



## U OF R PEERS FOR ANIMAL WELLNESS AND SAFETY (P.A.W.S.)

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish the University of Rochester Peers for Animal Wellness and Safety (P.A.W.S.) 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

University of Rochester Peers for Animal Wellness and Safety (P.A.W.S.) serves to connect University of Rochester undergraduate students with animal service organizations in Monroe County. The purpose of this cooperative effort will be to provide the materials and assistance necessary in order to more efficiently run local shelters and rescues for the benefit of the animals and the eventual establishment of a No Kill Nation. Students will benefit from one on one interactions with animals in an effort to reduce stress and the negative effects associated with attending a competitive university. Students will also learn how to collaborate with other like minded groups and individuals in order to operate in a way that helps to improve the lives of animals in Monroe County.

### 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 that attend one half plus one of the meetings.
3. Definition of associate member - Associate members are those that do not pay the SA activities fee or do not attend one half plus one of the meetings and a minimum of one advocacy or fundraising event per semester, but attend at least one meeting per semester.

### Article III. Meetings and Voting

**Section A.** A meeting shall be valid if a quorum, plus three officers are present. Quorum is defined as 1/2 of the total active group membership.

#### Section B. Voting

1. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
2. All active members shall have equal voting power.
3. Each member has only one vote on a given issue. Board member's 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 Secretary and the President.

### Article IV. Officers and Qualifications

#### Section A. Officer Positions

Board Positions include: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Business Manager, and Communications 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 organization.
5. It is advisable that executive board members plan to not study abroad during their term of office.
6. 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.
7. The President shall preside over the meetings, create an agenda before each meeting 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.
8. 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.
9. The Business Manager will be responsible for maintaining all finances and keep detailed records of all transactions.
10. 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 take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of club members, take and maintain meeting minutes, and notify members of meetings and fundraising events.
11. Communications Manager will be held accountable for the creating and regularly updating the website as well as any social media outlets. In the event that Communications Manager is unable to update the website, the Secretary will take responsibility for the website. Communications Manager will also serve as the main liaison between the club and any outside organizations such as shelters or other animal service groups.

**Section C. Nominations and Elections**

1. **Nomination and Elections Procedure** – Any active member may be nominated for an Executive Board position. Associate members are not eligible to run for the executive board. Any member can nominate any active member for an executive board position, including themselves. All nominations will go to the presiding officer who will then notify members of their nominations. Board members will be elected by a simple majority vote by anonymous, paper ballot. Positions will be determined individually in the order of President, Vice-President, Secretary, Business Manager, and Communications Manager. All members present at the meeting are eligible to vote.
2. **Timing of Elections** – Elections will be held each year in March of the spring semester.
3. **Term of Office** – The term of office for all executive board positions is 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 a 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-** Committees are not applicable under P.A.W.S.

**Article VI. Finances**

**Section A.** Students' Association members shall receive priority at SA-funded events conducted by this organization.

**Section B. Funding**

P.A.W.S. shall be eligible for SA funding through the Community Service Network.

**Article VII. Classification**

**Section A.** P.A.W.S. shall be classified as a community service organization.

**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 P.A.W.S. 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**

P.A.W.S. 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.

Emily "Jo" Polanco

4/01/13

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4/1/13