# Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA)

Adopted April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2001 Amended March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2002 Amended April 19, 2004 Amended April 2, 2007 Amended April 21, 2008 Amended December 8, 2008 Amended April 12, 2010 Amended April 12, 2017 Amended, 2018 Constitutional Revision Committee Chaired by the Vice-President of Clubs and Organizations

#### Preamble:

We, the students of Regis University, have united to form the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA) to exercise and ensure our rights and obligations as responsible members of our University Community. We see the Student Government Association as a forum and way to voice and uphold the opinions amongst ourselves and initiate and implement policies governing our activities. Through the Association, we seek to foster and support the ideas and wishes for the student body, provide a communication network within the Regis community, engender cooperation between all student groups and organizations, act as a liaison between administration, faculty, staff, and the student body, and sponsor social programming and events within the University and Denver community.

#### **ARTICLE I: Organization Name**

This organization shall be known as the Regis University Student Government Association (RUSGA). The Student Government shall be divided into two branches. These branches shall be known as: The Executive Branch and Legislative Branch. Membership shall consist of all full-time and part-time students of Regis College, Regis University College of Business and Economics, Regis College of Computer and Information Sciences, and Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions nursing undergraduates.

#### **ARTICLE II Executive Branch**

The Executive Authority of the Regis University Student Government Association shall be vested in the Office of the President of the Association.

#### Role of the President of the Student Government Association:

The Student Body President is the elected official vested with the executive power of the Regis Student Body. Serving a one-year term, the President is responsible for the overall leadership of the Regis University Student Government Association. As such, the President serves as chair of the Regis University Student Government Executive Cabinet and oversees the operational aspects of that cabinet and all committees therein. In addition, the President represents the Student Government on key University committees, including the Board of Trustees committee on Student Development, and will speak on students' behalf at events such as Orientation and Family weekends. The President will strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the Office of Student Activities, and with the broader University

Community and administration to improve the quality of student life at Regis University.

## Duties of the President of the Student Government Association:

- Ensuring Student Government accountability to the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association.
- Organizing and chairing weekly Executive Cabinet meetings to establish organizational goals and priorities, planning and implementing organizational programming efforts in pursuit of those priorities, and evaluating organizational and programming effectiveness.
- Meeting **monthly** with members of the Executive Cabinet, on a one-onone basis, to provide support and evaluate performance.
- Developing a working relationship with key members of the University's leadership team, including the University President, Provost, Vice President for University Mission and Vice President for Student Affairs.
- Developing, in collaboration with the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations, and the Director of Student Activities, an annual budget for the Regis University Student Government Association.
- Supervising all procedural aspects of implementing that budget.
- Representing the Regis University Student Government organization on the Board of Trustees Committee on Student Life.
- Organizing and chairing the Spring Elections Committee as set forth in the Constitution.
- Review all bills, amendments, and other bylaws passed by Senate to ensure they are within the best interest of the Student Body and University as a whole. If deemed otherwise, one may exercise the right of Presidential veto.

## **ARTICLE III Legislative Branch**

## Role of the Vice President of

## **Clubs and Organizations**

The Vice President of Clubs & Organizations (herein VPCO) is an elected official that serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet. Serving a one-year term, the VPCO is responsible for the overall leadership of the Regis University Student Senate. As such, the VPCO serves as chair of the Regis University Student Senate and ensures that the meetings follow the procedures outlined in the Regis University Student Government Association Constitution. In addition, the VPCO assists Senators in the drafting of legislation in preparation for its presentation to the organization. The VPCO oversees the application process by which student clubs and organizations become officially recognized members of the Student Government Association. The VPCO will strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the Office of Student Activities, and with the broader University community and

administration to improve the quality of student life at Regis University.

## Duties of the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations:

- Ensuring Student Senate accountability to the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association.
- Developing, in collaboration with the Student Body President, and the Director of Student Activities, an annual budget for the Student Government Association.
- Developing an annual budget for the Student Senate.
- Oversee the Appropriations, STEM, and Ad Hoc Senate Committees
- Supervising all procedural aspects of implementing the Student Senate budget, including: check requests, purchase orders, tracking expenditures, and attending and evaluating programming efforts.
- Directing the Class Senators program.
- Meeting regularly with a committee composed of the Class Senators (one from each undergraduate year based on credits) to better serve the Student Body and assist in all matters of governance as the VPCO sees fit.
- Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team.

## Role of the Vice President of Involvement

The Vice President of Involvement (herein VPI) is an elected official that serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet. Serving a one-year term, the VPI is responsible for the overall leadership of all matters of involvement on campus and off campus, including the greater Regis-Berkeley-Sunnyside community. As such, the VPI serves to apply the principles of Regis University in their efforts to cultivate a culture of inclusion, school spirit, and pride in the institution through overseeing programming efforts both on and off campus. In addition, the VPI oversees Raucous Rangers, helps plan Welcome Week, oversees the crafting of the Community Clean Up, and other programs as they see fit. The VPI is also responsible for working with the Athletics Department to better promote Regis University Athletics on campus to boost school spirit. The VPI will strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the Office of Student Activities, and with the broader University community and administration to improve the quality of student life at Regis University.

## **Duties of the Vice President of Involvement:**

- Ensuring accountability to the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association.
- Planning and implementing programs, events, and activities that help better serve the Regis University Community and greater neighborhood community to create a spirit of inclusion, engagement, and involvement.
- Assist and advise the Raucous Rangers student involvement group alongside the Athletics Department.

- Supervising all procedural aspects of the planning and execution of a community outreach program that assists numerous families in the northwest Denver community.
- Assisting, in conjunction with the New Student Orientation Leader, the planning and execution of Welcome Week.
- Planning and executing the annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.
- Planning and executing the annual All-Faculty & Staff Appreciation Breakfast.
- Working in conjunction with the Athletics Department to help boost student attendance at athletic events throughout the year and cultivate school spirit and pride in Regis University.
- The VPI, in conjunction with the VPoP, is responsible for chairing and forming the Ranger Week Committee to plan the annual Ranger Week/Day festivities. The hiring of a committee of no more than five individuals to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and other duties that arise.
- Attendance and participation during student move-in and orientation.
- Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team.
- Attend Senate meetings two times a semester and delegate a committee member to attend bi-weekly Senate meetings.

## **Role of the Vice President of Programming**

The Vice President of Programming (herein VPoP) is an elected official that serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet. Serving a one-year term, the VPoP is responsible for the overall leadership of all matters of on-campus programming and activities including; Thursday Thrills, Snowball, Snow Week, Ranger Week, and Ranger Day. As such, the VPoP serves to apply the principles of Regis University in their efforts to create programs that embody the spirit of *magis*, or the Jesuit idea of being a well-rounded individual. In addition, the VPoP works with the Programming Board, which is a separate body under Student Activities, to assist in all matters as they see fit. The VPoP is also responsible for working in collaboration with the Executive Cabinet at large to assist in any programming matters as they deem necessary. The VPoP will strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the oversight of professional staff in the Office of Student Activities, and with the broader University community and administration to improve the quality of student life at Regis University.

## **Duties of the Vice President of Programming:**

- Ensuring accountability to the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association.
- In conjunction with their committee, the Programming Board, or the Executive Cabinet; planning and hosting the weekly Thursday Thrills that are open to the student body at large.
- In conjunction with their committee, the Programming Board, or the

Executive Cabinet; planning and hosting the Snow Ball/Snow Week traditions in the Fall/Winter. The VPoP, in conjunction with the VPI, is responsible for chairing and forming the Ranger Week Committee to plan the annual Ranger Week/Day festivities.

- Working in conjunction with the professional staff in the Office of Student Activities to plan events and build relationships with off-site vendors.
- The hiring of a committee of no more than five individuals to help in all matters and capacities related to the proper execution of the duties listed above and other duties that arise.
- Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team.
- Attend Senate meetings two times a semester and delegate a committee member to attend bi-weekly Senate meetings.
- Attendance and participation during student move-in and orientation.

## Role of the Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity

The Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity is an elected official that serves as a member of the Executive Cabinet. Serving a one-year term, the Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity provides leadership for RUSGA in the areas of diversity, inclusion and social justice. The Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity works in conjunction with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence and Student Identity groups to program and host events that strengthen Regis University's commitment to developing and supporting a diverse student community. In addition, the Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity is expected to enhance the Regis University Student Body's awareness regarding social justice and diversity issues. The Vice President of Social Justice & Diversity will be responsible for working with other campus organizations to promote social justice & diversity activities and awareness. This includes keeping students informed about events in surrounding areas and informing the surrounding community about events within the University community. As such, it encompasses creating and maintaining a programming system that links multiculturalism, diversity and education with a sense of stewardship. There is a heavy emphasis on developing collaborative partnerships within the University, particularly with the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence. The Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity will collaborate with the professional staff in creating programs that will enhance the quality of student life at Regis University. The Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity also represents the Student Government Association on key University committees, including the Board of Trustees committee on Mission and Student Affairs The Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity will strive to develop collaborative partnerships within Student Government, with the Office of Student Activities, and with the broader University community and administration in an effort to improve the quality of student life at Regis University.

#### **Duties of the Vice President of Social Justice and Diversity:**

• Representing the Student Government Association on the Board of Trustees Committee on Mission and Student Life.

- Chairing a committee on diversity and inclusion that includes representatives from each of the recognized student identity groups that will plan and implement major events, speakers and initiatives aimed at building a more inclusive campus. Support and resource the efforts of officially recognized student identity groups.
- Developing a strong working relationship with the University's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Excellence.
- Establishing and managing a programming model which improves cultural knowledge and diversity within the University community.
- Chairing a Social Justice Committee of five (5), leading weekly meetings with the Social Justice and Diversity Committee, monitoring the committee budget, and developing application procedures for that committee.
- Attending weekly meetings of the Executive Cabinet leadership team.
- Attend Senate meetings two times a semester and delegate a committee member to attend bi-weekly Senate meetings.
- Supporting Student Government Programs, Events, and Organizations.
- Working with other similarly missioned university groups to create, promote, and involve Regis students in social justice & diversity programs and opportunities.
- Collaborating with the RUSGA President and Vice President of Involvement to plan at least one Executive Cabinet service project per semester that emphasizes personal interaction with those in need.
- Providing at least one social justice and/or diversity themed speaker per academic semester.

#### Section I: Student Senate

There shall be a Student Senate that shall facilitate student activities at Regis University within the limits placed upon it by this Constitution. It shall further act as a liaison to any faculty and administrative bodies of Regis and other organized bodies whose actions have a bearing upon members of Senate.

#### Section II: Senate Membership

The Student Senate's voting membership shall be comprised of:

- Two elected Class Senators of each of the four respective undergraduate class distinctions.
- One Senator from each officially recognized club and organization deemed in good standing. Senators shall be elected by plurality vote of members voting for that club or organization in an internal election. Good standing entails:
  - No unexcused absences from Senate meetings.
  - No violation of University policies by either the club or the Senator representing the club.
- The Vice President of Clubs & Organizations shall chair all meetings of the Student Senate and vote only in the event of a tie. In special occasions, the VPCO may designate a pro-tempore to manage the session in his or her absence.
- In votes pertaining to position appointments and appropriation requests, however, the subject of an appointment or recipient of an appropriation may not participate in the Senate vote and must remove themselves from the Senate proceeding when necessary as determined at the discretion of the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations
- Senate meetings are open to the public, but only members in good standing may vote.

#### Section III: Duties and Powers of Senate

The Student Senate shall have the power to:

- Initiate and enact all legislation necessary and proper under this Constitution.
- Address issues related to the Regis community.
- Delegate its authority as it deems fit.
- Approve the annual RUSGA budget submitted by the executive.
- Appropriate money from the Student Senate budget.

- Call for special elections.
- Oversee and manage their affairs as they deem necessary and proper.
- Have the final vote on impeachment of an elected officer of the Executive Cabinet or the Class Senators.

#### Section IV: Senator Duties, Powers, and Obligation

#### It is the responsibility of Student Senators to:

- Attend every Student Senate meeting.
- Be responsible to their constituents and seek the advisement on a regular basis of their club or organization on Student Senate matters and legislation.
- Report to the Senate the proceedings and events of their respective constituency.
- Write legislation on the behalf of their constituents.
- Complete one program open to the Regis community per semester in conjunction with their respective organization.
- Sign their name and organization's name to any piece of legislation they propose.
- Attend all their club/organization's meetings.

## Section V: Senate Meetings

Meetings of the Student Senate will be held every other week. Additional meetings can be called as deemed necessary by the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations. Each Senator has only one vote when voting is called.

- The Maxwell Amendment (ratified December 8, 2008)
  - The voting members of the Student Senate shall receive the RUSGA budget at least one day prior to annual voting on its approval to allow for review.
  - Senators will be notified of all proposals, approvals, and legislation on which they will vote at least one day prior to the vote to allow Senators to review the proposals. Exceptions and accommodations

for special circumstances will be left to the discretion of the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations.

## **Section VI: Class Senators**

#### **Class Senator Duties**

Class Senators play an integral role in the functioning of the Student Senate. They exist to give a voice for the Student Body in governmental meetings. The Class Senators' duties include:

- Reporting to the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations and Senate Body the concerns and intentions of their respective class.
- Performing duties and tasks dictated by the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations to assist clubs and organizations.
- Coordinating and directing events which function to promote a sense of community within both the class they are representing and the student body.
- Serving on the Student Senate Appropriations Committee or the Student Events Meeting Committee, or other standing Senate Standing Committees.

#### **Election of Class Senators**

The positions of Class Senators will be filled by class-specific elections held in the fall semester. There will be two class senators representing each undergraduate graduating class. Their terms of office will begin on the first day after the election results have been confirmed in the fall. Elections shall take place no later than September. The requirements to be considered in the election for each respective class are as follows:

- Freshman Class Senators:
  0-29 semester hours completed by date of elections
- Sophomore Class Senator:
  30-59 semester hours completed at the start of term of office
- Junior Class Senator:
  60-91 semester hours completed at the start of term of office
- Senior Class Senator:
  92+ semester hours completed at the start of term of office

In addition, the student must also maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA to be eligible for election. In the event a senator does not fulfill the semester hour or GPA requirements by the start of their term, or they must vacate their office. For any other reason, a special election will be held. Should fewer than two returning candidates be available for this special election, a new application and election process for that class will be undertaken. Campaign guidelines will parallel those that apply for all general elections. The Vice President of Clubs & Organizations will handle all procedural measures and questions concerning the elections.

#### Section VII: Organization Suspension

Clubs and organizations may be suspended from the Student Senate under the following conditions: the club or organization fails to meet the requirements outlined in Article V, Section I: Club and Organization Requirements.

The club or organization that is under suspension may reapply to Student Senate under the following circumstances:

- The club/organization under suspension must send their Senator to two consecutive Student Senate meetings.
- The club must become in good standing with the Student Senate by working towards their community service and program requirement. The Vice President of Clubs & Organizations will review this before the club/organization may petition for voting rights.
- The club under suspension, after completing the above process, will be granted voting rights and removed from suspension by a majority vote of the Student Senate.

#### Section VIII: Legislation

Any member of the Student Body may propose legislation, but a senator must introduce actual legislation to Student Senate. At least a simple majority of the Senate must be present to establish a quorum at Senate meetings.

#### Bills

- A bill must be sponsored by at least one senator and is used for any action internal to RUSGA that can be enacted immediately. A bill must have a formal first reading at Senate.
- A two-thirds majority of the Senate Quorum is required to pass a bill.
- Prior to the presentation at the bi-weekly Student Senate meeting, Senators will be notified of all proposals, approvals, and legislation on which they will vote at least one day prior to the vote to allow Senators to review the proposals.

#### Resolutions

A resolution must be sponsored by at least one senator and should be considered a statement of viewpoint or perspective of the Student Senate. It is not a governing law or policy of the Student Government, but rather a statement of opinion of the Student Senate. A resolution must have a formal first reading at Senate, during decision time, a formal forum must be held to discuss the ramifications of the resolution. Those who sponsored the resolution must be present at the forum. A two-thirds majority of the Senate Quorum is required to pass a resolution.

#### Amendments

An amendment to this Constitution must be sponsored by at least one senator and must be submitted to the Student Senate. An amendment shall be considered sufficient to change the Constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association. A three-fourths majority of the Senate Quorum is required to pass any amendments.

#### Repeals

- The repeal process shall allow change to any part of this Constitution.
- This includes the Preamble, Articles, Amendments, Resolutions, job descriptions, and/or any parts of the proceeding. The repeal must be presented and seconded by a voting member of the Senate. The part in question is then struck after a written motion is presented to the Student Senate and then must be passed by three-fourths majority vote.
- Any amendments or repeals to any part of the Constitution must get a first and second reading at two different Student Senate meetings before a vote can occur (as early as the second Student Senate meeting). Each amendment or repeal would go into effect the semester following the vote.

#### **Presidential Veto**

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The office of the Student Body President has the power to veto a bill, amendment, or other bylaw if deemed to not be in the best interest of the Student Body or University as a whole. If there is a Presidential veto, the legislation, amendment, or repeal will then go back to the Senate, and can be passed following a three-fourths vote of the Senate quorum. Presidential vetoes must be presented to Senate by the next regularly scheduled meeting.

## Appropriations of Senate Funds

- Appropriations of Senate funds must adhere to all University bylaws and restrictions. Funds cannot be appropriated for any reason other than the purpose of the benefit of a student club, organization, RUSGA, or the betterment of the student body at large.
- Appropriations must adhere to all guidelines specified in the Appendix.
- Appropriations requests are divided into two categories: small monies and large monies. Each entails a different process detailed below.

## Large Money Appropriations

- For all appropriations requests over \$1000, the officially recognized club/organization MUST present to Senate to allow for proper voting and debate.
- The requesting party must set a meeting with Vice President of Clubs & Organizations **ONE WEEK** prior to the Senate on which they are requesting a vote to review the request and make sure it adheres to University policies and values.
- The presenting group must make an organized and professional presentation to the Senate body for consideration. The layout of the presentation is at the discretion of the group; however, it must include a detailed budget breakdown.
- A three-fourths majority of Senate is sufficient to approve a request. Only officially recognized clubs & organizations may request money, and they must be in good standing with Senate.
- All appropriations requests are subject to final approval by the Professional Staff in Student Activities to ensure that they are prudent and in the best interest of the student body.

## **Small Money Appropriations**

 For all requests under \$1000, the requesting club/organization may appeal to the Appropriations Sub-Committee. This committee is a smaller body, composed of class senators or other members of Senate and chaired by the VPCO. There must be at least 5 people on the committee, and the number of people must be an uneven number to prevent ties. Lastly, any member with a vested interest in the outcome of the vote must recuse themselves.

- Requests must be made to the VPCO at least **ONE DAY** prior to the presentation to the Sub-Committee.
- The Appropriations Sub-Committee meets in the same week as Senate, and the time, date, and location are at the behest of the incoming VPCO.
- The requesting group must briefly talk through their proposal and answer any questions the Committee may have before being excused for a final vote/debate within the Committee before a final decision is made.
- Only officially recognized clubs & organizations may request money, and they must be in good standing with Senate.
- All appropriations requests are subject to final approval by the Professional Staff in Student Activities to ensure that they are prudent and in the best interest of the student body.

## Section IX: Parliamentary Procedure/Motions

All Senate meetings will proceed in a professional and organized manner at the discretion of the incoming Vice President of Clubs & Organizations and be in good standing with the rules and requirements outlined in this Constitution.

#### Section X: Ad Hoc Committees

Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the current Elected Officials or Student Senate from time to time as they deem necessary to carry on the work of the Student Senate.

## **ARTICLE IV Clubs and Organizations**

## Section I: Club and Organization Requirements

All clubs deemed in good standing shall receive one club member vote. The organization shall select one representative to voice the group's thoughts and ideas. The person who is selected as the voting member must follow all rules that have been set forth in this Constitution for the voting members of Student Senate. Official clubs and organizations must fulfill the following requirements:

- Have a faculty or staff appointed advisor for club and organization support
- A representative from each organization and club must be present at all Student Senate meetings.
- All clubs and organizations are required to fulfill one community service project per semester. These projects must be proposed and evaluated

using the proposition and evaluation procedure as outlined by the Vice President.

- All clubs and organizations are required to host one social event on campus per semester. These events must be proposed and evaluated using the proposition and evaluation procedure as outlined by the Vice President.
- Finally, to remain in good standing, all clubs and organizations are required to complete the recertification process in the spring.
- Appoint one member to attend the annual Fall Leadership Summit
- All clubs and organizations will uphold specific guidelines regarding the purchase of apparel for use by the club or organization. Any apparel used by a club or organization must come from ethically responsible corporations. Specifically, ethically responsible corporations treat their employees fairly by respecting workers' rights, paying a living wage, providing safe and reasonable working conditions, allowing workers to unionize, guaranteeing job security, and adhering to other requirements as specified by the Fair-Trade Federation.
- Officially Recognized School Clubs may not use appropriated money from the University (be it through Senate or otherwise) to fund their apparel purchases. University money is only to be used for activities and other reasons as outlined in the Appendix. Apparel purchases must be paid for out of pocket by members of the club. To encourage visibility of elected officials and RUSGA as an organization, an exception will be granted for the purchase of cardigans for the incoming elected officials to utilize. (Would this include the cardigans?)

#### **Open Membership**

Because of the University's commitment to inclusiveness, membership in a student organization must be nondiscriminatory and open to the entire Regis University undergraduate student community.

An exception to this policy will be granted for performing arts groups that wish to select members for performances based on special criteria such as talent and individual merit, academic groups which require enrollment in a college, pre-professional organization, or academic level of achievement, and class committees which require attainment of a class standing. Any other group that believes selective membership is warranted must receive the approval of the Director of Student Activities and the appropriate advisory board. All such groups will be required to demonstrate that their selection process is integral to the success of the group, openly advertised, fair, and non- discriminatory. This process will be reviewed annually.

#### **Organization Size**

A group must have a minimum of six currently enrolled undergraduate student members to be considered eligible for recognition as an official club or organization and be eligible for benefits. To preserve opportunities for undergraduate students to gain leadership experience, other individuals within the University academic community may participate in a group's activities or programs but may not be members or otherwise attempt to direct, lead, or inappropriately influence the group's activities. Only members of the University academic community are eligible for participation in a student organization.

#### **Non-Duplicative**

A group may not duplicate the purpose and/or activities of an existing student organization. This provision safeguards limited resources and encourages students to work cooperatively when their interests and intentions are similar.

## Charter

To provide for basic democratic principles and ensure the integrity of the organization, a group must demonstrate that it has developed (or has a clear and definite plan and intent for development as approved at the discretion of the Vice President) a sound charter or constitution as shown by inclusion of the following:

- A purpose clearly articulated and accurately descriptive of the group's function.
- Free election of officers.
- Clearly articulated election process.
- Clearly articulated procedure for removal of officers.
- Procedure for amendment of the charter.

## **Compliance with University Policy**

Groups must agree to comply always with all relevant University policies, procedures, rules, regulations and guidelines. Since the views and activities of student organizations are not necessarily reflective of the University, all organizations are expected to include in all publications issued (newsletters, brochures, pamphlets, etc.), except those specifically approved, an appropriate disclaimer. For example, an appropriate disclaimer would read: "The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the administration, faculty or student body of Regis University unless specifically stated."

## Groups will not be eligible for access to benefits if their purpose or activities:

- Are unlawful or in violation of University policy.
- Endanger or threaten to endanger the safety of any member of the University community or of any of the University's physical facilities.
- Disrupt or obstruct the functions of the University or threaten such disruption or obstruction.
- Foster hatred or intolerance of others because of their race, nationality,

gender, religion or sexual preference, or are inconsistent with acceptable conduct at an American university committed to the Catholic moral tradition.

- Are conducted secretly or as a non-academic fraternity or sorority (e.g. groups with discriminatory, secret, or ritualized membership practices).
- Are purely commercial or financially profitable to group members.

#### Section II: Organization Review

If deemed necessary, the Organization Review Committee will be chaired by the Vice-President of Clubs & Organizations and includes the Class Senators and other student members at the discretion of the Vice-President of Clubs & Organizations.

The Committee will have the following responsibilities, powers, and rights:

- Be responsible for the supervision and validation of all Student Senate Officially Recognized Clubs and Organizations.
- Revocation of official club status, showing just cause, to the Student Senate. The Student Senate will then vote of the status of the organizations.
- Take any immediate action concerning the status of Student Senate Officially Recognized Clubs that it sees fit.
- Report to the Appropriations Committee on any actions implemented by the Organizational Review Committee.
- Meet once per semester to ensure compliance of Constitutional requirements of clubs and organizations.
- Make the final decision on all applications for Senatorship, Associate Senatorships and their standing.

## **ARTICLE V Removal from Office**

The Student Senate shall have the power to consider motions of impeachment of an elected Student Government Association Officer. Grounds for impeachment of any person include: violation of the Student Code of Conduct, failure to execute the responsibilities of their office, unethical conduct, and malfeasance in office, or any other conduct deemed inappropriate by the Director of Student Activities.

## Section I: Elected Officers (President, VPCO, VPoP, VPI, & VPSJD))

The impeachment of the elected officers may be brought to the Student Senate by a petition bearing ten percent of the undergraduate students of Regis College, Regis University College of Business and Economics, Regis College of Computer and Information Sciences, and Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professions nursing undergraduates, or a recommendation of fifty percent of the Executive Cabinet. The elected officers may be impeached following a hearing, where evidence and arguments will be considered, and a three-fourths approval of the voting members of the Student Senate.

#### **Section II: Class Senators**

Class Senators may be impeached by a petition bearing 50 signatures of their constituents followed by a recommendation by the Vice President and a two-third approval of the voting members of the Student Senate.

## Section II: Club and Organization Senators

Club and organization senators may be removed from office by the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations if they have more than three unexcused absences. An absence occurs when there is no representation from a club or organization to the Student Senate. Absences may be excused at the discretion of the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations, and unexcused absences may be appealed to the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations. A senator with more than two unexcused absences will automatically be removed from the Senate.

Whenever a vacancy in the Senate occurs, the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations shall inform that club or organization immediately in writing. The club or organization shall have the power to fill the vacancy in the manner described in their charter; however, the club or organization may not fill the vacancy with a senator that has been impeached from the Senate.

## **ARTICLE VI Vacancies**

## Section I: Elected Officers (President and Vice Presidents,)

In the case of a vacancy of the office of President, the Vice President of Clubs & Organizations will assume the position until the Executive Cabinet can call for new elections. In the case of a vacancy of the office of any of the Vice Presidents, the Executive Cabinet will make a recommendation of a new individual to the Student Senate that will require a two-thirds approval from the voting members of the Student Senate to be effective.

 The elected executive cabinet officials will be sworn in to office by the following oath: I\_\_\_\_\_\_(state your name) swear to: Uphold the constitution of the Regis University Student Government Association, Execute the responsibilities of my leadership position to the best of my ability,

Uphold the mottos of Regis University including, "Men and Women in the service of others," and "How ought we to live,"

Strive to be a good leader, positive role model, and upstanding member of the Regis University community,

I will be honest and dedicated to my constituents through my entire term in Regis University Student Government.

• The out-going President of the Student Body will swear in the Presidentelect, following which the newly sworn President will swear in the Vice President-elects.

## Section II: Class Senators

Pro-tempore appointments to fill vacancies for the office of Class Senator will be recommended by the Vice-President with a two-thirds approval from the voting members of the Student Senate.

## **ARTICLE VII Elections**

The Election Committee will be responsible for the supervision of all elections and appointments on campus, including: the method of voting and polling, coordination of speeches and debates, regulation of campaigns and advertisement, and other such matters as necessary at the discretion of the committee chair or the Director of Student Activities. The Election Committee will be composed of members of the Executive Cabinet, elected Class Senators, and other members at the discretion of the committee. The Student Body President will chair the committee.

#### Section I: Election Procedure for Student Government Officers (President, Vice Presidents

Elections for Student Body President and the Vice Presidents shall be held no later than April 1<sup>st</sup>. The term of office will begin with an inauguration swearing in ceremony that will be held no earlier than April 15<sup>th</sup> and no later than the last day of classes. A formal training period shall take place in the interim period consisting of a bi-weekly meeting between both the newly elected and currently residing officials.

#### **Nominations:**

Nominations for the elected positions of President and the Vice Presidents, shall be made by completing nomination packets distributed by the Election Committee. The content of these packets is left to the discretion of the Election Committee but must include petition information as detailed below. Additionally, to ensure the individual is fit for office of either President or Vice Presidents, the individual must have held one prior leadership position within the University, at the discretion of the Election Committee. Individuals wishing to be placed on the ballot for election must complete all

nomination requirements as stipulated by the Election Committee. To be eligible for nomination, one must be taking courses at the Regis University Main campus the full semester prior to the school term which he or she wishes to serve in the positions of President Vice President.

#### Petitions:

Persons who decide to run for one of the elected Executive Cabinet positions will be required to fill out a petition bearing one hundred signatures of undergraduate students enrolled in Regis College, Regis University College of Business and Economics, Regis College of Computer and Information Sciences, and Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professionals.

Any individual who does not meet the guidelines for nomination and/or fails to complete the petition requirement explained above will not be included on the ballot. They may run a "write-in" campaign, but the campaign must adhere to all guidelines set out by the Election Committee, and the campaign will not be eligible for any funding reimbursement or other such benefit available to nominated candidates. In the event of the election of a write-in candidate, the individual elected must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Student Senate. If an elected write-in candidate fails in the confirmation stage, a new election shall be held no later than five school days after the first election.

## Election Procedures:

The elections shall be supervised by the Elections Committee and held in a place designated by the Committee. All voting will be done by secret ballot with the option for voters to write-in candidates as they see fit. To be elected, the candidate must receive simple plurality of the votes cast in a general election. In the event of a tie, a run-off election will be held between the two candidates that receive the greatest number of votes in the general election. The option to writein a candidate will be repealed in the event of a run-off election. In the event only one candidate runs for office, the candidate must receive 51% of the votes cast. If the candidate does not receive 51% of the votes cast, a new election shall be held no later than five school days after the first election.

## **Elections of Officially Recognized Organizations:**

The elections of official recognized organizations shall be held according to the charter of said organization. The Vice President of Clubs & Organizations can validate these elections, upon the request of the organization.

## Section II: Terms of Office

All terms of office will be held for a period of one year, after which consecutive terms may be won entering the standard election process thereafter. No elected office will have the power to carry over into another term without going through the election process. After serving a term, an individual cannot be reelected to the office of President.

#### Section III: Eligibility Requirements for Executive Cabinet

The President of the Student Body shall be required to have a cumulative GPA of 3.3 at the time of their election and must not be on disciplinary probation at the time of their election. The Vice Presidents shall be required to have a cumulative 2.8GPA at the time of their election and must not be on disciplinary probation at the time of their election. The President-elect of the Student Body must be of senior standing at the completion of the semester that they will be sworn into office. The Vice-President-elects must be of junior or senior standing at the completion of the semester that they will be sworn into office.

**Zahner Amendment:** Should a rising sophomore feel inclined to run for a Vice President position, they may make a special appeal to the Elections Committee. The content of the appeal is at the discretion of the committee but must include some sort of written statement of intent in addition to any extra measures decided upon by the committee.

Should the President fall below the 3.3 GPA requirement (to be evaluated at the beginning of fall semester & beginning of spring semester), he or she will be put on probation and the line of succession as outlined above will go into effect until that person has demonstrated significant progress in rectifying their academic standing. What significant progress entails is at the discretion of the Director of Student Activities.

#### Section IV: Grievance Procedure for Election and Appointment Results

A party involved may file a grievance on the following grounds:

- They feel that the election process has functioned with bias against them.
- They feel that there was fraud involved in the election process.
- Other parties may have violated specific rules and laws.

The following procedure must be followed for grievances:

1) The party will submit a formal written statement and present his/her argument(s) in a hearing with the Election Committee. Any supporting party (i.e. witnesses) will be permitted to submit accounts and formal written statements during the same hearing.

2) An additional hearing will be held so that the accused and their supporting parties may present their arguments.

3) If the Election Committee finds in favor of the grieving party, a run-off election will be held between the concerned parties, and no additional parties will be permitted to enter the race. The results of the election will stand unless either again violates any of the election rules or files a grievance, at which point the previously mentioned procedures will again be followed. Instead of a run-off election, the party favored by the Election Committee will be placed in office.

4) If the accused party does not agree with the decision made by the Election Committee, they may make an appeal to the President for review. The candidates will be given the opportunity to present his/her case to the President. The decision of the President will be final.

#### **ARTICLE VIII Provisional All Campus Voting**

An all-campus vote on an issue will be controlled by the Regis University Student Government Association and be processed through the election guidelines set forth in this Constitution. The referendum itself will be the responsibility of the Executive Cabinet.

Any undergraduate Regis student can petition the Student Senate to schedule an all-campus vote on an issue. This petition must be seconded by a voting member of the Student Senate and passed by a simple majority of those voting in the Student Senate. The petition must be submitted two weeks prior to the actual vote of the Student Senate.

Upon passage in the Student Senate, the President will schedule an allcampus general vote on this issue in not more than two weeks after the Student Senate vote. An election committee formed at the discretion of the Executive Cabinet will monitor the vote and procedures of the vote as outlined in this Constitution. All election guidelines set forth in this Constitution will be followed.

After the election results have been tabulated, it will be the responsibility of the Student Body President to deliver the results to the interested party, as well as draft new constitutional changes that may occur due to the vote itself.

No referendum will be allowed that repeals or makes void the content of the Regis University Student Government Association Constitution, and all such privileges in Article XI of the Constitution on the issue will stand.

#### **ARTICLE IX Student Activity Fee**

The Regis University Student Government Association will be funded from the Student Activity Fee assessed from the part-time and full-time traditional undergraduate population of the campus. The fee will be assessed twice a year, at the beginning of the Fall and Spring terms.

#### Section I: Process for Change in the Amount

The Executive Cabinet will review a recommendation from the submitting party to raise the Fee for a given year. The Fee may not be changed in between the Fall and Spring semester of a given year. Upon approval by the Executive Cabinet, a proposal will be introduced to the Student Senate by the Executive Cabinet and/or submitting party. Once the proposal is passed by a two-thirds majority in the Student Senate, the recommendation is made to the Dean of Students and Board of Trustees for final approval.

#### Section II: Process for Appeal of Change in Fee

A petition bearing names of ten percent of the traditional undergraduates of Regis College, Regis University College of Business and Economics, Regis College of Computer and Information Sciences, and Rueckert-Hartman College for Health Professionals can be submitted to the Vice President of the Student Body by a representative of that population to appeal a change in the Fee. After a second by a voting member of the Student Senate, the Vice President will call for a discussion and vote on the proposal, which when approved by two-thirds of the voting member of Student Senate, will become effective.

#### **ARTICLE XI Adoption and Amendments**

The Scott Foresman Robert's Rules of Order as newly revised by Henry M. Roberts III is to be used in instances not covered by this Constitution.

By-Laws will be added and become inclusive in this Constitution upon a twothirds vote of the Student Senate, after being introduced to the Student Senate by a voting member.

Upon adoption, this Constitution shall supersede all previous constitutions of the Regis University Student Government Association and nullify all opposing policies and all procedures thereunder.