



## REFUGEE STUDENT ALLIANCE

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Refugee Student Alliance of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its government. Failure to follow this constitution could result in revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

### **Article I. Purpose of Organization/Mission Statement**

Refugee Student Alliance is a community service organization dedicated to broadening University of Rochester's outreach to local refugee communities, while contributing to the health and vitality of Rochester. Through the recruitment and training of volunteers and collaboration with other organizations, RSA provides aid to existing organizations involved with the local refugee community. The secondary mission of RSA is to promote concern and awareness in University of Rochester's student body about refugees in Rochester through our volunteer programs, fundraising and community service events on campus for the local refugee community.

### **Article II. Membership**

#### ***Section A. Membership***

1. Eligibility - All Students' Association 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 University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's Campus Club Connection site.
2. Definition of active member - Active members are those who volunteer at least three times in a semester and attend 1/3 of member meetings.
3. Definition of associate member - Associate members include University of Rochester faculty, staff, students and Eastman students who fulfill active membership requirements and those members that do not fulfill active membership requirements. An associate membership may be granted voting privileges by unanimous vote of the Executive Board.

### **Article III. Meetings and Voting**

***Section A.*** A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as a simple majority of Refugee Student Alliance's active membership, plus three officers.

#### ***Section B. Voting***

1. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.

2. All active and associate members shall have equal voting power.
3. Each member has only one vote on a given issue. Board members' votes do not carry extra weight.
4. Procedure - All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a paper vote that will be counted by the President. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

**Article IV. Officers and Qualifications**

***Section A. Officer Positions***

Board Positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Business Manager, Publicity and Program Coordinator(s)

***Section B. Duties of Officers***

1. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
2. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
3. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
4. All officers shall be responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.
5. All board members will attend general and board meetings. In addition to those duties specified by their office, they shall help the organization in a variety of ways when needed.
6. 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.
7. The Vice-President will perform the duties of the President when necessary and will work with the President to oversee the activities of the club. The Vice-President will be the primary officer responsible for reserving rooms for meetings and events.
8. The Business Manager will be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.
9. The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to review by all members of this organization, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association. Also, the Secretary shall keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes.
10. The Program Coordinator(s) shall maintain organization within the volunteering programs and communicate with participants in volunteering programs to maintain functioning programs.
11. Publicity shall maintain the social media pages and be the primary person responsible for advertising and advocating the club around campus.

***Section C. Nominations and Elections***

1. Nomination and Elections Procedure - Nominations for offices can be made by any active or associate member. Elections will be held in the following order: President; Program Coordinator(s); Business Manager; Secretary; Publicity. The election will be run by the President. A person must receive a majority of votes in order to be elected to an office. The President will only vote to break a tie.

2. Timing of Elections - Elections shall be held every year at least a month before the semester ends.
3. Term of Office - All officers shall take office at the beginning of the second meeting after getting elected. All positions are for one academic year.

***Section D. Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals***

1. At the valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in the Nominations and Elections Procedure.
2. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a 2/3 majority of the active membership to pass the motion.
3. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, it must be given an official meeting's notice. Any member of an organization can call for a vote of no confidence.
4. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

**Article V. Committees**  
Not Applicable

**Article VI. Finances**  
***Section A.*** Students' Association members shall receive priority at SA-funded events conducted by this organization.  
***Section B. Funding***  
Refugee Student Alliance shall be eligible for SA funding through the Community Service Network.

**Article VII. Classification**  
***Section A.*** Refugee Student Alliance shall be eligible for SA funding through the Community Service Network.

**Article VIII. Adoption of the Constitution**  
***Section A.*** Two-thirds of the active membership, or more if the organization decides, must approve the constitution.  
***Section B.*** This constitution will be ratified upon approval of the Senate and the signature of the Speaker.  
***Section C.*** This constitution shall not conflict with the Students' Association constitution or by-laws.

**Article IX. Amendments**  
***Section A.*** Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution.

**Article X. By-laws**  
***Section A.*** At least a 2/3 majority of the active membership must approve the by-laws and any amendments.  
***Section B.*** By-laws should not conflict with this constitution or the SA constitution or by-laws.

**Article XI. Hazing Policy**

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Refugee Student Alliance. 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 XII. Discrimination Policy**

The Refugee Student Alliance of the University of Rochester does not discriminate against any individual or organization of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran status, or political affiliation.

Eric Parviz 4/8/13  
Signature of Officer Date  
Submitting Constitution

[Signature] 4/8/13  
Signature of SA Speaker Date  
Granting Recognition