



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT

Students for a Democratic Society

ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) 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

The Students for a Democratic Society 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 by instilling egalitarian values throughout campus. We seek to achieve a truly participatory society, consisting of liberatory institutions in all spheres of social life. 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 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 - 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 at least thirty percent of valid UR SDS meetings that 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. Associate members shall have the same voting rights and privileges as all members.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION ONE - QUORUM

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as 1/2 of the active membership plus one officer.

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.
 - a. An anonymous vote may be specified by the presiding officer if anonymity is of concern.
 - b. A virtual vote may be specified if circumstances beyond the control of the Board (e.g. natural disaster, public health emergency, etc.) prevent an in-person vote from being held.
 - c. Given an active member's inability to be physically present at a vote, they may assign one delegate to vote in their stead.
- D. All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless three or more members contest the results of the vote.
 - a. If a vote is contested by an active member, a formal count will be taken.
- E. Any and all decisions voted upon and reached by the whole must be recorded alongside the names and vote tally, unless specified as an anonymous vote. All of these must be available to members through the shared Google Drive Folder or other resource available to members as needed.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS

- A. Officer Positions: Chair of Internal Affairs, Chair of External Affairs, Organizing Chair, Publicity Chair, Business Chair, Education Chair, and Officer of Internal Assets.

SECTION TWO - DUTIES OF OFFICERS

- A. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
- B. All officers shall promote 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. All officers shall organize and plan events together.
- F. The Chair of Internal Affairs shall be responsible for keeping up to date all members with the events the club is participating in including the general member meetings and co sponsored events. They will also be in charge of internal records (e.g. minutes, attendance, etc.), planning, and executive board meetings.
- G. The Chair of External Affairs shall be responsible for duties relating to the organization's interaction with outside groups, such as maintaining a relationship with the National SDS chapter and making/maintaining connections with off-campus organizations.
- H. The Publicity Chair shall head publicity activities for the organization's events. This person is responsible for the social media and advertisement of UR SDS on campus, as well as the production of any literature.
- I. The Education Chair shall be responsible for organizing educational events to further SDS's mission of promoting open discourse on campus and preparing educational materials.
- J. The Organizing Chair shall take on the responsibility of organizing any demonstrations or public actions, including contacting speakers, organizing logistics, and ensuring that all demonstrations are in agreement with SDS's values.
- K. The Business Chair shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and keeping detailed records of all transactions. They will also be head of the fundraising efforts made by the organization including sourcing materials. Finally the chair shall reserve the rooms for both executive and general member meetings each semester during the reservation period.
- L. The Officer of Internal Assets shall act in a specific manner to assist other officers in completing difficult tasks, helping other members in the organization when and where they are needed. They will also be responsible for casting any tie breaking

votes when needed by the organization and maintaining a copy of this constitution open to all club members, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association.

SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. Nomination and Elections Procedure - The person shall nominate themselves or be nominated by another. If only one person is nominated, the decision-making procedure outlined in Article IV shall be followed. If more than one person is nominated, a majority vote will decide the winner.
 - a. All running individuals must present a platform detailing their plans and competency for the position they are running for. Each candidate must present their platform in two minutes.
- B. Term of Office - All positions shall be rotated annually at the start of the Fall semester. Officers may run for positions they have previously held.
- C. Timing of Elections - Elections will occur at least 1 month before the last day of classes each Spring semester.

SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS AND REMOVALS

- A. A vote of no confidence is required to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of the active membership to pass. Any member of the organization may call for a vote of no confidence, but it shall not take place until a motion to remove by vote of no confidence is seconded by an executive member of the organization.
- B. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance by the proposer.
- C. An office shall be declared vacant if a vote of no confidence passes.
- D. If a position becomes vacant, there shall be a runoff election in which candidates have two weeks to announce their candidacy and present their platforms to the members. If the position becomes vacant during an academic break, then candidates will have until two weeks after the break ends to announce their candidacy and present their platforms to the members. The position will be filled in the interim by whoever gains a majority of the votes for that position, and the interim Eboard member will serve until the next election cycle.

ARTICLE VI - RESOURCES

SECTION ONE - RESOURCES

- A. The Students of a Democratic Society 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 Students for a Democratic Society. 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 Students for a Democratic Society abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.



Signature of Confirmation

Date

Somes Schwinghammer

Chair of Internal Affairs, Students for a Democratic Society



4/20/2023

Signature of Confirmation

Date

Elena Perez

Chair of External Affairs, Students for a Democratic Society



5/2/23

Signature of Approval

Date

Evan Ji

Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee