



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER  
**STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION**  
GOVERNMENT

## **Birding Club**

### **ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT**

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Birding Club (OWLS) of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its governance. Failure to follow this constitution could result in penalties or revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

### **ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT**

Our club's mission is to promote the education, observation, and appreciation of wildlife with a focus on birds and related conservation efforts. Through fun activities and community outreach, our club will provide an open and inclusive atmosphere that will allow all members of the campus community to engage.

### **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

#### **SECTION ONE - MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Eligibility - All Students' Association (SA) members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate of the College who has paid their SA activities fee. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Community Connection site. Membership is automatically renewed yearly unless the member graduates, requests to cancel their membership, or fails to meet membership requirements.
- B. Definition of active member - To maintain active membership, all members must attend a minimum of 25% of meetings each semester as well as participate in at least one club activity per semester.
- C. Definition of associate member - All University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership but not eligible to hold an officer position. Graduate students, faculty, and staff are not eligible to perform, compete, nor travel as part of a college student organization.

### **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING**

#### **SECTION ONE - QUORUM**

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as ½ of the active membership plus 2 or more officer(s).
- B. The date and time for executive board meetings shall be decided upon at the beginning of the semester. These meetings should be every other week, or more often as the group may require.

#### **SECTION TWO - VOTING**

- A. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
- B. All members shall have equal voting power.
- C. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

### **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS**

- A. President - must have served on the executive board previously, unless no one else is qualified.
- B. Vice President - must have been an active member previously, unless no one else is qualified.
- C. Business Manager - must have been an active member previously, unless no one else is qualified.
- D. Social Chair - must have been an active member previously, unless no one else is qualified.

#### **SECTION TWO - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- A. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
- B. All officers shall promote the active recruitment of new members.
- C. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
- D. All officers shall be responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.
- E. The President shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club that fulfills the purposes set forth above. The President also shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association.
- F. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.
- G. The Vice President shall also take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes.
- H. The Social Chair shall be responsible for running all of the organizations social media pages (including, but not limited to: Instagram and Facebook) as well as creating methods of advertisement for the organization's recruiting of new

members.

### **SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- A. Nomination and Elections Procedure - This organization will utilize Open Nominations to elect individuals for officer positions. Nominations will consist of at least one individual nominating another club member for an eboard position. Elections will be conducted for those nominated using online survey platforms (eg. Google Forms).
- B. Term of Office - Officer positions will each have a term of office for two semesters. Transitions to new officers will take place between each year, beginning at the end of the semester they were elected. The transition period between officeholders will take place from the day after elections are held until the end of the semester unless a different date is specified between the two individuals.
- C. Timing of Elections - Elections must be held at least 2 weeks before the last day of classes each semester. The eboard will select a date before elections are held.

### **SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS, AND REMOVALS**

- A. At the first valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in *Article V, Section Three*.
- B. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the entire active membership to pass. Any member of the organization may call for a vote of no confidence.
- C. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance.
- D. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

## **ARTICLE VI - RESOURCES**

### **SECTION ONE - RESOURCES**

- A. The Birding Club of the University of Rochester will abide by their Resource Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VII - HAZING POLICY**

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Birding Club. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

## **ARTICLE VIII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Birding Club abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.

*Ethan McKone*

*1/25/23*

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Signature of Confirmation

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Date

Ethan McKone

**President, Birding Club**



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*2/10/2023*

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Signature of Approval

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Date

Evan Ji

**Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee**