UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO
RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION
CONSTITUTION
(Revised March 30, 2016)

PREAMBLE
We the residents of the University of Nevada, Reno determined to save succeeding generations from the scourges of apathy, ignorance, and cynicism, and to establish conditions under which academic growth and personal success can flourish, and to empower student-leaders to govern wisely and fairly in the general interest, and to promote faith in one another and our shared ability to solve our mutual problems; and towards these ends, we form a more perfect organization dedicated to the mission our predecessors began, and we strengthen a system in which leadership is practiced and potential is realized, and we enshrine democracy, both representative and participatory, for all who reside here, and we practice the equality of person and diversity of thought that we wish to see in the world.

ARTICLE I Name, Purpose, Principles & Membership

SECTION 100 The name of this organization shall be the Residence Hall Association of the University of Nevada, Reno, and shall hereafter be referred to as RHA.

SECTION 110 Purpose

110.1 To provide a representative voice and participatory role for all who reside in the residence halls of the University of Nevada, Reno;

110.2 To maintain the productive and communicative relationship with the Department of Residential Life, Housing, and Food Service (RLHFS) in the common interest of continually improving the academic, social, and personal growth of all residents;

110.3 To build cooperation between the residence hall communities by providing them the tools and resources necessary to attain their full potential;

110.4 To be a center of active and positive participation, both on campus and in the community, for all residents;

110.5 To encourage leadership development within the residence halls for the preparation of students to become effective community leaders;

110.6 To promote the skills necessary to be productive members of a free and open democratic society.

SECTION 120 Principles

120.1 The Residence Hall Association does not discriminate with respect to membership on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, age, sex, gender identity, socio-economic status, physical or mental impairment, or sexual orientation.

120.2 RHA is based on the principle of equality for all members of the residence hall system. The residence hall system consists of residents from a great spectrum of social, cultural, socioeconomic, ethnic and racial backgrounds, and of political and religious beliefs. This diversity is the Residence Hall Association’s greatest strength and maintaining an atmosphere that is appreciative of these differences is our highest priority. Concordantly, RHA prohibits discrimination in all forms within the organization and strongly condemns discrimination in all other situations.

120.3 All members shall act in accordance with the University’s mission as an educational institution. Conduct conflicting with the University’s standards is subject to disciplinary action, according to the guidelines in the student handbook.

120.4 All RHA activities shall be respectful and inclusive to all participants.

120.5 RHA is an equal opportunity employer and shall operate pursuant to the policies and regulations set forth by the University in this regard.
The Department of Residential Life, Housing, and Food Service reserves all powers not explicitly granted to RHA by this Constitution.

SECTION 130 Membership
130.1 Every student who resides in a campus residence hall administered by the Department of Residential Life, Housing, and Food Service shall be a member of RHA.
130.2 The advisor(s) of RHA shall be appointed by the RLHFS Department.

SECTION 140 Qualifications
140.1 Leadership Councils
140.1.1 Each Leadership Council Officer must reside in the residence hall of that Leadership Council, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5, and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University of Nevada, Reno.
140.1.1.1 Leadership Council Presidents must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7.
140.1.2 The Leadership Council President may not simultaneously hold two or more offices within the Residence Hall Association General Council unless so enumerated by this Constitution.
140.1.3 Resident Assistants, Community Assistants, and Academic Mentors are ineligible to hold any Leadership Council officer position.

140.2 Executive Staff
140.2.1 Each RHA Executive Officer must reside in the residence halls, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7, and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University of Nevada, Reno.
140.2.2 No individual may simultaneously hold two or more offices within the Residence Hall Association unless so enumerated in this Constitution.
140.2.3 Resident Assistants, Community Assistants, Academic Mentors, and the Office Manager are ineligible to hold any RHA Executive Staff officer position.

140.3 Board Directors
140.3.1 Each RHA Board Director must reside in the residence halls, maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7, and remain in good academic and disciplinary standing with the University of Nevada, Reno.
140.3.2 No individual may simultaneously hold two or more offices within the Residence Hall Association unless so enumerated in this Constitution.
140.3.3 Resident Assistants, Community Assistants, Academic Mentors, and the Office Manager are ineligible to hold any RHA Board Director position.

ARTICLE II Affiliation

SECTION 200 RHA shall register and maintain good standing with the Associated Students of the University of Nevada, Reno (ASUN).

SECTION 210 RHA shall be affiliated with and maintain good standing in the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH), and the Pacific Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (PACURH).

ARTICLE III Leadership Councils

SECTION 300 Under the governance of RHA, every residence hall community shall form a Leadership Council.
300.1 Each Leadership Council shall be governed by this Constitution, all RHA policies, and its respective By-Laws.

SECTION 310 Name & Membership
310.1 The residence hall community Leadership Councils shall be known as:
310.1.1 Argenta Hall Leadership Council
310.1.2 Canada Hall Leadership Council
310.1.3 Juniper Leadership Council
310.1.4 Nevada Hall Leadership Council
310.1.5 Nye Hall Leadership Council
310.1.6 Peavine Leadership Council
310.1.7 Sierra Hall Leadership Council

310.2 All students who reside in the residence hall community are members of that Leadership Council.

310.3 The formal advisor of the Leadership Council shall be a Resident Assistant/Community Assistant of the residence hall community, designated by the Assistant Director for Student Leadership & Staff Development, in consultation with the Resident Director (RD) of that community.

310.4 The RD, or Graduate RD, of a residence hall community shall serve as an informal advisor to the Leadership Council of that community.

SECTION 320 Leadership Council Positions
320.1 President
320.2 Vice President
320.3 Treasurer
320.4 Judicial Board Representative
320.5 RHA Events Board Representative
320.6 RHA Outreach Board Representative
320.7 RHA Recognition Board Representative
320.8 Members-at-large
320.9 Additional positions may be created by the Leadership Council President, Advisor, or majority will of that council; such as:
   320.9.1 Programs Coordinator
   320.9.2 Publicity Coordinator
   320.9.3 Recognition Coordinator

SECTION 330 Recruitment and Selection of Leadership Council Positions
330.1 Recruitment will occur during the first two weeks of the fall semester.
330.2 Election of President
   330.2.1 During the second week of the fall semester at the first official Leadership Council meeting, Leadership Council advisors will facilitate a process for students to nominate for Leadership Council President.
   330.2.2 Leadership Council Presidents shall be elected by the students attending and choosing to be involved in their hall’s Leadership Council.
330.3 Appointment and Approval of Positions
   330.3.1 Over the second and third weeks of fall semester, the newly elected President and Advisor will meet with, and interview, any Leadership Council students interested in being considered for officer positions.
   330.3.2 At the next Leadership Council meeting during the third week, the President will put forward two candidates for each officer position, as determined by the President and Advisor from their interviews.
   330.3.3 Nominated candidates shall give speeches and shall be elected by simple majority vote of the Leadership Council membership.
   330.3.4 The President and Advisor have the authority to create officer positions as needed in order to create opportunities for all interested Leadership Council members to assume a leadership position.

ARTICLE IV General Council

SECTION 400 The governing power of the RHA organization shall be vested in the RHA General Council.

SECTION 410 Membership
410.1 General Council shall consist of members from each of the bodies that make up the RHA
organization:
410.1.1 Leadership Council Presidents
410.1.2 Executive Staff
410.1.3 Board Directors
410.2 A Representative of Resident Assistants, Community Assistants and Academic Mentors will be nominated and elected by the Resident/Community Assistant/Academic Mentor staff. The Staff Representative shall be a voting member of the General Council.
410.3 An National Residence Hall Honorary Representative will be nominated and elected by the National Residence Hall Honorary Executive Board. The NRHH Representative shall be a voting member of the General Council.
410.4 The RHA Office Manager shall be a non-voting member.
410.5 The RHA Advisor shall be a non-voting member.

SECTION 420 Meetings
420.1 The General Council shall meet on a weekly basis during the academic year, as convened by the RHA President.
420.2 The agenda for a General Council meeting shall be set and posted a week before the meeting occurs.
420.3 The President shall preside over the General Council meeting and shall vote only in the event of a tie.
420.4 Attendance
420.4.1 All General Council members are expected to attend every General Council meeting.
420.4.2 When a Leadership Council President or Board Director must be absent from a General Council meeting, an approved proxy is expected to be sent in his or her place.
420.5 Proxies
420.5.1 Each Leadership Council President and Board Director may designate qualified individuals to serve as a proxy in their absence from a meeting.
420.5.2 Approved proxies shall have the same powers and duties as the General Council members they are representing.
420.5.3 In order to serve as an approved proxy, the individual must be designated as such on the General Council roster, maintained by the RHA President; and meets the same qualifications of the Leadership Council or Board being represented.
420.5.4 Each Leadership Council President and Board Director shall provide a list of approved proxies, as well as their names and positions, to the RHA President by the third General Council meeting. Changes to this list must be provided in writing no less than one week before individuals added to the list may act as proxy.
420.6 Quorum must be achieved for each General Council meeting in which action is to be taken.
420.6.1 The following conditions must be met to achieve quorum:
420.6.1.1 The number of Leadership Council Presidents, or their proxies, present exceeds 2/3 majority;
420.6.1.2 The number of RHA officers, Residential Life Staff Representative, and NRHH Representative, or their proxies, present exceeds 2/3 majority.
420.6.2 If quorum is in question, the RHA President shall ask for a roll call before continuing the meeting.

ARTICLE V Executive Staff

SECTION 500 The executive power of the RHA organization shall be vested in the President and members of the Executive Staff.
SECTION 510  Executive Staff Positions

510.1  President
The President is the chief executive officer of the Residence Hall Association. He or she shall act as the official representative and spokesperson for RHA. The President shall chair all RHA General Council, and shall execute all decisions of the General Council.

510.2  Vice President
The Vice President shall act as Parliamentarian for the Residence Hall Association. The Vice President shall chair the Legislative Board. The Vice President shall also serve in the role of National Communications Coordinator (NCC), fulfilling all NCC duties and representing RHA within PACURH and NACURH. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall fulfill the duties of the President.

510.3  Finance Director
The Finance Director shall accurately maintain all RHA financial records and accounts to the best of the Officer’s ability, and submit reports of RHA’s financial standing to the General Council. He or she shall chair the Finance Board, shall prepare an annual budget, and shall coordinate all RHA fundraising activities. The Finance Director oversees all funding requests.

510.4  Marketing Director
The Marketing Director shall be responsible for creating a comprehensive promotion and marketing campaign for student awareness of, and involvement in, RHA, the organization, and its programs and services. The Marketing Director shall oversee all RHA trademark and publicity matters, and shall provide consultant support to Boards in their promotional efforts. The Marketing Director shall implement innovative and relevant marketing initiatives. The Marketing Director shall serve as chair of the Outreach Board.

SECTION 520  Elections

520.1  Executive Officers shall be elected in the spring via a bids process.

520.2  Candidates shall prepare and present bids for open positions to the RHA Positional Bids voting body.

520.3  The voting body shall consist of one representative from each Leadership Council, and the outgoing RHA President.

520.3.1  Each Leadership Council may select their voting representative at a previous Leadership Council meeting or prior to the start of the Bids presentations.

520.3.2  Should the outgoing RHA President be bidding for a position, then the voting representative role shall transfer to the outgoing Vice President, then outgoing Finance Director, then outgoing Marketing Director.

520.4  The RHA Advisor shall select a student leader, not bidding for any position, to serve as chair for the RHA Positional Bids presentations and elections.

520.5  Votes shall be cast by secret ballot, and counted by the RHA Advisor and at least one additional RLHFS professional staff member.

SECTION 530  Compensation

530.1  Each Executive Officer shall receive financial support, in the form of an hourly wage, commensurate to their position, and amount determined by the Department of Residential Life, Housing, and Food Service.

ARTICLE VI  Boards

SECTION 600  Purpose

600.1  RHA Boards are specialized, permanent committees of the RHA organization, which are tasked with the execution of various functions for the benefit of all residents.

600.2  Each board shall meet once a week at a time and place of each board’s choice, which shall be posted publicly at each residence hall’s front desk.

SECTION 610  Creation of New Boards

610.1  New boards may be created to fulfill demonstrated needs of the organization, and/or
serve demonstrated interests of residence hall students.

610.2 The purpose of a board must possess a direct link to a set of programs, services or resources that RHA provides, or seeks to provide, to residence hall students.

610.3 Members desiring to create a new board must complete all steps required by RHA before a vote shall be called.

610.4 A 2/3 majority vote of General Council is required to recognize a new board.

SECTION 620 Standing Boards

620.1 Legislative Board
   620.1.1 The Legislative Board shall represent and oversee all legislative matters for the organization.
   620.1.2 The RHA Vice President shall chair the Legislative Board.
   620.1.3 The membership shall consist of the Vice President of each Leadership Council.
   620.1.4 Members of this board shall serve as liaisons to department and university committees.

620.2 Finance Board
   620.2.1 The Finance Board shall oversee all financial matters for the organization.
   620.2.2 The RHA Finance Director shall chair the Finance Board.
   620.2.3 The membership of this board shall consist of the Treasurer of each Leadership Council.

620.3 Events Board
   620.3.1 The Events Board exists to plan and implement large-scale social, educational and cultural events for the benefit of all residence hall students.
   620.3.2 The Events Director shall chair the Events Board, and serve as Events Board Director on the General Council.
   620.3.3 The membership of this board shall consist of RHA Events Reps from each Leadership Council and members-at-large.

620.4 Judicial Board
   620.4.1 The judicial power of the RHA organization shall be vested in the Judicial Board.
   620.4.2 The Judicial Board shall have original jurisdiction to determine the constitutionality of any Residence Hall Association action, legislation, or other official matter.
   620.4.3 The Judicial Board Director shall chair the Judicial Board, and serve as Judicial Board Director on the General Council.
   620.4.4 The Judicial Board shall consist solely of one Judicial Board Representative from each Leadership Council.

620.5 Outreach Board
   620.5.1 The Outreach Board exists to engage residence hall students through social media and other innovative media.
   620.5.2 The Marketing Director shall chair the Outreach Board.
   620.5.3 The membership of this board shall consist of RHA Outreach Reps from each Leadership Council and members-at-large.

620.6 Recognition Board
   620.6.1 The Recognition Board exists to plan and coordinate recognition events and initiatives that benefit residence hall students.
   620.6.2 The Recognition Director shall chair the Recognition Board, and serve as Recognition Board Director on the General Council.
   620.6.3 The membership of this board shall consist of RHA Recognition Reps from each Leadership Council and members-at-large.

SECTION 630 Board Director Positions

630.1 Board Directors serve as the presiding officer for their boards.

630.2 The Legislative Board, Finance Board, and the Outreach Board do not have Board Directors presiding; rather, RHA Executive Officers shall serve as chairs:
   630.2.1 The RHA Vice President shall chair the Legislative Board.
630.2.2 The RHA Finance Director shall chair the Finance Board.
630.2.3 The RHA Marketing Director shall chair the Outreach Board.

SECTION 640 Elections
640.1 Board Directors shall be elected in the spring via a bids process, with the exception of the Judicial Board Director.
640.1.1 Due to the nature of the judicial authority given to the Judicial Board, the Judicial Board Director shall be elected from among the membership of the Judicial Board in the fall semester.
640.2 Candidates shall prepare and present bids for the Board Director position first in their respective Boards.
640.2.1 The Board shall nominate two candidates to present their bids in the RHA Positional Bids presentations and elections.
640.2.2 The two finalists shall be elected via the same RHA Positional Bids elections as the Executive Officers.

ARTICLE VII Impeachment and Succession

SECTION 700 Cause for Immediate Dismissal
700.1 Any RHA member who fails to maintain eligibility to hold office shall be immediately dismissed from said position, as notified by the RHA Advisor.

SECTION 710 Impeachment
710.1 Any RHA member may be subject to impeachment and removal from position (by the General Council.)
710.2 (The motion to impeach shall lay on the table for one week prior to any vote on it.)
710.3 A 2/3 majority vote of the General Council is required to remove a member from office.

SECTION 720 Succession
720.1 RHA General Council
720.1.1 Should the position of RHA President become vacant, the RHA Vice President shall assume the position of RHA President for the remainder of the academic year term.
720.1.2 In the event of a vacancy of any Executive Officer or Board Director, the RHA President shall call for election by bid process.
720.1.2.1 The RHA President can appoint an individual to fulfill the duties of the position as a proxy until the position is filled by the bid process.
720.1.2.1 The appointment of any individual can only last up to one month and can only be extended in the event that no other candidate is present once the bid process is called.
720.2 Residence Hall Leadership Councils
720.2.1 Should the position of a Leadership Council President become vacant, the Leadership Council Vice President of that residence hall shall assume the Leadership Council President position.
720.2.2 In the event of a vacancy of any Leadership Council officer position, the Leadership Council President shall nominate a successor; and the Leadership Council shall confirm with simple majority vote.
720.3 RHA Boards
720.3.1 With exception of the Board Director, vacancies among membership of RHA Boards shall be filled according to the specific rules of that hall’s bylaws; if the hall does not have those rules, they should fill vacancies by a majority vote within that hall’s council.

ARTICLE VIII Amendments
SECTION 800  Procedures

800.1 Amendments to this Constitution must be proposed in the Legislative Board. If approved, the amendment is placed on the agenda of the next General Council meeting held.

800.2 When considering an amendment, the General Council must debate it during no fewer than two consecutive weekly meetings. After the second reading, the General Council may adopt the amendment by a two-thirds vote.

SECTION 810  Amendments Affecting Leadership Councils

810.1 If the amendment considered affects the Leadership Councils, their powers, their form, or their function, the amendment must also be ratified by a two-third vote of members present of each Leadership Council before it can be adopted.

ARTICLE IX  Parliamentary Procedure

SECTION 900  Special Rules

900.1 The RHA President shall have authority to limit debate in the General Council on any issue in the interest of time constraints. This decision may be overruled by a two-thirds majority of the Council members present.

900.2 All votes shall be taken by a show of hands, unless otherwise determined by the chair, or if a voting General Council member requests a roll-call vote.

900.3 The President may adopt standing rules for additional decorum.

SECTION 910  The rules contained in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Residence Hall Association in all cases where they are not inconsistent with this document and any special rules of order this organization may adopt.

*Ratified:*