The George Washington University Residence Hall Association

Consolidated Governing Documents

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Constitution

PREAMBLE

This organization shall be known as The George Washington University Residence Hall Association (RHA) and will be composed of students living in The George Washington University residence halls. Those residents will be represented in the form of the General Body and the Executive Board. The mission of this organization shall be to support and improve residence life at The George Washington University. In addition, this organization will seek to promote an inclusive and diverse environment for the residents of The George Washington University.

RHA does not unlawfully discriminate against any person on any basis prohibited by federal law, the District of Columbia Human Rights Act, or other applicable law, including without limitation, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, veteran status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

RHA will abide by all University policies.

Only currently registered GW students are considered members of the organization; all others (alumni, friends, family, faculty, staff) are considered guests. Guests are welcome to attend events, but they cannot hold officer positions or handle money on behalf of the organization.

The George Washington University values respect, communication, community, and diversity, and our organization and its members are expected to uphold and espouse these values. Members whose actions do not reflect these values may be subject to removal from the organization, according to the processes outlined in the organization's constitution and consistent with university policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

ARTICLE 1 - GENERAL BODY

1.1 MEMBERSHIP

(a) The General Body consists of all Hall Council members, Assistant Directors, and other elected members of RHA, excluding Executive Board members.

1.2 HALL COUNCILS

- (a) Hall Council members are the primary group of General Body members. The purposes, responsibilities, privileges, and powers of Hall Councils shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (b) Each Hall Council represents a specific residential community. Residential communities shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (c) The composition of Hall Councils, including the number of members, positions, and division of labor, shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (d) A Hall Council member must be a student in good standing with the University, be assigned to the residence hall that the student represents, and not be a member of the Executive Board.

1.3 ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

- (a) Assistant Directors are General Body members with the same voting rights as Hall Council members. Assistant Directors are also members of the Executive Board and may be granted additional voting rights in the Bylaws. The purposes, responsibilities, and powers of Assistant Directors shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (b) The process for appointments and qualifications of Assistant Directors shall be detailed in the Bylaws.
- (c) An Assistant Director must be a student in good standing with the University and not be a Hall Council member or an Executive Director.

1.4 ADDITIONAL GENERAL BODY POSITIONS

- (a) Additional General Body Positions, with the same voting rights as Hall Council members, may be provided for in the Bylaws. The purposes, responsibilities, and powers of Additional General Body Positions shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (b) The process for appointments and qualifications of Additional General Body Position-holders shall be detailed in the Bylaws.
- (c) An Additional General Body Position-holder must be a student in good standing with the University and not be an Assistant Director or a member of the Executive Board.

(d) In the case of extenuating circumstances that prevent the formation of a General Body primarily composed of Hall Councils, Additional General Body Positions, as defined in the Bylaws, may temporarily supplement or replace Hall Councils.

1.5 RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of General Body members to:

- (a) Work toward the mission of RHA.
- (b) Represent students living in residence halls.
- (c) Serve in accordance with the Constitution, Bylaws, and University policies.
- (d) Attend required meetings, leadership training, and conferences.
- (e) Provide updates and student feedback related to their residential communities.
- (f) Work with and communicate with the Campus Living and Residential Education team on programming and advocacy initiatives.

1.6 POWERS

- (a) General Body members have the power to:
 - (i) Approve or reject, by majority vote, the Executive Board's nomination to endorse University and/or other student organization policies, student election candidates, and, a candidate who has not communicated to the President or the entirety of the Executive Board their platform and their plan to collaborate with RHA is not eligible for endorsement.
 - (ii) Execute Initiatives related to residence life as detailed in the Bylaws.
 - (iii) Advise the Executive Board on any matter.
- (b) General Body members may exercise any Other powers listed separately in the Constitution or Bylaws.

1.7 HALL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

- (a) To obtain General Body membership in RHA, an individual must be elected or appointed to a Hall Council, except in extenuating circumstances.
- (b) Hall Council elections shall be held at the beginning of each academic year.

 Additional elections may be held throughout the year at the discretion of the Director of Operations and the Director of Hall Development for Hall Councils on which no active members serve. These instances shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (c) Each resident will be allowed one vote for each position on the Hall Council of their respective residential community.

- (d) The candidate that receives the most votes for a position shall win the election for that position. In the event of a tie, the candidates with the highest number of votes will compete in a runoff election.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to preclude the use of ranked-choice voting in Hall Council elections.
- (f) In the case of extenuating circumstances that prevent the formation of a General Body composed of Hall Councils, wherein Additional General Body Positions replace Hall Councils, it is at the discretion of the current Executive Board to determine the process for obtaining General Body membership.

1.8 TERM

- (a) General Body members serve in their position from their election or appointment until the conclusion of the academic year, unless:
 - (i) They resign.
 - (ii) They no longer meet the qualifications of their position, such as by moving out of their residence hall in the case of Hall Council members.
 - (iii) They are removed from office as set forth in the respective Hall Charter or via the removal process detailed in Article I, Section 9.
 - (iv) They obtain a different General Body or Executive Director position.
 - (v) The Bylaws provide for a different term length.
- (b) Former Executive Board members may obtain an Assistant Director or Additional General Body Position at any point after the conclusion of their previous Executive Board position according to the process defined by the Constitution and Bylaws.

1.9 REMOVAL

- (a) Impeachment charges may be submitted against a General Body member by a General Body member or Executive Director on the following grounds:
 - (i) Violation of a provision of the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - (ii) Failure to fulfill responsibilities set forth by the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - (iii) Abuse of any powers or privileges.
 - (iv) Inactivity, as defined in the Bylaws.
- (b) Assistant Directors may be removed by their respective Executive Director without cause. An Executive Director who removes their Assistant Director without cause does not need to submit impeachment charges.
- (c) Impeachment charges must be submitted in writing to the RHA President and signed by all parties submitting them. Requirements for and restrictions on the contents of the charging document shall be detailed in the Bylaws.

- (d) A member of the General Body may be removed by a majority vote, excluding the subject of the vote, of the appropriate jurisdictional body or bodies. The appropriate jurisdictional bodies shall be detailed in the Bylaws.
- (e) In the event of a tie in the vote of the appropriate jurisdictional body, the General Body member may only be removed via a unanimous vote of the Executive Directors.
- (f) At the request of the President, Executive Vice President, Director of Hall Development, or Advisor, the removal proceedings of a General Body member may bypass the initial jurisdictional body and be decided by a majority vote of the Executive Directors on the following grounds:
 - (i) Serious bullying or harassment of another RHA member, even if they have not officially violated University policies.
 - (ii) Violation of University policies.

ARTICLE 2 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

2.1 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) The Executive Board consists of Executive Directors and Assistant Directors.
- (b) Executive Director positions consist of the following: President, Executive Vice President, Director of Hall Development, Director of Programming, Director of Finance, Director of Communications, Director of Operations, Director of National Affairs, and Director of Community Outreach. For day-to-day business, "Executive" shall not be used in the title of Executive Directors.
- (c) Assistant Director positions consist of the following: Assistant Director of Hall Development, Assistant Director of Programming, Assistant Director of Finance, Assistant Director of Communications, Assistant Director of Operations, Assistant Director of National Affairs, and Assistant Director of Community Outreach.

2.2 QUALIFICATIONS

- (a) Executive Directors must live in a university residence hall or on-campus townhouse during the academic year following their election. Exceptions can be granted at the discretion of the current Executive Board in extenuating circumstances that force a member to leave their residence hall assignment, provided that the responsibilities of the position can be fulfilled.
- (b) Executive Board members must have served at least one semester on a Hall Council or Committee Corps position, or, in the case of extenuating circumstances that

- prevent the formation of Hall Councils during the academic year in which they became a General Body member, in any General Body position.
- (c) An Executive Director cannot serve as a General Body member while serving on the Executive Board.
- (d) Any Executive Board member who is on academic or disciplinary probation from the University will face impeachment charges.
- (e) The President is not permitted to hold another major leadership position beyond responsibilities related to RHA, as defined in the Bylaws.

2.3 RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of Executive Board members to:

- (a) Work towards the mission of RHA as directed by the General Body.
- (b) Serve as an active and contributing member of the Executive Board.
- (c) Attend required meetings, leadership training, and conferences.
- (d) Coordinate with university staff for the benefit of Hall Councils.
- (e) Follow proper budgetary procedure, which includes submitting budgets for all purchases made from an Executive Board member's funds.
- (f) Transition successors appropriately by preparing an end-of-the-year report.
- (g) Other duties as assigned by the President.

2.4 POWERS

- (a) As a group, the Executive Directors have the power to decide all matters relating to the management of RHA in areas not specifically delegated to individual Executive Directors.
- (b) All Executive Directors, except the President and Executive Vice President, have the ability to appoint an Assistant Director to assist in the completion of their duties.
- (c) The Executive Board, including Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, may fulfill the role of the General Body when there is not enough time to bring matters directly to the General Body as determined by the President, except in cases of constitutional amendment. The President shall report such activities to the General Body at its next meeting.
- (d) Executive Board members may exercise any other powers listed separately in the Constitution or Bylaws.

2.5 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PRESIDENT

- (a) Advocate on behalf of RHA.
- (b) Represent and serve as the official spokesperson of RHA.

(c) Executive Board:

- (i) Work with the Executive Vice President to manage the Executive Board and ensure projects are completed in a timely manner.
- (ii) Delegate powers and responsibilities to the Executive Vice President as needed.
- (iii) Coordinate leadership training with the Director of Hall Development.
- (iv) Overrule Executive Board member decisions, subject to reversal by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Board.
- (v) Assign other duties to other Directors as appropriate.
- (vi) Resolve disputes related to overlapping powers of Directors.
- (vii) Oversee the appointment process for Assistant Directors.

(d) Transition:

- (i) Fulfill summer responsibilities following the transition period as defined in the Bylaws.
- (ii) Oversee training of incoming Executive Board members.

(e) Meetings:

- (i) Preside over all meetings of the Executive Board and the General Body.
- (ii) Call special General Body and Executive Board meetings as permitted by the Constitution.
- (iii) Determine if Executive Board meeting absences are excused.
- (iv) Impose additional meeting requirements on General Body members with the majority approval of the Executive Board.

(f) Elections and Voting:

- (i) Serve on the Hall Council Elections Committee.
- (ii) Call a special election in order to fill an Executive Vice President vacancy.
- (iii) Coordinate the use of proxies in General Body and Executive Board votes in conjunction with the Executive Vice President.
- (iv) Vote in General Body meetings only if there is a tie.

(g) University Staff:

- (i) Meet with University Staff on behalf of RHA.
- (ii) Coordinate with the RHA Advisor(s) to fulfill the purpose of the RHA.
- (iii) Coordinate with the Director of Hall Development to facilitate collaboration between Hall Councils and Hall Council Advisors.

(h) Impeachment:

- (i) Determine if an Assistant Director is inactive.
- (ii) Oversee General Body impeachment proceedings as defined in the Constitution and Bylaws.

- (iii) Preside over removal votes of Executive Board and General Body members at General Body meetings, except when the President is the subject of impeachment.
- (iv) Request an expedited removal vote of General Body members as permitted by the Constitution.
- (v) Approve with the Director of Communications and Advisor any impeachment-related mass emails to RHA members, public statements, and media statements, except when the President is the subject of impeachment.

2.6 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

- (a) Assume the powers and responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President or when powers are delegated.
- (b) Executive Board:
 - (i) Work with the President to manage the Executive Board and ensure projects are completed in a timely manner.
 - (ii) Attend relevant meetings with the President and other Executive Board members as appropriate.
 - (iii) Manage the governing documents of RHA.
 - (iv) Oversee Executive Board retreats.

(c) Committees:

- (i) Oversee the implementation of RHA's committee system.
 - (1) Coordinate the selection, appointment, and creation of committees
 - (2) Work with committee chairs to set goals for each committee.
- (ii) Refer advocacy issues to a committee of the relevant jurisdiction.
- (iii) Determine if committee meeting absences are excused in conjunction with committee chairs.
- (iv) Oversee the election of committee chairs and vice chairs.
- (v) Invite non-elected members to serve on committees.

(d) Elections and Voting:

- (i) Preside over Special Elections and Executive Board elections.
- (ii) Oversee the application process for the Executive Board Election Committee.
- (iii) Call a special election in order to fill an Executive Board vacancy.
- (iv) Coordinate the use of proxies in the General Body and Executive Board votes in conjunction with the President.
- (v) If the Executive Vice President chooses to run in the Executive Board elections, the above responsibilities are deferred to the Director of

Operations and President; any Executive Board member running may not oversee spring or special Executive Board Elections.

(e) Impeachment:

- (i) Determine if an Additional General Body Position-holder is inactive in conjunction with the Director of Hall Development.
- (ii) Request an expedited removal vote of General Body members as permitted by the Constitution.
- (iii) Preside over removal votes of the President at General Body meetings.

2.7 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF HALL DEVELOPMENT

- (a) Decide all matters necessary to the management of advising Hall Councils and training Hall Council members.
- (b) Serve as a liaison between Hall Councils and the RHA Executive Board.
- (c) Maintain an updated roster of all General Body members.
- (d) General Body Meetings:
 - (i) Oversee attendance during General Body meetings, leadership training, conferences, and hall council meetings.
 - (ii) Determine if General Body meeting absences are excused.
 - (iii) Plan and execute general body leadership training when deemed necessary.

(e) Hall Council Meetings:

- (i) Maintain an updated monthly calendar and minutes report log of all Hall Council meetings.
- (ii) Determine the type and amount of required communication between Hall Councils and Hall Council Advisors.
- (iii) Assign Hall Council meetings for Directors and Assistant Directors to attend each semester.

(f) Elections and Appointment:

- (i) Serve on the Hall Council Elections Committee or appoint the Assistant Director of Hall Development to do so.
- (ii) Oversee the election or appointment of new members to fill Hall Council vacancies throughout the year.

(g) Impeachment and Vacancy:

- (i) Determine if a Hall Council member is inactive.
- (ii) Determine if an Additional General Body Position-holder is inactive in conjunction with the Executive Vice President.
- (iii) Request an expedited removal vote of General Body members as permitted by the Constitution.

- (iv) Facilitate collaboration between Hall Councils and Hall Council Advisors in conjunction with the President.
- (v) Send an official vacancy notification to a Hall Council when a member resigns or is removed.

2.8 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMMING

- (a) Decide all matters necessary to the management of RHA programming.
- (b) Maintain contact with Hall Council Programming Chairs regarding programming in their respective communities.
- (c) Determine the type and amount of programming required of Hall Councils.
- (d) Cooperate with university staff for residential community programming that extends beyond this organization.

2.9 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- (a) Decide all matters necessary to the management of the RHA budget and finances.
- (b) Promptly provide any RHA financial information requested by any resident.
- (c) Organize and oversee fundraising efforts.

2.10 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) Decide all matters necessary to the management of RHA official communication and records.
- (b) Decide all additional publicity matters not falling under another Executive Board member's purview.
- (c) Coordinate outreach to RHA alumni.
- (d) Oversee and update the RHA website and all social media accounts.
- (e) Take minutes at all General Body and Executive Board meetings.
- (f) Make all General Body Meeting minutes available to the General Body with proper anticipation to the following General Body meeting

2.11 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

- (a) Coordinate Hall Council elections in conjunction with university staff.
- (b) Serve as office manager.
 - (i) Work in conjunction with NRHH, or any other organization that shares the space, to ensure that the office remains a tidy coworking space.
- (c) Oversee equipment rental program.

2.12 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL AFFAIRS

- (a) Serve as the National Communications Coordinator (NCC) and represent The George Washington University at the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (CAACURH) and National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) levels. If they are unable to do so, a proxy must be appointed.
- (b) Fulfill all responsibilities of an NCC at the regional and national levels.
- (c) Coordinate, appoint, and manage delegations for all external conferences whether NACURH affiliated or not.
- (d) Serve on at least one regional committee during the academic year.
- (e) Submit at least one bid at the regional level each year.
- (f) Serve as a liaison between RHA and NRHH while also attending Executive Board meetings of both organizations.
- (g) Deliver conference updates to the General Body, which includes, but is not limited to the passage of relevant legislation, dates and corresponding information on conferences, and delegate experiences as a result of attending conference.

2.13 POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- (a) Serve as a liaison between RHA and other student organizations on campus.
- (b) Assist any Executive Board members with reaching out and connecting other student organizations with Hall Councils or Executive Board projects.
- (c) Help bolster RHA community-centered efforts and programs such as the equipment rental program.
- (d) Facilitate at least one partnership on an initiative or event with another organization per semester, for a total of at least two partnerships.
- (e) Create and carry out at least one community-engaged event or initiative per semester that includes assistance from another cultural or community-based on-campus organization.
- (f) Organize and implement recognition events to celebrate and include different communities on campus.
- (g) Establish or maintain healthy relationships with professional staff to enhance the leadership skills of RHA, in conjunction with the efforts of the Director of Hall Development. This may include, but is not limited to: Diversity and Inclusion; Interpersonal Skills; Key-Professional Competencies; Conflict Management.

2.14 EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

- (a) The Executive Vice President, after an application process, shall appoint a three-member Elections Committee of RHA members, subject to the approval of the Executive Directors. No member of the Elections Committee may be a candidate for a position in the election. The Elections Committee Chair must be a member of either the General Body or Executive Board.
- (b) An application for election, which includes a statement of candidacy to the General Body, shall be drafted by the Elections Committee and approved by the Executive Board.
- (c) Candidates are elected by a simple majority of the General Body members and Executive Directors present. In the case of a tie, there will be a runoff election between the two candidates who receive the most votes. If there is only one candidate, that candidate must receive a simple majority of votes to be elected.
- (d) In the event of a tie in a runoff election, the members of the Elections Committee will cast the tie-breaking votes.
- (e) Voting will take place by secret ballot and each General Body member and Executive Director is allowed one vote.
- (f) Nothing in this section shall be interpreted to preclude the use of ranked choice voting in Executive Board elections.
- (g) The Elections Committee will count all votes and decide all election disputes. All decisions made regarding election disputes are final.
- (h) The Elections Committee may further detail election procedure.

2.15 SPECIAL ELECTION

- (a) In the event of a vacant office of the Executive Board, the Executive Vice President shall call a special election. In the event of a vacant Executive Vice President, the President or Acting President shall call the special election.
- (b) The Executive Board member calling the special election shall provide an application to the General Body for the vacant office. If there is no General Body from which to solicit applicants, the Executive Board will provide nominations for appointment.
- (c) In the event of a vacant office of the Executive Board within six weeks before formal elections for the following school year, the Assistant Director will be installed as the interim director. If no Assistant Director exists, any RHA member who has served for at least one semester can be appointed by the President pending a vote by two-thirds of the Executive Board. The position may also be left vacant at the discretion of the Executive Board

2.16 TERM

- (a) Each Executive Director's term begins at the start of the transition period following their election and ends at the conclusion of the transition period the following year, or until they resign or are removed from office.
- (b) The length and structure of the transition period shall be defined in the Bylaws.

2.17 REMOVAL

- (a) Impeachment charges may be submitted against an Executive Director by a General Body member or Executive Director on the following grounds:
 - (i) Violation of a provision of the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - (ii) Failure to fulfill responsibilities set forth by the Constitution and/or Bylaws.
 - (iii) Abuse of any powers or privileges.
 - (iv) Serious bullying or harassment of another RHA member, even if such behavior does not officially violate University policies.
 - (v) Violation of University policies.
- (b) Impeachment charges must be submitted in writing to an RHA Advisor and signed by all parties submitting them. Requirements for and restrictions on the contents of the charging document shall be detailed in the Bylaws. Each individual impeachment charge must include:
 - (i) The ground under Section 2.17(a) forming the basis of the charge.
 - (ii) If applicable, the specific clause(s) of the Constitution, Bylaws, and/or University policy that the Executive Director member is accused of violating, failing to fulfill, or abusing.
 - (iii) A brief explanation of the offending behavior.
- (c) Restrictions on impeachment-related digital communications for the purpose of protecting the privacy and reputation of affected parties and RHA may be detailed in the Bylaws. These restrictions may not prohibit communication between signatories to the charges or between Executive Board members.
- (d) After they are submitted, the RHA Advisor shall review the impeachment charges and evidence and may suggest revisions if they identify any missing or extraneous information. Following any revisions by the signatories, the Advisor shall transmit the impeachment charges to the impeached Executive Director. The impeached Executive Director shall have five business days to provide a written rebuttal of the charges to the Advisor, after which the Advisor shall transmit the impeachment charges and rebuttal to the Executive Board. Executive Board members may not

- share the charges with non-Assistant Director General Body members or non-RHA members.
- (e) Following the transmission of the charges to the Executive Board, the formal presentation of the articles of impeachment to the Executive Board will be conducted by the RHA advisor and must be presented by the next Executive Board meeting. The meeting must follow Robert's Rules of Order. The attendees of the meeting shall have a period of time, as decided by the Advisor, to discuss the merits and demerits of the charges. The signatory parties and the impeached Executive Director shall have the opportunity to give opening and closing statements and participate in the discussion. The charges shall be voted on by the Executive Directors, which requires a two-thirds majority to approve. In order for the vote to take place, all Executive Directors must be present or have a designated proxy present. Only the Executive Directors excluding the accused, who does not have voting powers and the Advisor may be present for the vote. At the request of any Executive Director, the vote may be conducted blindly using the method of the Advisor's choosing.
- (f) Following the vote of the Executive Directors, the Advisor shall transmit the charges, rebuttal, and result of the vote to the General Body.
- (g) If the charges are confirmed by the Executive Directors, the charges shall be presented to the General Body for a vote by the next General Body Meeting. If the impeachment charges are confirmed by the General Body by a two-thirds vote, the Executive Director will be immediately removed from office.
- (h) If the Executive Directors do not vote in favor of impeachment, the General Body can override the Executive Directors' decision and bring impeachment charges to the General Body for a vote by presenting a petition signed by one fourth of the active General Body no later than two weeks after the transmission of the charges, excluding breaks. The President will preside over the vote of the General Body and adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. If the impeachment charges are presented against the President, the Executive Vice President will preside over the vote and adhere to Robert's Rules of Order. If two-thirds of the General Body vote in favor of the impeachment charges, the Executive Director will be immediately removed from office.

2.18 VACANCIES AND REPLACEMENT

(a) If there is a vacant Executive Director position prior to the transition period, a special election will be called for that position and held prior to formal transition.

- (b) If the President leaves office after the transition period, the Executive Vice President will immediately become President. If the Executive Vice President is unable to serve as President, they will serve as Acting President. The Executive Board shall further detail a presidential line of succession beyond the office of the Executive Vice President in the Bylaws. The succeeding officer shall serve as Acting President.
- (c) The Acting President will have two weeks to call a special election for the office of President in accordance with the Constitution. If, however, the Executive Vice President becomes Acting President during a time in which there is no General Body to vote in a special election, the Acting President shall continue to serve as Acting President and shall call a special election for the office of President within two weeks after a General Body has become available.
- (d) If an Executive Director becomes Acting President, they shall continue to hold their Executive Director position while serving as Acting President. When a new President is elected, the Acting President shall no longer serve as Acting President.
- (e) In such cases where an Executive Director serves as Acting President during the summer following the transition period, the Acting President shall not be required to reside in a university residence hall or commute to campus during the summer following formal transition.
- (f) If any Executive Director, other than the President, leaves office after the transition period, the special election process shall be followed.

ARTICLE 3 - UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEES

3.1 RHA ADVISOR(S)

- (a) The University-appointed Advisor's role is to provide guidance about the relationship between the administration and the organization, work with the Director of Finance to advise on spending by the organization, meet with the Executive Board on a regular basis, and advise the organization and all its members in any other relevant areas.
- (b) The University-appointed Advisor will also be responsible for presenting impeachment charges of Executive Board members to the Executive Board and overseeing the vote of the Executive Board in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

3.2 HALL COUNCIL ADVISORS

- (a) Hall Council Advisors are Community Coordinators assigned to advise a specific Hall Council. The primary role of the Hall Council Advisor is to provide guidance on programming and advocacy initiatives.
- (b) Hall Council Advisors shall serve as liaisons between Hall Councils and other Campus Living and Residential Education staff.
- (c) Hall Councils must meet regularly with their Hall Council Advisors.
- (d) The President and Director of Hall Development shall, under the guidance of the RHA Advisor, coordinate with Hall Council Advisors to better facilitate collaboration with their Hall Councils.

ARTICLE 4 - MEETINGS

4.1 MEETINGS

- (a) The General Body and Executive Directors shall each meet regularly during the academic year, except at such times when classes are not in session.
- (b) Each General Body meeting shall begin with a public roll call of residence hall representatives.
- (c) Special General Body meetings may be called by the President at the request of twenty-five percent of the General Body or Executive Directors.
- (d) Special Executive Board meetings may be called by the President at the request of twenty-five percent of the Executive Directors.
- (e) Executive Board members may miss three General Body meetings, meetings of committees of which they oversee, or Executive Board meetings unexcused per semester. After three unexcused absences in a semester, the member must undergo retraining or removal.
- (f) The President may determine if absence from Executive Board meetings are excused. The Director of Hall Development may determine if absences from General Body meetings are excused. The Executive Vice President and respective committee chair may determine if committee absences are excused.

4.2 GENERAL BODY VOTING

(a) Fifteen percent of the General Body that is eligible to vote will constitute a quorum for General Body meetings. No voting may take place without a quorum. Every member of the General Body present is allowed one vote, with the exception of members who are not eligible to vote according to this section. Members are required to be in the room of the General Body meeting in order to vote, unless they

- are voting virtually or by proxy in accordance with the Bylaws. Members must cast their vote during the allotted meeting time. Matters before the General Body, unless otherwise specified by this Constitution, shall require a simple majority vote to pass.
- (b) General Body members gain voting rights and are counted for the quorum beginning on their Official Commission Date, and they lose voting rights and are no longer counted for the quorum beginning on their Official Vacation Date. Official Commission and Vacation Dates for General Body and Executive Board members shall be defined in the Bylaws.
- (c) The voting rights of General Body members who are deemed to be inactive as defined in the Bylaws may be temporarily restricted. These restrictions shall be defined in the Bylaws. General Body members with restricted voting rights shall not be counted for the quorum in elections in which they are not eligible to vote.
- (d) Procedures for virtual and proxy voting by General Body members and Executive Directors may be detailed in the Bylaws. The Executive Board must take reasonable precautions to ensure that votes cast virtually and by proxy votes are accurate representations of the will of members. Members voting virtually and by proxy shall be included in the quorum.

4.3 EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING

- (a) Matters before the Executive Board, unless otherwise specified by this Constitution, shall require a simple majority vote by Executive Directors to pass. Executive Board voting procedure may be further detailed in the Bylaws.
- (b) Upon assuming an Executive Directorship, Executive Directors lose the voting rights associated with General Body membership, except as otherwise noted in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- (c) For votes in which both General Body members and Executive Directors are eligible to participate, Executive Directors are required to be in the room of the General Body meeting in order to vote, unless they are voting virtually or by proxy in accordance with the Bylaws. In these votes, Executive Directors members must cast their vote during the allotted meeting time.
- (d) If at least one-third of the Executive Directors wish to revote on a previously held vote, unless the matter of the previously held vote has already gone to the General Body and passed, the results of the old vote shall be nullified and the President, or Acting President, shall hold a new vote.

ARTICLE 5 - COMMITTEES

5.1 ESTABLISHMENT

- (a) The Executive Board may convene committees in order to support the purposes of RHA.
- (b) Committees shall be further detailed in the Bylaws.

5.2 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Committees may be composed of Executive Directors and General Body members, as well as Non-Elected members.
- (b) The composition of committees, including the number of members, positions, and division of labor, shall be defined in the Bylaws.

5.3 NON-ELECTED POSITIONS

- (a) Non-Elected Positions, which may be held by individuals who were never General Body members or are former General Body members, may be defined in the Bylaws.
- (b) Non-Elected Position-holders are not General Body members and have no voting rights outside of the committees on which they sit.
- (c) Non-Elected Position-holders may not hold Additional General Body, Assistant Director, or Executive Director positions without first being elected or appointed to a Hall Council. This restriction may be waived on a case-by-case basis with a majority vote of the Executive Board.
- (a) The qualifications and process for appointments and removals of Non-Elected Position-holders shall be detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE 6 - BUDGET

6.1 FUNDING

- (a) The Director of Finance shall prepare a tentative budget during the summer following formal transition.
- (b) The Director of Finance shall propose a budget to be approved by both the General Body and the Executive Board at the first official meeting of each body after the start of the fiscal year. If the tentative budget is not approved by the General Body and/or the Executive Board, the Director of Finance shall ask the General Body and/or Executive Board for recommendations and will propose a new budget. The Director of Finance will continue to do so until both bodies approve a budget.
- (c) The Director of Finance may make changes to the approved budget with a simple majority of the Executive Directors. The General Body shall be notified at the first

official meeting after the change has been approved by the Executive Directors, but holds the power to veto this with a three-fourths majority vote

6.2 CO-SPONSORSHIPS

- (a) RHA is a university-chartered organization that is able to allocate co-sponsorships to other student organization events and initiatives.
- (b) The Director of Finance shall make all decisions regarding financial co-sponsorships and may establish policies and procedures to that end. The Executive Board shall approve all co-sponsorships.

ARTICLE 7 - AFFILIATION

7.1 MEMBERSHIP

- (a) RHA is a university-chartered student organization at The George Washington University, which entitles it to direct funding from The George Washington University.
- (b) RHA is affiliated regionally with the Central Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (CAACURH) and nationally with the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH).

ARTICLE 8 - INTERPRETATION

8.1 PROCEDURE

(a) If any questions concerning the interpretation of this Constitution arise, the Executive Board will interpret the passage or passages in question.

ARTICLE 9 - AMENDMENT

9.1 PROCEDURE

- (a) Any General Body member or Executive Director may propose an amendment to this Constitution. A proposed amendment shall be presented to the General Body and the Executive Board at the next meeting of each body.
- (b) After the amendment has been presented, a vote on the amendment shall be cast at the next meeting of each body. An amendment to this Constitution requires the approval of the Executive Directors and two-thirds of the General Body members present.

(c) If the amendment is approved, the updated constitution and bylaws must be provided to all members of the organization within one week of the change that has been made.

9.2 REQUIREMENTS

(a) The Executive Board shall review this Constitution during their tenure.

ARTICLE 10 - BYLAWS

10.1 PROCEDURE

- (a) The Executive Board shall have the power to create bylaws necessary to fulfill the provisions of this Constitution and the mission of the Residence Hall Association.
- (b) Bylaws may be created, modified, or reversed by a majority of the Executive Board, and these changes must be presented to the General Body at its next meeting. A bylaw change may be reversed by a majority vote of the General Body by the end of the General Body meeting following the change's presentation.
- (c) The Bylaws must be established in accordance with this Constitution and as such, bear the authority of this Constitution and necessitate the compliance of The George Washington University Residence Hall Association.

Bylaws

LEVEL 100 - COMMITTEES

101 - PURPOSE

- (a) Committees shall focus on one or more advocacy issue areas in accordance with the mission of the RHA.
 - (i) Committees may also advance the overall mission and goals of RHA as specified in their respective Committee Charter, which is subject to approval by the Executive Vice President.
- (b) Advocacy issues addressed to the General Body shall be referred to a Committee of relevant jurisdiction as determined by the Executive Vice President. In the case that an advocacy issue addressed to the General Body falls outside the jurisdiction of all Committees, the Executive Vice President may recommend that the Executive Board establish an additional Committee, or the Executive Vice President may ask that the General Body acts as a Committee and considers the issue as a whole.
- (c) After an advocacy issue has been referred to a Committee, the Committee shall develop an advocacy initiative aimed at addressing the issue.

102 - MEMBERSHIP

- (a) Committees shall be composed primarily of members of the General Body and shall be overseen by a member of the Executive Board. The overseeing Executive Board member may institute themselves as the Chair or Vice Chair of the committee, or choose to undergo an election process to institute General Body members of the committee as Chair and/or Vice Chair.
- (b) Chairs and Vice Chairs may be General Body members voted into office by a plurality of their respective Committee. The election shall be scheduled and facilitated by the Executive Vice President. Each shall serve until the end of their term as a member of the General Body or until they resign or are removed from the Committee by a majority vote of their respective Committee. In the event that a Chair or Vice Chair is removed from the Committee, a new election shall immediately be held.
- (c) The Chair shall preside over meetings of the Committee, set meeting schedules and agendas, and represent the Committee's efforts and proposed initiatives to the General Body and President.
- (d) The Vice Chair shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the Chair in the absence of the Chair.

(e) The Executive Vice President, using an application process, may invite on-campus residents who are not General Body members to serve on RHA's Committees. These additional members do not share the privileges of General Body members, and do not have a vote in matters brought before the General Body. The membership of each Committee must consist, at a minimum, of a simple majority of General Body members.

103 - PROCEDURE

- (a) The overseeing Executive Board member must regularly update the Executive Board on the activity and proposed initiatives of the Committee in accordance with their respective Committee Charter. The Committee Charter must be created the summer before the academic year.
- (b) In accordance with the Constitution, the President shall implement approved advocacy initiatives.
- (c) The first meeting of first semester committees shall take place no later than one month after Kickoff. The first meeting of second semester committees shall take place no later than two weeks after Winter Summit. Following their first meeting, committees must meet at least once a month.

104 - STANDING COMMITTEES

- (a) If circumstances prevent Hall Councils from functioning at a residential community level, standing committees will be used to comprise a general body. If these circumstances are not present, disregard Standing Committees and refer back to Bylaw 101 subsection (b).
- (b) The Executive Board may modify this list of Committees at their discretion, pending a majority vote, as long as a minimum of three committees are maintained at all times during circumstances that prevent the conventional formation of Hall Councils.
- (c) The Advocacy Committee, of which the Executive Vice President will be the Chair, will develop advocacy initiatives relating, but not limited, to: housing programs and services, laundry, vending, FixIt, campus development, residential health and safety, campus dining, sustainability, mental health resources and awareness, and education on healthy relationships. In normal circumstances when a General Body composed of Hall Councils exists, Hall Council Presidents are encouraged to serve on this Committee.
- (d) The Programming Committee, of which the Director of Programming will be the Chair and the Assistant Director of Programming will be the Vice Chair, will plan and

- carry out large events sponsored by RHA. Additionally, the Committee will work to plan unique and engaging events virtually and in the halls that its members represent. In normal circumstances when a General Body composed of Hall Councils exists, all Hall Council Programming Chairs are encouraged to serve on this Committee.
- (e) The Finance Committee, of which the Director of Finance will be the Chair and the Assistant Director of Finance will be the Vice Chair, will work together to create a more equitable budget approval process for Hall Councils, Leadership, the Executive Board, and the co-sponsorship program.
- (f) The Bidding Committee, of which the Director of National Affairs will be the Chair and the Assistant Director of National Affairs will be the Vice Chair, will take on the responsibility to recognize residential student leaders, organizations, and initiatives through submitting award bids at the regional and national level. This Committee may also choose to implement regional and national initiative(s) set forth by CAACURH and NACURH with the help of Executive Board members whose responsibilities align with the initiative(s).

LEVEL 200 - HALL COUNCILS

201 - PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

- (a) Each Hall Council shall build community in its residence hall by creating recreational and service-based programs and advocating on behalf of residents to the Executive Board and to Campus Living and Residential Education Staff.
- (b) The residential communities shall be defined as follows: 1959 E Street, 2109 F Street, Clark Hall, Cole Hall, The Dakota, District House, Francis Scott Key (FSK) Hall, Fulbright Hall, JJ, Guthridge Hall, Hensley Hall, International House, Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis (JBKO) Hall, Lafayette Hall, Madison Hall, Mark Shenkman Hall, Merriweather Hall, Mitchell Hall, Munson Hall, Philip Amsterdam Hall, Potomac House, Somers Hall, South Hall, Strong Hall, Thurston Hall, and West Hall.

202 - RESPONSIBILITIES

(a) Hall Councils shall create and implement programs and advocacy initiatives in their respective residence halls. The terms "programming" and "programs" describe recreational and service-based events which are primarily attended by the residents of a certain residence hall or group of residence halls. The terms "advocacy" and "advocacy initiatives" describe initiatives intended to improve the living conditions of the residents of a certain residence hall or group of residence halls. The Executive

- Board may determine specific requirements for the types and amounts of programs and advocacy initiatives.
- (b) Hall Councils shall maintain regular communication with their assigned Hall Council Advisor, including by meeting with them at least twice per month. The Executive Board may determine additional requirements for the type and amount of communication between Hall Council members and Hall Council Advisors.
- (c) Hall Councils are required to convene for meetings at minimum twice a month. However, only one meeting is required in September and December. No meetings are required in May. They shall report their intended Hall Council Meeting date and time to the Director of Hall Development within the first five days of each month. They shall report attendance and minutes of all Hall Council meetings to the Director of Hall Development.

203 - DIVISION OF LABOR

- (a) Each Hall Council shall consist of the following officers: President, Communications Chair, Programming Chair, and Finance Chair. The positional composition of individual Hall Councils may be altered on a case-by-case basis with the majority approval of the affected Hall Council(s) followed by the Executive Directors.
- (b) The President shall serve as the primary representative of the Hall Council to residents, other RHA members, and professional staff; supervise the preparation and completion of Hall Council initiatives and goals; coordinate Hall Council advocacy initiatives; and preside over Hall Council meetings; and record and maintain Hall Council meeting minutes. The President may assign other duties to Hall Council members as appropriate, particularly in the case of a Hall Council vacancy.
- (c) The Communications Chair shall create promotional items for Hall Council programs and advocacy initiatives; and promote Hall Council programs and advocacy initiatives to residents by sending emails and maintaining a social media and/or online presence on behalf of the Hall Council. The Communications Chair shall assume the powers and responsibilities of the President in the absence of the President. The Communications Chair shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- (d) The Programming Chair shall coordinate Hall Council programs; work with other Hall Council members to implement programs for residents; and work with the President, other Programming Chairs, and University staff to coordinate multi-hall programs. The Programming Chair shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.
- (e) The Finance Chair shall secure funding for Hall Council programs and advocacy initiatives via the process dictated by the Director of Finance; coordinate with the

Director of Operations to acquire RHA-owned supplies; and advise the Director of Finance on budgetary concerns. The Finance Chair shall perform other duties as assigned by the President.

204 - ELECTIONS COMMITTEE

- (a) The Hall Council Elections Committee is responsible for the implementation and enforcement of provisions related to Hall Council Elections in the Constitution and Bylaws.
- (b) The Elections Committee shall consist of the Director of Operations, the Assistant Director of Operations, the Director of Hall Development or the Assistant Director of Hall Development, the Director of Communications or the Assistant Director of Communications, and any other interested Executive Board members. The Director of Operations shall chair the Committee.
- (c) The Elections Committee shall review all complaints and violations of election procedure. The Committee may take action against those who are found to be in direct violation of written election procedure up to and including disqualification of the candidate. Prior to the candidate registration period, the Committee shall create guidelines to inform disciplinary actions in response to various violations of election procedure. These guidelines need not be exhaustive, but should lay out a list of general types of infractions and general types of disciplinary actions. These guidelines shall be published in the Election Guide, and the Committee shall make reasonable efforts to apply them evenly and fairly.
- (d) Complaints may be adjudicated by the Director of Operations, or, at the request of the Director of Operations, by a three-member panel composed of Elections Committee members. Complaints must be adjudicated, with all parties notified of the result, no more than thirty-six hours after they are received.
- (e) A candidate may submit a written appeal to the entire Executive Board within twenty-four hours of their disqualification. The Executive Board may reinstate the candidate in the race by a two thirds vote of the Executive Directors.

205 - ELECTIONS PROCEDURE

(a) Any resident of a residential community who is in Good Standing with the University may run for that residential community's Hall Council. A resident may only register to run for one position, and there may be no more than one winning candidate per position. The Executive Board may, by a majority vote, restrict former RHA members from running for a Hall Council on the basis of a previous removal or inactivity as defined in the Bylaws.

- (b) Hall Council elections shall occur each year during the first thirty days of the fall semester, except in extenuating circumstances. Voting must be open for no less than 24 hours and no more than 72 hours. Election results shall be emailed to residents no more than three business days following the close of voting.
- (c) A candidate registration form shall be sent to all residents no later than the second week of the fall semester. Candidates must submit a candidacy statement and may submit a poster, both of which must be approved by the Elections Committee and follow all applicable University policies.
- (d) Candidates shall be given access to a list of candidates in their race at least 24 hours following the closing of the candidate registration form. No later than two business days before voting commences, candidates may switch from a contested race to an uncontested race. Candidates who switch races must submit an updated candidacy statement. Any change in the candidates for a Hall Council race shall be made public on the candidate list within one business day of the change and shall be reflected on the ballot.
- (e) Sessions including information about Hall Council positions, the application process, election procedures, and RHA's mission shall be held during the candidate application period. A candidate meeting shall be held within 24 hours of the closing of the candidate registration form in order to review election rules and procedures.
- (f) Election rules shall be published in an Election Guide prior to the opening of the candidate registration form. The Election Guide shall include the procedures and guidelines for campaigning and voting, as well as a clear process for candidates and community members to report potential violations of election procedure. Registered candidates must be informed of any updates to the Election Guide made after the opening of the candidate registration form and may not be held retroactively accountable for rule violations.

206 - ELECTIONS CAMPAIGNING

- (a) All campaign materials, both digital and physical, must follow the following guidelines:
 - (i) Relevant University, Division for Student Affairs, and RHA policies must be followed.
 - (ii) No material may display the RHA logo unless it was approved by RHA.
 - (iii) No negative statements may be made about other candidates.
 - (iv) The use of the name and/or image of another candidate must be approved by said candidate in writing.

- (v) Claims of endorsement must be approved by the endorsing organization in writing.
- (b) A registered candidate is entitled to one official campaign poster. The official campaign poster is the only physical material that is allowed to be posted in common areas around campus and must be approved by the Director of Communications. The Elections Committee shall determine the maximum number of official campaign posters a candidate is allowed to post based on the size of their residence hall. In addition to the section (a) guidelines for campaign materials, the official campaign poster must include the RHA logo, the name of the candidate as it will appear on the ballot, and the Hall Council and position for which the candidate is running. Official campaign posters must:
 - (i) Only be posted in labeled residential Community Boards and RHA-created poster parking zones of the relevant residence hall.
 - (ii) Not be placed under the doors of residential rooms.
 - (iii) Only be posted on the doors of residential rooms with the permission of that room's occupant(s).
 - (iv) Not cover other posters or signs.
 - (v) Not be posted on official Campus Living and Residential Education displays.
 - (vi) Be posted using tape approved by the Elections Committee.
- (c) Other posters and materials which follow the general guidelines for campaign materials may be posted on the exterior door of a candidate's room and on social media. These materials need not be approved by the Director of Communications but may not include the RHA logo and must be removed at the request of the Elections Committee.
- (d) A candidate may not engage in the following campaign activities:
 - (i) Covering of posters or signs already on the wall.
 - (ii) Tabling, as defined by the Elections Committee, in their residence hall or elsewhere.
 - (iii) Offering rewards such as food or money for voting for a certain candidate.
 - (iv) Coercion or pressuring a voter into voting for a certain candidate.
 - (v) Attempting to influence the vote of any resident who is in the process of filling out their ballot.
- (e) Multicandidate events such as debates or Q&A sessions must follow the following guidelines:
 - (i) The Elections Committee must be informed of the time, location, and format of the event at least 24 hours in advance.

- (ii) An Executive Board member or Assistant Director must be present at the event to note any potential election rule violations and end the event in the case of insults or harassment. The event may not be moderated by an Executive Board member or Assistant Director without the majority approval of the Executive Board.
- (iii) All candidates in a particular race must be invited to participate in the event. If the event organizer is unable to contact one or more candidates, they must inform the Elections Committee at least 24 hours prior to the event.
- (iv) The event may not be advertised with the RHA logo or any other indication that it is sponsored by RHA. The event organizer must read the following statement at the beginning and end of the event: "This event is not sponsored by the GW Residence Hall Association. Statements and claims made by participating candidates are their own and do not represent the official position of RHA. To get accurate information about RHA and the election process, visit GWRHA.com, email GWRHA@gwu.edu, or DM @GWRHA on Instagram. Both the candidates and audience are expected to remain civil and respectful throughout this event. An RHA representative is present to report any violations of RHA or GW policy."
- (v) Participating candidates may not knowingly spread false information about the election process or voting.
- (f) Any verifiable use of violence, threats, harassment, or intimidation by a candidate at any point during the election period will be considered grounds for disqualification.
- (g) Campaign rules apply both to candidates and agents of candidates. An agent of a candidate is any individual who knows the candidate and is working to promote their campaign. A candidate may be held accountable for an election rule violation by an agent of their campaign, even if that candidate did not request or was not aware of the violation. The Elections Committee possesses the sole authority to determine whether an individual is an agent of a candidate for election.
- (h) Write-in candidates must follow all campaigning guidelines and are not entitled to an official campaign poster. Write-in candidates who violate election rules will not be considered when counting the votes.

207 - VOTE COUNTING

- (a) Races with Two or More Candidates:
 - (i) Any race with more than one registered candidate shall be conducted using the ranked choice voting method. In these races, voters shall rank

- candidates, including write-in candidates, based on preference. Each voter may rank no more than one write-in candidate per race.
- (ii) A candidate who wins more than 50% of the votes in their race shall be deemed the winner. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the candidate with the least first place votes shall be eliminated, and the second place votes of all the voters who had ranked that candidate first shall be redistributed as first place votes. At this point, a candidate who wins more than 50% of the votes in their race shall be deemed the winner. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the process shall repeat.
- (iii) If the winner rejects the position, the losing candidate with the next most first place votes (after the latest round of redistribution) shall be offered the position. This process shall repeat until a candidate accepts or until only write-in candidates are left. If, after rejections, there are only write-in candidates left, the race shall be treated as if there were no registered candidates and the counting process from section (c) shall be followed.

(b) Races with One Candidate:

- (i) Any race with only one registered candidate shall be conducted using the plurality method. In these races, voters shall choose between the registered candidate and a write-it candidate. Each voter may vote for no more than one write-in candidate per race.
- (ii) The candidate who wins the most votes shall be deemed the winner.
- (iii) If the winner rejects the position and is a registered candidate, the race shall be treated as if there were no registered candidates and the counting process from section (c) shall be followed. If the winner is a write-in candidate and rejects their position, the position shall be offered to the losing candidate with the second most votes. If that candidate rejects the position, the race shall be treated as if there were no registered candidates and the counting process from section (c) shall be followed.

(c) Races with No Candidates:

- (i) Any race with no registered candidates shall be conducted as write-in only. In these races, voters may write in a single candidate.
- (ii) Whether or not any candidates are written in, the candidate who meets the following criteria shall be deemed the winner:
 - (1) The candidate registered and ran for another race for the same hall council and expressed interest in the position on the candidate registration form.

- (2) The candidate lost their own race and the winning candidate accepted it.
- (3) The candidate won more than three times the number of first place votes, after redistribution, as the winning write-in candidate. This criterion does not apply if no candidates were written in.
- (iii) Candidates from other races shall be offered the position with precedence based on first place vote count after redistribution within their own races.
- (iv) Only if there are no candidates who meet these criteria should the position be offered to the write-in candidate with the most votes.
- (d) Following the close of voting, winning candidates shall be provided no less than 24 hours to accept or reject their Hall Council position. Following a candidate's acceptance, all other candidates in that race shall be notified of their loss. Losing candidates who are eligible for vacant positions in other races should not be offered those positions until the winner of their race has accepted the position.
- (e) In the case of a tie between registered candidates, each candidate shall be notified of the tie and be given the opportunity to participate in the runoff or reject the position. If neither candidate rejects the position, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates with the most votes within three days following the announcement of results. Campaigning procedures during this period will be determined by the Elections Committee. In the case of a tie between a registered and write-in candidate, the registered candidate shall be given first right of refusal.

208 - APPOINTMENT AND VACANCY

- (a) An official vacancy notification shall be sent by the Director of Hall Development to all members of a Hall Council within two business days of a member's Official Vacation Date. Following the vacancy notification, a Hall Council is entitled at least fourteen days to fill a vacant position.
- (b) If any of the Hall Council Chair positions become vacant, the Hall Council President shall redistribute the responsibilities of the vacant position until a new member is appointed or elected. If the Hall Council President position becomes vacant, the Communications Chair shall automatically become acting President. The Communications Chair may then choose to become the permanent President or to appoint another Hall Council member to become the permanent President. If no Hall Council member wishes to be the permanent President, the Communications Chair shall remain the acting President until a permanent President is appointed or elected.

- (c) To make an appointment, a Hall Council member must nominate an individual, and the Hall Council must approve the nominee by majority vote. Following the approval of a nominee, the Hall Council President must promptly notify the Director of Hall Development.
- (d) If no replacement is appointed to fill a vacancy after the fourteen day period, the Director of Hall Development may conduct a new Hall Council election, appoint a new member via application process and Executive Board majority approval, or allow the Hall Council more time to make an appointment. If all positions in a Hall Council are vacant, the fourteen day period may be bypassed.
- (e) If an elected Hall Council member resigns less than one month after their Official Commission Date, the second place registered candidate in their race shall be offered the position. If the second place candidate rejects the position or there was no registered candidate in that race, the Hall Council shall appoint someone to the position.

LEVEL 300 - ASSISTANT DIRECTORS

301 - PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

- (a) Each Assistant Director shall support the mission and work of RHA, Hall Councils, Committees, and Executive Directors.
- (b) The primary focus of an Assistant Director shall be supporting their respective Director.
- (c) With the permission of their respective Director, an Assistant Director may participate in committees, programs, and advocacy initiatives outside of their primary focus area.

302 - RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Responsibilities for Assistant Directors shall be defined by their respective Executive Director. An Assistant Director may be delegated responsibilities granted to their Executive Director in the Constitution or Bylaws.
- (b) In addition to General Body member requirements, Assistant Directors are subject to the same attendance requirements as Executive Board members for Executive Board meetings, retreats, and Hall Council Meetings.

303 - QUALIFICATIONS

(a) An Assistant Director must have served in an RHA position at some point prior to their appointment.

(b) An Assistant Director must live on campus. Exceptions to the residency requirement may be granted at the discretion of the current Executive Board.

304 - APPOINTMENT AND VACANCY

- (a) An Assistant Director shall be appointed by the relevant Executive Director with the majority approval of the Executive Directors. The President shall determine the application process for Assistant Directors. An Assistant Director may be appointed at any time.
- (b) An Assistant Director may be transferred to another RHA position by their respective Executive Director with the majority approval of the Executive Directors. An Assistant Director may be transferred to another Assistant Director position or to an Additional General Body Position. An Assistant Director may be transferred at any time.

LEVEL 400 - ADDITIONAL GENERAL BODY POSITIONS

401 - PURPOSE AND JURISDICTION

- (a) Each Additional General Body Position-holder shall support the mission and work of RHA as well as the specific focus area defined in their respective Bylaw.
- (b) Additional General Body Positions may exist to expand the organizational capacity of RHA. This shall be a guiding principle when creating new Additional General Body Positions and defining the work of current positions.

402 - RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Responsibilities for Additional General Body Position-holders are defined in their respective Bylaws.
- (b) Additional General Body Position-holders are subject to the same meeting requirements as other General Body members, unless otherwise noted in the Bylaws.

403 - COMMITTEE CORPS

- (a) The Committee Corps is an Additional General Body Position. Each Committee Corps member shall support the mission and work of the committee(s) on which they sit.
- (b) A Committee Corps may not concurrently serve in a Hall Council, Assistant Director, or Executive Director position. A Committee Corps member may hold other

- Additional General Body Positions with the majority approval of the Executive Directors.
- (c) The President and Executive Vice President shall oversee the application process for the Committee Corps. They shall determine specific attendance requirements that members must have met in their previous position in order to be accepted to the Committee Corps. Members must be placed into at least one committee when they are accepted to the Committee Corps. Committee Corps members may serve for multiple academic years provided they reapply for the position and are accepted.
- (d) Committee Corps members must serve on at least one RHA committee at any given time. Once accepted to the Committee Corps, members may apply to additional committees or apply to transfer between committees. The President and Executive Vice President may determine limits on the number of committees a Committee Corps member may serve on.
- (e) Committee Corps members are subject to committee meeting requirements as determined by the President, Executive Vice President, and Chair of the committee(s) on which they sit.

404 - OPERATIONS COORDINATORS

- (a) An Operations Coordinator is an Additional General Body Position. Each Operations Coordinator shall support the mission and work of the Director of Operations. The Director of Operations may designate Foggy Bottom ("Foggy") and Mount Vernon ("Vern") Campus Operations Coordinators.
- (b) An Operations Coordinator may not concurrently serve as an Assistant Director or Executive Director. However, an Operations Coordinator may hold a Hall Council position or other Additional General Body Positions. An Operations Coordinator must live on campus.
- (c) The Director of Operations shall oversee the application process for the Operations Coordinator position. They shall determine specific attendance requirements that members must have met in their previous position in order to be accepted to the Operations Coordinator position. The Director of Operations may appoint no more than three Operations Coordinators per campus at any given time. Operations Coordinators may serve for more than one academic year, under the condition that they reapply and are chosen by the incoming Director of Operations and Assistant Director of Operations.
- (d) The Director of Operations may dismiss an Operations Coordinator at any time for any reason. If an Operations Coordinator holds no other RHA position, they must be transferred to another RHA position or removed.

- (e) Operations Coordinators shall assist the Director of Operations and the Assistant Director of Operations in the organization, inventory, coordination, and transportation of RHA-owned supplies.
- (f) In addition to General Body member requirements, Operations Coordinators may be subject to meeting requirements as determined by the Director of Operations. General Body meeting requirements may be altered or waived by the Director of Operations on a case-by-case basis.

LEVEL 500 - EXECUTIVE BOARD

501 - SHARED JURISDICTION

(a) In accordance with the Constitution, overlapping powers or responsibilities of Executive Board members shall be handled collaboratively. If necessary, the President may decide matters relating to such cases.

502 - RESPONSIBILITIES

- (a) Executive Board members are expected to be an active presence in the residence halls throughout the year by attending Hall Council meetings and events, supporting university staff and partners, using their GWorld card access and student email rosters responsibly, and promoting interaction within and between residential communities.
- (b) Each Executive Director and Assistant Director shall attend one Hall Council meeting, per semester, of their assigned EBuddy hall(s). Hall Council EBuddy assignments shall be determined by the Director of Hall Development. Each Executive Board member shall notify its assigned Hall Council(s) that they will be attending the Hall Council meeting with proper timing.
- (c) Executive Board members must abide by the same attendance rules as the General Body. An excused absence request must be submitted to the President at least 24 hours prior to a mandatory event. Absences may be excused for any of the following reasons: religious holiday; work; class; illness; travel plans; and emergency. The Director of Hall Development may request documentation of the reason for the excused absence. The Executive Board reserves the right to make the final decision on an excusal.
- (d) It is encouraged for more specific expectations to be discussed following the transition period.

503 - ELECTIONS

- (a) Executive Board Elections shall be held following March 1st but no later than April 1st.
- (b) Races with Three or More Candidates:
 - (i) Any race with more than two candidates shall be conducted using the ranked choice voting method. In these races, voters shall rank candidates based on preference. Voters may choose to abstain from these races, but there shall not be an "abstain" option, and abstentions shall not be considered when determining a majority.
 - (ii) A candidate who wins more than 50% of the votes in their race shall be deemed the winner. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the candidate with the least first place votes shall be eliminated, and the second place votes of all the voters who had ranked that candidate first shall be redistributed as first place votes. At this point, a candidate who wins more than 50% of the votes in their race shall be deemed the winner. If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, the process shall repeat.
 - (iii) If the winner rejects the position, the losing candidate with the next most first place votes (after the latest round of redistribution) shall be offered the position.
- (c) Races with Two Candidates:
 - (i) Any race with only two candidates shall be conducted using the plurality method. In these races, voters shall choose between the two candidates as well as an "abstain" option.
 - (ii) The candidate who wins the most votes shall be deemed the winner. If the abstentions win a plurality, the race shall be treated as if there were no candidates, and the process from section (e) shall be followed.
 - (iii) If the winner rejects the position, the losing candidate shall be offered the position.
- (d) Races with One Candidate:
 - (i) Any race with only one candidate shall be conducted using the majority method. In these races, voters shall choose between the single candidate and an "abstain" option.
 - (ii) If the single candidate wins more than 50% of the vote, they shall be deemed the winner. If the abstentions win a majority or the winner rejects the position, the race shall be treated as if there were no candidates, and the process from section (e) shall be followed.

- (e) Races with No Candidates:
 - (i) Any race with no candidates shall be postponed until the following General Body meeting in which there is a quorum.
 - (ii) If a position remains open following the final General Body meeting of the academic year, that position shall not be filled until a midterm election at the end of the fall semester.
- (f) Following the close of voting, winning candidates shall be provided no less than 24 hours to accept or reject their Executive Board position. Following a candidate's acceptance, all other candidates in that race shall be notified of their loss.
- (g) In the case of a tie between registered candidates, each candidate shall be notified of the tie and be given the opportunity to participate in the runoff or reject the position. If neither candidate rejects the position, a runoff election shall be held between the two candidates with the most votes the following General Body meeting in which there is quorum.

504 - TRANSITION PERIOD

- (a) The transition period shall begin no later than fourteen days following the Executive Board election and conclude on the last day of classes.
- (b) During the transition period, both the outgoing and incoming Executive Boards shall retain the voting rights associated with their position prior to the election.
- (c) During the transition period, the outgoing Executive Board shall retain powers and responsibilities related to current and ongoing matters, and the incoming Executive Board shall have power over decisions related to the upcoming academic year. The outgoing Executive Board may delegate powers and responsibilities to the incoming Executive Board on a case-by-case basis.
- (d) The transition period shall be used to train the incoming Executive Board for their new positions. The outgoing President may assign educational requirements such as meetings and transition guides to incoming and outgoing Executive Board members.

505 - COMPENSATION FOR PRESIDENT

(a) In accordance with University policy, the President shall receive compensation in the form of reduced housing funded by the University. The amount of compensation shall be determined by the University. The current compensation is \$3,000 per semester.

506 - PRESIDENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

(a) In accordance with Section 2.2 of the Constitution, the President shall not serve on the executive board of another student organization at The George Washington University. The RHA Advisor may waive this requirement, and the President must inform the Executive Board.

507 - PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION

- (a) If the office of President becomes vacant and there is no Executive Vice President to serve as President or Acting President, then the most senior Executive Board member the Executive Director who has served on the Executive Board for the longest period of time shall become Acting President.
- (b) If two or more Executive Directors have served on the Executive Board for the same amount of time, then the Executive Director highest on this list who is eligible to serve as President shall become Acting President: Director of Hall Development; Director of Programming; Director of Finance; Director of Communications; Director of Operations; and Director of National Relations, and Director of Community Outreach.

508 - PROGRAMMING

- (a) Annual Events: In accordance with tradition, the RHA shall sponsor at least two annual events and shall sponsor any other annual events it determines advances the mission of RHA.
- (b) At least one of these events must be a multicultural celebration.
- (c) Campus-wide Programming: In accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws, decisions regarding campus-wide programming initiatives shall be made based on the RHA's level of involvement in the initiative. The four levels of programmatic involvement and the corresponding decision-making processes are as follows.
- (d) Original Campus-wide Programming: In accordance with the Bylaws, the General Body shall approve or reject campus-wide programming initiatives that originate within the RHA.
- (e) In accordance with the Constitution, approved initiatives shall be implemented by the Director of Programming.
- (f) The Inter-Hall Programming Committee shall be chaired by the Director of Programming.
- (g) Non-Financial Programming Co-Sponsorship: In accordance with Article II Section 8 and Article II Section 13 of the Constitution, the Director of Programming and Director of Community Outreach, with the approval of the President, shall approve

- or reject co-sponsorship of programming initiatives of other campus organizations that are non-financial in nature. This may include active participation in or working in partnership with another organization's program. When appropriate, the Director of Programming or Director of Community Outreach, with the approval of the President, may delegate this decision to the General Body.
- (h) Programmatic Endorsement: In accordance with Article II Section 10 and Article II Section 13 of the Constitution, the Director of Communications and Director of Community Outreach, with the approval of the President, shall approve or reject the endorsement of programming initiatives of other campus organizations by deciding how to publicize or promote those initiatives through use of the RHA logo and other means.
- (i) In the case of the Director of Programming or a Hall Council Programming Chair seeking to partner with an external (Non-GW) organization, the Executive Board must discuss and approve the external partnership and proposed programming.

509 - CONFERENCES

- (a) Delegates must be an active member of the General Body or the Executive Board.
- (b) Delegates must be in good standing with the University.
- (c) Delegates must support the Director of National Affairs in their conference initiatives.
- (d) Delegates must provide the Director of National Affairs with feedback on the conference experience, which is then communicated to the General Body.

510 - CONTACT AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

- (a) RHA members shall only use information from the roster, member email list, and residential listservs for purposes related to RHA's mission, Constitution, and Bylaws.
- (b) Executive Directors and Assistant Directors may only send mass emails for purposes directly related to their roles and shall consult with the Director of Communications to determine best practices.
- (c) The Executive Board may publicize member names, Hall Councils, positions, emails, and photos at RHA-affiliated events to RHA members, GW-community members, and RHA social media followers. The Executive Board must honor requests from members that their emails and all individual or small group photos featuring them not be publicized. The Executive Board is not required to remove photos published before a member makes the aforementioned request or photos of the member in a large group. No other personal information may be publicized without the explicit consent of members.

- (d) At the discretion of the Director of Communications, the Executive Board shall provide Hall Councils access to the listservs for their respective residential communities.
- (e) If, in the opinion of the President or the Director of Communications, any Executive Director or General Body member misuses information from the roster, member email list, or residential listservs, the Director of Communications may restrict a member, Hall Council, or committee's access to said information.

LEVEL 600 - VOTING AND REMOVAL

601 - OFFICIAL COMMISSION DATE

- (a) In the case of Hall Council elections, appointments, and internal transfers (such as a promotion to President), the Official Commission Date is the day on which the Hall Council member informs the Director of Hall Development and/or Elections Committee that they accept their position.
- (b) In the case of Executive Board appointments and internal transfers, the Official Commission Date is the day on which the Executive Director informs the highest-ranking Executive Board member that they accept their position.
- (c) In the case of Additional General Body Position appointments and internal transfers, the Official Commission Date is the day on which the Additional General Body Position-holder informs the President, Executive Vice President, or Director of Hall Development that they accept their position.

602 - OFFICIAL VACATION DATE

- (a) In the case of Hall Council resignations, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Hall Council member notifies the Director of Hall Development of their resignation. If the Director of Hall Development becomes aware of a resignation but is unable to get into contact with the resignee, the Official Vacation Date is two business days after the Director of Hall Development contacts the resignee for confirmation. In the case of Hall Council removals, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Executive Board votes to remove a Hall Council Member.
- (b) In the case of Executive Board member resignations, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Executive Board member notifies the highest-ranking Executive Board member of their resignation. If the President becomes aware of a resignation but is unable to get into contact with the resignee, the Official Vacation Date is two business days after the President contacts the resignee for confirmation. In the case

- of Assistant Director removals, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Executive Director removes the Assistant Director.
- (c) In the case of Additional General Body Position resignations, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Additional General Body Position-holder notifies the President, Executive Vice President, or Director of Hall Development of their resignation. If the Director of Hall Development becomes aware of a resignation but is unable to get into contact with the resignee, the Official Vacation Date is two business days after the Director of Hall Development contacts the resignee for confirmation. In the case of Additional General Body Position removals, the Official Vacation Date is the day on which the Executive Board votes to remove an Additional General Body Position-holder.

603 - PROXY VOTING

- (a) General Body members may appoint any RHA member, excluding those who are the subject of a particular election, as a proxy to vote on their behalf in General Body and Committee meetings. Executive Directors may appoint any Director or Assistant Director, excluding those who are the subject of a particular election, as a proxy to vote on their behalf in Executive Board meetings.
- (b) An individual may serve as a proxy for only one member per meeting.
- (c) At least 24 hours prior to a vote, an individual wishing to designate a proxy must send written notice to the President and Executive Vice President of the name of their proxy and the date of the meeting at which they will be proxying.
- (d) Members serving as proxies shall count toward the quorum once for their own position and once for the position of the member whom they are representing. Proxies shall not fulfill any attendance requirements for the members whom they are representing.
- (e) If voting is conducted by voice, hand, or any other non-digital method, the proxies shall sit in a specific section during voting, and an Executive Board member shall be assigned to record their votes. If voting is conducted digitally, the proxies shall complete two digital ballots, indicating the name of the member they are representing on the proxy ballot.
- (f) Executive Directors may vote via video conference at Executive Board meetings.

604 - EXECUTIVE BOARD VOTING PROCEDURE

(a) In accordance with the Constitution, every Executive Director is allowed one vote. For the General Body, the President shall vote only in the case of a tie. Votes shall

- take place during Executive Board meetings or via email at the discretion of the President.
- (b) Seventy-five percent of the Executive Directors shall constitute a quorum for Executive Board meetings. If seventy-five percent of the Executive Directors is not a whole number, the number shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number to determine if a quorum is present. Proxies and video conferencing count toward a quorum. No voting may take place without a quorum.
- (c) Assistant Directors shall not have voting privileges in Executive Board meetings, unless otherwise stated in the Constitution of Bylaws. Assistant Directors do not count toward the quorum at Executive Board meetings, unless they are serving as a proxy for an Executive Director.
- (d) All Executive Board legislation must be passed by a majority of the votes cast, ignoring abstentions, which means that over fifty percent of officers that are voting should vote "yes" on a given vote for it to pass.
- (e) If there is a tie between "yes" and "no" votes during an Executive Board vote that the President has not recused themselves from, the vote does not pass.

605 - INACTIVITY

- (a) A Hall Council member may be deemed inactive if they have not attended a combined total of at least three General Body and Hall Council meetings in the current semester. The Director of Hall Development shall determine if a Hall Council member is inactive on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors such as the point in the semester, involvement in committees, advocacy, and events, excused and made-up absences, re-training meetings, and other communications.
- (b) An Assistant Director may be deemed inactive if they have not attended a combined total of at least three General Body and Executive Board meetings in the current semester. The President shall determine if an Assistant Director is inactive on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors such as the point in the semester, involvement in committees, advocacy, and events, performance in their role, and other communications.
- (c) An Additional General Body Position-holder may be deemed inactive if they have not attended a combined total of at least three General Body and committee meetings in the current semester. The Director of Hall Development and/or Executive Vice President shall determine if an Additional General Body Position-holder is inactive on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration factors such as the point in the semester, involvement in their committee(s), performance in their role, excused and made-up absences, re-training meetings, and other communications.

- (d) While inactive, General Body members have no voting rights, including in Executive Board elections, impeachments, and votes on Constitution and Bylaw amendments. An inactive member must be notified and provided at least two business days to prepare an appeal to be considered during an Executive Board meeting taking place prior to the next planned General Body vote. The Executive Directors may, by a majority vote, revoke the member's inactive status and allow them to vote in the next planned General Body vote.
- (e) A General Body member may not be considered inactive for more than half a semester. After that period, impeachment proceedings must be initiated or the inactive status must be revoked.

606 - IMPEACHMENT CHARGING DOCUMENTS

- (a) The document containing impeachment charges for General Body and Executive Directors shall include the name and position of the impeached member, the date the charges are submitted, a list of the charges, and the names and positions of all signatories. The charging document may also include a one-paragraph argument in favor of the removal.
- (b) Supporting evidence, including but not limited to photos, videos, screenshots, links, first-hand accounts, and explanations, may be attached on subsequent pages of the charging document. No evidence may be included without the permission and attribution of the person who obtained it.
- (c) The Advisor may redact the name of an individual who provided evidence for the purpose of protecting their privacy on the condition that the individual affirms to the Advisor that they were truthful in their account. The names of signatories to the charges may not be redacted.

607 - IMPEACHMENT COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

- (a) Until the end of a particular impeachment proceeding, any charges, evidence, rebuttals, and additional impeachment-related materials and communications may not be shared digitally by any RHA member with another RHA or GW community member, with the exception of:
 - (i) Communication with relevant GW staff.
 - (ii) One-on-one communication from a signatory to a non-signatory for the purposes of drafting the charges and collecting evidence, prior to the submission of the charges.

- (iii) One-on-one and group communication, such as a group text or multi-recipient email, between RHA members who have already agreed to be signatories to the charges, prior to the submission of the charges.
- (iv) One-on-one and group communication between Executive Board members.
- (v) Mass emails to RHA members, public statements, and media statements sent with the permission of the President, Director of Communications, and Advisor, but excluding permission from any aforementioned Executive Board member who is being impeached or is a signatory to the charges.
- (vi) Any materials shared with the Executive Board which are believed to be evidence of improper impeachment procedure.

608 - REMOVAL JURISDICTIONAL BODIES

- (a) Hall Council members may be removed by a vote of their Hall Council followed by a vote of the Executive Directors.
- (b) Additional General Body Position-holders may be removed by a vote of the Executive Directors.

APPENDIX A - TIMELINE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Drafted: February 28, 2009 Approved: March 1, 2009 Amended: February 20, 2011 Amended: April 26, 2011 Amended: August 13, 2011 Amended: September 26, 2011 Amended: December 23, 2011 Amended: January 16, 2012

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Amended & Formatted: August 22-24,

2017

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Amended: August 20, 2020 Amended: February 5, 2021 Amended: February 19, 2021 Amended: February 6, 2022 Amended: April 10, 2023 Amended: April 17, 2023 Amended: May 3, 2023

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APPENDIX B - TIMELINE OF BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Drafted: February 28, 2009 Amended: August 24, 2017

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Amended: February 22, 2010 Amended: August 16, 2018

Amended: October 25, 2010 Amended: November 19, 2018 Amended: April 4, 2011 Amended: February 18, 2019

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