

UR Students for a Democratic Society (UR SDS)

Constitution

We, the students, of the University of Rochester hereby establish the *Students for a Democratic Society* group 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 group.

Article I. Purpose of Organization/Mission Statement:

UR SDS is an association of the student left at the University of Rochester. We aim to win a new society free of racism, sexism, heterosexism, classism, authoritarianism, war, and ecological devastation. We seek to achieve a truly participatory society, consisting of liberatory institutions in all spheres of social life. Our structure and methods will embody the spirit of our democratic vision and work towards creating a better tomorrow. UR SDS will contribute to the quality of life on campus by offering a forum for political discussion and an avenue for organized political action. UR SDS is a local chapter of Students for a Democratic Society and embraces the principles of participatory democracy shared by SDS chapters across the country.

Article II. Membership:

1. Eligibility – All Students' Association members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate 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 group's Campus Club Connection site.

2. Definition of a member- A person is considered a member of UR SDS upon attending a meeting, signing up for membership and submitting contact information. An active member is one who has attended valid UR SDS meetings in the past two weeks.

3. Definition of associate member- Associate members shall have the same voting rights and privileges as all members.

Article III. Meetings and Voting:

Section A. Meetings: A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is set at 50% of total active membership.

Section B. Voting:

1. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
2. All members shall have equal voting power.
3. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by the following sequence:
 - a) Initial discussion and deliberation of proposal, then proceed to b

- b) Call for vote: if a consensus is reached, motion passes. If a consensus is not reached, then proceed to c.
- c) Continued discussion and deliberation. Then proceed to d.
- d) Call for vote: if a 2/3 majority is reached, the motion passes. If a 2/3 majority is not reached, motion fails.

Article IV. Officers and Qualifications:

Section A. Officer Positions: Facilitator, Note-taker, Stack-taker, Vibe-keeper, Publicity Chair, Contact Person, Business Manager.

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 group.
5. The facilitator shall be in charge of guiding a meeting's discussion. This position shall rotate among group members on a weekly basis. The group shall have facilitators chosen for two meetings ahead.
6. The note-taker shall be in charge of writing down the decisions made at a meeting, announcements and reminders. Such information will be e-mailed to the group after the close of the meeting. This position shall be rotated weekly.
7. The stack-taker shall be in charge of stack for a given meeting (i.e. calling on people in the order that they raise their hands). The position shall be rotated weekly.
8. The vibe-keeper shall be in charge of keeping notice of the general vibes of the group and offers suggestions in order to keep the general vibe positive and productive. This position shall be rotated weekly.
9. The publicity chair shall head publicity activities for a particular event or campaign. This position shall be rotated on a per event basis.
10. The contact person shall be the person outside organizations or individuals can contact for information regarding anything related to UR SDS. The contact person shall also be the Virtual EMS contact. This position shall be rotated on a semesterly basis. A contact person for the next semester will be mentored by the current contact person.
11. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.

Section C. Nominations and Elections:

1. **Nomination and Elections Procedure-** The person shall nominate him/herself or be can be nominated by another. If only one person is nominated, the decision-making procedure outlined in Article III shall be followed. If more than one person is nominated, a majority vote will decide the winner.
 - A) rotating leadership – if nominated they get it, if more than one, person chosen by majority
2. **Timing of Elections** – April elections or as needed.

3. Term of Office- All positions shall be rotated as stated in Section B, except for Business Manager, which shall be an annual position, and Contact Person, which shall be a semesterly position.

Section D. Vacancies, Resignations, and Removals:

1. If a position becomes vacant, the position will be filled at the next valid meeting according to the procedure outlined in Article IV, Section C.
2. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, it must be given at least seven days notice. Any member of a group can call for a vote of no confidence.
3. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a 2/3 majority of the membership to pass the motion.
4. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

Article V. Finances:

Section A. UR SDS shall be an SA funded group

Section B. The annual budget shall be determined at a valid meeting by UR SDS members according to the decision-making procedure outlined in Article III.

Article VI. Classification:

Section A. UR SDS shall be classified as an awareness group.

Article VII. Adoption of the Constitution:

Section A. The constitution shall be adopted according to the decision-making procedure outlined in Article III.

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 VIII. Amendments:

Section A. A potential amendment needs to be announced a week ahead of the meeting that it is to be voted on. It must pass the decision-making procedure outlined in Article III at two consecutive meetings.

Article IX. Bylaws:

Section A. At least a 2/3 of the members in attendance must approve the bylaws and any amendments).

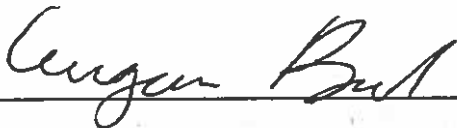
Section B. Bylaws should not conflict with this constitution or the SA constitution or bylaws.

Article X. Hazing Policy:

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or group, is not permitted by UR SDS. 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 XI. Discrimination Policy:

The UR SDS group of the University of Rochester does not discriminate against any individual or group 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.



Signature of Officer Submitting Constitution

11/17/08

Date



Signature of SA Speaker Granting Recognition

11/17/2008

Date