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## Mission Statement

Rice PRIDE seeks to offer support and promote education, awareness and advocacy of LGBTQ+ and Gender, Sexual orientation, and Romantic orientation Minorities (GSRM) issues. We will support these individuals by providing a mental and physical safe-space. Working in collaboration with the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) under the Office of the Provost and other departments and organizations that facilitate diversity and well-being, we will supply resources and create programming to further campus-wide understanding, harmony, and community. In order to increase the visibility and promote the intersectionality of Rice's LGBTQ+ and GSRM community, we will reach out to and involve ourselves with local, national, and international social and advocacy organizations.

## Constitution

I. The name of this organization is Rice PRIDE, and our purpose is:

- A. to provide support to those that identify with the LGBTQ+ community and/or any Gender, Sexual, and/or Romantic minority;
- B. to promote education, awareness, and advocacy of LGBTQ+ issues and issues that affect any Gender, Sexual, and/or Romantic minority;
- C. to provide a mental and physical safe-space for those that identify with the LGBTQ+ and/or GSRM community;
- D. to increase visibility and promote the intersectionality of the Rice LGBTQ+ and GSRM community;
- E. to reach out to and involve ourselves in local, national, and international social and advocacy organizations; and
- F. to fulfill Rice University's educational goals, community values, and non-discrimination policy.

II. Rice PRIDE shall be organized as follows:

- A. Executive Board -- with the exception of the Faculty Advisor position, all voting Board members must be current Rice undergraduate students. The Executive Board shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its regular meetings and perform any other duties listed in this

constitution. The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of this organization, and none of its acts or omissions shall conflict with action taken by this organization. Accordingly, the Executive Board shall be authorized to spend this organization's funds.

B. Regular members -- all current Rice undergraduate students are eligible. Regular members are eligible to attend General Body meetings and other Rice PRIDE events. They may also host Office Hours at the Queer Resource Center upon training and approval from the Queer Resource Center Coordinators.

C. Honorary members -- all other persons affiliated with Rice University that are interested in joining the organization (i.e. graduate students, faculty, staff, alumni, or community members) are eligible. Honorary members may attend Rice PRIDE events upon approval of the Executive Board.

III. The Executive Board will conduct itself as follows:

- A. Each Executive Board member must
1. complete specific responsibilities outlined for their position;
  2. represent Rice PRIDE in a professional manner;
  3. attend all regularly scheduled Board meetings;

4. suggest amendments to the Rice PRIDE Constitution as needed (a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the voting Board is necessary to finalize an amendment).

B. Voting members are delineated below and responsible for the following:

1. The President(s) will call, oversee, and facilitate all meetings and activities and will ensure that Rice PRIDE abides by rules and regulations set forth by the Student Association of Rice University. They will represent Rice PRIDE unless another delegated facilitator has been selected.
2. The Treasurer oversees and manages the funding that Rice PRIDE is given, records all purchases, and aids any committees aimed at fundraising, and secures additional funds for the use of Rice PRIDE.
3. The Secretary upkeeps the listserv with current events and topics associated with Rice PRIDE, ensures that members of Rice PRIDE are up-to-date on current events of the organization, and records the minutes of Executive Board meetings.

4. The General Leads will oversee events, projects, and plans developed and executed for and through Rice PRIDE and will request funds to execute these projects, if necessary.

a) Advocacy Projects will (1) advocate for LGBTQ+ and GSRM issues, (2) provide all members of Rice PRIDE opportunities to advocate for LGBTQ+ and GSRM issues, and (3) provide awareness of LGBTQ+ and GSRM issues through education and planned events.

b) Social Projects will (1) provide members of Rice PRIDE opportunities to develop and consolidate their sense of community at Rice University and (2) provide members of Rice PRIDE opportunities to engage in entertainment.

5. The Queer Resource Center Coordinator(s) will oversee, manage, and maintain the Queer Resource Center; provide members of Rice PRIDE a safe space, both physically and mentally; and maintain a functioning system of Office Hours, Office Hours sign-ups, and Office Hours training.

6. The New Student Representative (NSR) will act as a General Lead and as a liaison between the E-Board and the

freshman class.

C. Non-voting members have the same responsibilities as the at-large faculty or staff, with the additional goal of bringing their unique wellness or multicultural perspective and disseminating information to their respective organizations:

1. Member of the Wellness Center Team

2. Director of the DEI

3. Staff Sponsor

IV. The Executive Board members will be selected as follows: A. In the last two weeks of March, all current members of the Executive Board not graduating that academic year will be eligible to run to be one of the two co-presidents of Rice PRIDE in the following year, unless a case is brought and succeeds against said members demonstrating their inability to uphold the conduct expected.

1. If fewer than two eligible Executive Board members intend to run for the co-presidency, then any current members of the Executive Board intending to run for the co-presidency will automatically be declared co-president, while all Rice PRIDE members not graduating that academic year (against whom no successful cases have been brought demonstrating their

inability to uphold the conduct expected) will be eligible to run for the remaining co-presidency or co-presidencies. They will be informed of this through official avenues and given three or more days to declare their intent to run to the Rice PRIDE Executive Board.

2. If exactly two eligible Executive Board members intend to run for the co-presidency, then they will automatically be declared elected to the co-presidencies and no election will be held.
3. If fewer than two eligible Executive Board members run and all Rice PRIDE members are invited to run, but exactly two individuals, between eligible Executive and eligible non-Executive members, intend to run, then those two individuals will automatically be declared elected to the co-presidencies and no election will be held.
4. If, at the conclusion of this process, whether or not Rice PRIDE general members have been invited to run due to fewer than two interested Executive Board members, the number of eligible candidates exceeds the number of co-presidencies to which nobody has been automatically

elected, then an election will take place to determine which eligible candidate(s) will ll the open co-presidency or co-presidencies.

5. Elections to the open co-presidency/co-presidencies will be held in early April or late March, via online polling system. Elections will have denitively advertised start and end dates. Candidates will make one-page blurbs available to voters, which will be sent out with the ballots. Candidate expenditures of any non-negligible (>\$0.50) funds in the pursuit of campaigning will be forbidden. Candidates will be forbidden from using PRIDE channels to campaign (i.e., posting campaign information in the GroupMe, using Rice Pride listserv member lists to improve voter targeting, etc.) Posters also may not be hung in the QRC for election-related purposes. All Rice PRIDE members, save for honorary members, will be eligible to vote. When both co-presidencies are up for election, the top two candidates will be selected by ranked-choice voting; when one co-presidency is up for election, the top candidate will be selected by ranked-choice voting. All votes cast will be anonymous. B. In the

rst week of April or the last two weeks of March each year, members of the Rice PRIDE membership will be invited to apply for the Executive Board. The Rice PRIDE Executive Board will then vote on the people running for the positions, with the number selected among the applicants up to the discretion of the Executive Board. These selected applicants will then become members of the Executive Board. The Rice PRIDE Executive Board will subsequently internally delegate the roles of Secretary, Treasurer, and QRC Co-Coordinator(s). Current Rice PRIDE Executive Board members will be invited to stay on for another year without being obligated to apply and undergo re-selection, unless a motion is brought against them as per Section IV-E; this is mandatory. At the conclusion of this selection process, all incoming or returning members of the Executive Board not given the position of Treasurer, Secretary, or QRC Co-Coordinator, or elected to a co-presidency, will be given the position of General Lead for the next year.

C. An Executive Board member's term of office is one year, from changeover to changeover. Changeover must occur at least one week after the election, if applicable, and always at least one week after the nalization of application submissions for

Executive Board membership. However, changeover must occur prior to the end of the school year, and outside of extenuating circumstances should generally occur in April. A person may serve on the Board for as many years as they are considered an undergraduate at Rice University.

D. In the event that an Executive Board member cannot fulfill their entire term, refer to normal election procedures (Section IV-A) in order to fill that position.

E. Any Board member can begin a movement to impeach another Board member who is not effectively fulfilling their responsibilities as delineated by the Rice PRIDE Constitution or has otherwise violated the code of conduct expected of them. After the necessary  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of Board votes is secured to finalize the impeachment, refer to normal election procedures (Section IV-A) to fill the vacated position.

1. Any Board member that has a movement of impeachment against them must meet with the Faculty Advisor upon movement, during the process, and after the finalization of the results of the movement.

F. At the start (August) of each academic year, the Rice PRIDE Executive Board will send out applications to all students who matriculated that academic year for the New Student Representative position. The application will be open for a specific amount of time advertised clearly by the Executive Board. The Executive Board must meet to discuss applications after that time period passes, and the New Student Representative must be agreed upon by a majority of the Executive Board (as outlined in Section V-B). In the event that the Executive Board agrees upon two or more candidates, then a ranked choice election will be held among the Executive Board to determine the New Student Representative.

V. The Executive Board will proceed as follows:

- A. Each semester, the Board will hold a minimum of four meetings.
- B. All decisions will be voted on by the voting members of the Executive Board. In order to make a decision, a majority (>50%) of the Board's voting members must be present. In order to pass a decision, a majority (>50%) of the present voting members must vote in affirmative.

VI. The Faculty Advisor is not subject to any limit on the length of their term. They are chosen by the Executive Board.

A. If a Faculty Advisor chooses to step down, this Faculty Advisor must provide a notice at least a month in advance to the acting Executive Board

VII. Nondiscrimination Policy. This organization shall not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, disability, veteran status, or any other identifying characteristics..

VIII. Anti-Hazing Policy. This organization shall not engage in any form of hazing, as dened by the Code of Student Conduct and any other applicable Rice University rules and regulations.

IX. Primacy of the Student Association. This organization shall recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Branch, the Student Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association. This organization shall be bound by the requirements of the Constitution of the Student Association and any associated rules and regulations. This constitution and any bylaws or policies adopted by this organization are subordinate to the Constitution of the Student Association. X.

Amendment Procedures are as follows:

A. To propose an amendment, any member of Rice PRIDE may suggest an amendment during a General Body Meeting. Any

member of the Executive Board may suggest an amendment during either a General Body Meeting or an Executive Board Meeting;

- B. To ensure the proposal has time to be considered, the amendment suggestion must be presented to at least one co-President at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting it will be presented at;
- C. To vote, one must be a voting member of the Executive Board; in that, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the voting Board is necessary to nalize an amendment;
- D. To amend a bylaw, only a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the voting Board is necessary to nalize an amendment; to amend the constitution, at least 60% of the voting Board must vote and of this voting population, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of this voting population is necessary to nalize an amendment;
- E. Approval requirements:
  - 1. Approval by Student Association Parliamentarian.

Amendments approved by the membership shall be submitted to the Student Association Parliamentarian.

Amendments may not take effect until they are approved by the Parliamentarian or the Student Senate in

accordance with the Constitution of the Student Association. The Date of Last Revision on the title page of this constitution shall be updated to reflect the date of approval by the Parliamentarian or Senate.