



UNIVERSITY of ROCHESTER
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GOVERNMENT

American Sign Language Club

ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT

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

ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT

Our goal is to provide a rich environment in which students can express and share their interest in American Sign Language (ASL) and Deaf culture and to create a welcoming atmosphere for the development of signing skills as well as to promote and enrich cultural awareness of the Deaf community through the collaboration of University of Rochester students and the Rochester Deaf community.

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 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 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 an active member – An SA member who attends at least 8 Silent Coffees or American Sign Language Club events per semester. The Executive Board will define club events at the beginning of each semester. An active member may retain active membership in the club while on official leave from the university (i.e. study abroad, sabbatical, etc.) provided that the member had met all active membership requirements the semester immediately preceding the member's leave.
- C. Definition of an associate member – A member of the university's faculty, staff, Eastman, or graduate student who attends at least 4 Silent Coffees or American Sign Language Club events per semester. Associate members may not vote in elections.

ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING

SECTION ONE - QUORUM

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as $\frac{1}{2}$ of the active membership plus 1 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. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS

- A. President, Vice President, Events Coordinator, Business Manager, Public Relations Officer, Secretary

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. 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 shall settle any disputes outstanding and act as the liaison between the club and the ASL Department. The president shall also make sure the club is acting in accordance with Deaf culture. A $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote of the officers, excluding the president, can override the president. The President 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 Secretary shall be responsible for all clerical work, including keeping meeting minutes, compiling attendance, online communication, membership, and maintaining the official ASL Club email. The Secretary 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 Vice President shall assist the president in all duties. In the absence of the president, the vice president will assume responsibility of all presidential duties. The Vice President shall also act as the historian and maintain the CCC. The Vice President 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.
- I. The Events Coordinator shall be the on campus club liaison and plan and coordinate all events hosted by the club.
- J. The Public Relations Officer shall act as the liaison between the club and the Rochester Deaf community, and ASL Clubs at other universities, and schools. They will facilitate bringing members of the University of Rochester off campus to become involved in the Rochester Deaf community. The Public Relations

Officer will also be responsible for connecting the club's alumni with the current club.

SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

- A. Nomination and Election Procedure – Nominations can be made by any active member, including the member who wishes to run for that position. All members running for a position must be an active member. Nominations and platforms will be sent over e-mail to the secretary. The vote will be held in a general membership meeting. Votes will be taken by casting secret ballots that will be counted by the secretary. If the secretary is running for a position, the counting of the votes will be the responsibility of the vice president. A nominee must have a majority of quorum votes to be elected. In the event of a tie, the final decision will go to the faculty advisor.
- B. Term of Office – All Executive board positions will have a term of one year.
- C. Timing of Elections – Elections will occur in April.

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*. If the position is vacated with sufficient notice, the election to fill the position shall occur at least two weeks before the position is officially vacated. If the position is vacated without sufficient notice, the other Executive Board members will collectively share the duties of the vacated position until a proper election can be held.
- 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 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. Any member of the organization can call for a vote of no confidence.
- D. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

SECTION FIVE - PROVISIONS OF ADVISOR

- A. The ASL Department will have one faculty member as the departmental advisor to the club. They will act as a liaison between the department and the club, and help maintain the club's mission.

ARTICLE VI - FINANCES

SECTION ONE - Students' Association members shall receive priority at SA-funded events conducted by this organization.

SECTION TWO - FUNDING

- A. The American Sign Language Club shall be eligible for SA funding.
- B. The American Sign Language Club shall be eligible for Supplemental Funding.

ARTICLE VII - CLASSIFICATION

SECTION ONE - the American Sign Language Club shall be classified as a cultural club.

ARTICLE VIII - ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION

SECTION ONE - Two-thirds of the entire active membership must approve the constitution.

SECTION TWO - This constitution will be ratified upon the signature of the Student Organization Administration & Review Committee and approval of the Senate.

SECTION THREE - This constitution shall not conflict with the Students' Association Constitution or Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - AMENDMENTS

Adoption and ratification of amendments to this constitution shall follow the same procedure as adoption of the entire constitution.

ARTICLE X - BYLAWS

SECTION ONE - At least a 2/3 majority of the active membership must approve the bylaws and any amendments.

SECTION TWO - Bylaws should not conflict with this constitution or the SA Constitution or Bylaws.

ARTICLE XI - HAZING POLICY

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the ~~the~~ American Sign Language 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 XIII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY

The American Sign Language Club of the University of Rochester does not discriminate against any individual or organization of individuals on the basis of age, color, disability, domestic violence status, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, genetic information, marital status, military/veteran status, national origin, race, religion/creed, sex, sexual orientation or any other status protected by law.



Signature of Confirmation
Katie Mead
President, the American Sign Language Club

Date 24 March 2017



Signature of Approval
Alex Guerrero
Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee

Date 3/27/17