administer, finance, and coordinate all activities of RHA, except as limited by this constitution, its amendments, and by-laws.
2. To make policy change recommendations affecting residence halls to the university administration.
3. To attend regular meetings at a time and place agreed upon by the executive board.

Clause D: No voting member shall be on code of conduct probation.

Clause E: The Senate shall resolve all disputes involving the Advisor’s interpretation of this constitution.

Clause F: An official vote of the Senate is required to conduct legislative business. To conduct an official vote, a quorum is necessary as stated in Article VI, Section 2. To vote on an amendment to this constitution a two-thirds majority is required. To vote on the expulsion of a member of the Executive Board, a three-fourths majority is required in accordance with Article V, Section 1, Clause H. All other votes of the Senate require a simple majority of the voting members present for passage.

Clause G: Senate Attendance: If a seat in the Senate is vacant at least two times in one semester, the voting rights of that Hall or Standing Committee in the Senate will be suspended until determined renewed by the Executive Board.

Clause H: The Executive Board shall have authority to act on legislation by a 3/4 vote until a new Senate has convened in session during a regular semester or at such a time it cannot fulfill its duties.

Section 3 - Committees

Clause A: Standing Committees shall be created and terminated by the Executive Board as deemed necessary to carry out programming in a specific area. The committees shall be listed with their duties in the RHA Bylaws. The membership shall consist of Committee Representatives and any other RHA member that is interested.
1. The process of electing a standing committee chair is by application and interview with the executive board. From there, a 2/3 majority vote is required by GA for the standing committee chair to be elected. The committee chair must not be on any conduct, disciplinary, or residence hall probation and must live in a residence hall.
2. Elections shall be held at the beginning of Fall semester and the position shall last for the entire academic year.
3. Standing Committee chairs shall be recognized as full voting members of the Senate with all the rights and duties that accompany the position as specified in Article V, Section 2.

Clause B: Ad Hoc Committees shall be created by the Executive Board as needed to accomplish a specific program. A chairperson shall be appointed and a timeline set by the Executive Board and the membership will consist of any member deemed necessary to or interested in the committee.
1. Ad Hoc Committees can submit legislation in their respective area with sponsorship of a member of the Senate.
2. No committee or Ad-Hoc member has voting rights in the Senate unless they are already
a voting member.

Clause C: Each committee, both standing and Ad Hoc, shall have a committee chair that is responsible for conducting regular committee meetings and reporting the results and minutes of those meetings to the Executive Board and to the RHA Senate as directed.

Clause D: Each Hall Council Committee Representative shall serve on their respective committee.

Clause E: Any Committee Chair, Ad Hoc or Standing, who fails to complete their duties as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws can be removed from office by a unanimous vote of the Executive Board and a three-fourths vote of Senate.

Section 4— Residence Halls

Clause A: Each residence hall shall be governed by a Hall Council in accordance with the Hall Charter.

Clause B: The RHA Executive Board shall serve in an advising capacity to the Hall Councils in accordance with University Policy.

Clause C: If any hall does not comply with any aspect of the RHA Constitution or the Hall Charter, that hall’s funds may be frozen by the RHA Executive Board with approval of the RHA Advisor until compliance is met.

Clause D: If any hall officer fails to uphold their duties as set forth in the Charter, that individual may be removed from office in accordance with the RHA By-Laws or as set forth in the Hall Council Charter.

Clause D: Each Hall Council shall be governed by their respective Hall Charter, the RHA Hall Charter, the RHA Constitution and its By-Laws, superseded by University Policy.

Clause E: The hall charter may be amended by written request to the RHA Executive Board and Advisor following the guidelines stated in the Charter.

ARTICLE VI - Meetings

Section 1: RHA Senate Meetings

Clause A: All members of RHA may attend any Senate meeting.

Clause B: Voting members may exercise exactly one vote on each question; no other person may vote, although any voting member may proxy their vote to any one person in their respective Hall Council Executive Committee. Use of a proxy must be communicated to the RHA Executive Board before the office closes on the day of a vote.

Clause C: Quorum shall be established by attendance of 2/3 of the Senate. A quorum must be present in order to conduct a formal business meeting. If no quorum is present, an informal meeting can be held, but no voting can take place.

Clause D: Regular meetings of Senate shall be held at least bi-weekly at a time and place designated by the RHA Executive Board.

Clause E: Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the President with at least a 72-hour notice.

Clause F: Parliamentary procedures according to Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised will be used to the extent determined by the Executive Board.
Clause G: A parliamentarian shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Senate. The parliamentarian shall act only in an advisory capacity.

Section 2: General Assembly Meetings

Clause A: General Assembly meetings, hereafter referred to as GA, shall be held at least bi-weekly at a time and place designated by the RHA Executive Board.

Clause B: Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the RHA Executive Board with at least a 72-hour notice.

Clause C: Voting membership of GA shall consist of all students living on campus.

ARTICLE VII - Advisor

Section 1: The Director of Residence Life or the designee shall be the Advisor of the Residence Hall Association with all the rights, responsibilities, and privileges associated with that capacity, and ultimate veto power.

Section 2: The Advisor shall be responsible for interpreting this constitution and by-laws.

ARTICLE VIII - Amendments

Section 1: Amendments must be submitted to the Executive Board one week prior to the presentation at the Senate meeting. A copy of this legislation must be presented to the Senators five days prior to the Senate meeting.

Section 2: Proposed amendments will be voted on following its primary reading at the Senate meeting. In order for an amendment to pass in this manner, it must receive at ¾ majority vote.

ARTICLE IX – By-Laws

Section 1: By-Laws must be adopted under this Constitution by a majority vote of the Senate.

Section 2: The By-Laws of this constitution shall be reviewed annually by the Policy & Procedures Committee and the Executive Board. Any changes to the by-laws must pass a unanimous vote of the Executive Board in order to move the changes to approval by Senate.

Article X: Trumping Documents

The NACURH Inc. and SWACURH regional policies and bylaws supersede this Constitution and any and all changes to those documents will automatically result in the changing of this constitution.