

**THE CONSTITUTION *of***  
**GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY'S**  
**RESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The Resident Student Association is established to represent resident students in matters which concern their welfare; to promote academic, cultural, intellectual, social, and leadership development among resident students; and to stimulate an interest in and responsibility for self-governance.

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME AND ORGANIZATION**

SECTION A: The Residents of the University Housing of Georgia College & State University, seeing a need for a unified and active voice to represent the housing population of Georgia College & State University, the Resident Student Association is hereby organized.

**ARTICLE II**

**PURPOSE**

SECTION A: The Resident Student Association shall be the unified voice of all residents who live in Georgia College & State University's Housing System in all aspects of campus life. The Resident Student Association will be responsible for creating opportunities for students to interact and provide leadership for change in accordance with the goals and will of the University Housing population.

SECTION B: The Resident Student Association is also responsible for the facilitating the communication between hall councils, to seek solutions to problems facing resident students and University Housing governments, and to act as a central government to all University Housing councils.

**ARTICLE III**

**AUTHORITY**

SECTION A: The Resident Student Association exists as the principle policy recommending body for resident students. The Resident Student Association shall have power over hall council elections, standards for hall councils and officers, fiscal responsibility of hall activity fees, and any other areas which affect the resident student body as a whole. As such, this constitution supersedes all individual hall council constitutions. Additional authority may be granted to the Resident Student Association by the director of University Housing for Georgia College & State University.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

SECTION A: The executive officers of the Resident Student Association shall be chosen by direct vote by the resident student body no later than the third full week of April in the spring semester, and will begin to serve their full term at the close of the residence halls at the end of spring semester until the following close of the residence halls at the end of spring semester. The executive chairs shall be chosen by direct vote by the resident student body no later than the third full week of the fall semester, and will begin to serve their full term until the residence halls close at the end of spring semester.

SECTION B: There shall be elected from among the resident students of Georgia College & State University, the following Resident Student Association executive officers: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and National Communications Chair as well as executive chairs: Public Relations Chair, Community Service Chair, and Program Chair to be collectively called the Resident Student Association executive board.

SECTION C: All members of the executive board shall, at the time of their election, and throughout their terms of office shall:

- i. Maintain residency in the University Housings during the typical academic year.
- ii. Maintain a grade point average of no less than 2.33.
- iii. Carry a minimum of twelve (12) credit hours per semester.
- iv. Have a good judicial standing and remain in good academic standing.

Failure to do so shall result in immediate removal from office, and suspension of eligibility for one semester in any and all Resident Student Association executive board positions.

SECTION D: In the event of a President's inability to serve, through removal from office, death, resignation, withdrawal, or lack of qualifications, the Vice-President of the Resident Student Association shall become President. If the Vice-President does not meet the qualifications of President the succession will go down the line in the following order of succession to the Presidential Office: Treasurer, Secretary, National Communications Chair, Public Relations Chair, Program Chair, and Community Service Chair.

SECTION E: In the event of a the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, National Communications Chair, Public Relations Chair, Program Chair, and Community Service Chair's inability to serve, through removal from office, death, resignation, withdrawal, or lack of qualifications, a qualified replacement shall be chosen among the members of the Resident Student Association General Assembly by the Resident Student Association

President and shall be approved by two thirds (2/3) majority of the Senate, to serve the remainder of the term.

SECTION F: Executive board meetings shall be called at times deemed necessary by the President, and shall have the power to call special executive board meetings. The executive board must have a quorum to conduct business. Quorum is defined as two-thirds (2/3) of all executive board members.

SECTION G: The President shall have the duty and power to ensure that all provisions of this Constitution, its by-laws, policies enacted in pursuance thereof shall be faithfully executed. The executive power shall be vested in the president alone. The President is responsible of the representation of all campus residents and for the representation of this government at all times. Conduct of office shall at all times comply with the guidance and policies established by this constitution, and the Department of University Housing. The President shall be empowered to appoint, by executive order, a cabinet of officers or committees as he/she deems necessary to the administration of this Constitution and this Government. The President shall have the power to veto any bills or resolutions of the General Assembly. This veto must be affixed in due diligence upon passage of such bill or resolution, with the verbal and written explanation of his/her reason(s) for the veto, to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Concurrence of two-thirds (2/3) of the General Assembly is necessary to override the veto of the President.

SECTION H: The Vice-President shall assist the President in the execution of powers, responsibilities, and duties of the Office of the President. The Vice-President shall be the Ex-Officio Member of all committees of the Resident Student Association, and shall coordinate the activities of these committees with the committee chair and the President.

SECTION I: The Treasurer shall be responsible for all the financial matters of the Resident Student Association and shall be able to inform RSA of its financial status at each meeting to the best of his/her abilities. The Treasurer will submit a written itemized sheet to the executive board each month on the organization's spending that occurred during the month.

SECTION J: The Secretary shall have the duty and power to manage and supervise all administrative activities of the Resident Student Association. They shall engage in correspondence, maintain files, establish standard forms and procedures, maintain all permanent records of the Resident Student Association, and perform all duties germane to this office. They shall have the power to appoint staff to assist in these tasks. Conduct of office shall at all times comply with guidance and policies established by this Constitution and the President.

SECTION K: The National Communications Chair, hereafter known as the NCC, shall be the liaison between the Resident Student Association and the Regional Board of Directors of the South Atlantic Affiliation of College and University University Housings and the National Board of Directors from the National Affiliation of College and University University Housings. The NCCs duties include receiving and reporting from the State,

Regional, and National Boards to the Resident Student Association Members, working to establish good communication between the Resident Student Association and the Regional and National Boards, and maintaining and utilizing the Resource File Index. The NCC will also be responsible for completing a National Information Center Report and filling out all affiliation paperwork, as well as paperwork for any conferences. The NCC will also be responsible for any other duties deemed necessary by the Resident Student Association President.

**SECTION L:** The Public Relations Chair shall be responsible for coordination and advertising for all events and activities sponsored by the Resident Student Association, as well as any other announcements the President or Executive Board deem necessary.

**SECTION M:** The Program Chair shall oversee all programming, including work to be done by committees, necessary for the execution of Resident Student Association sponsored events and shall serve on campus-wide committees regarding programming events where RSA is co-sponsoring.

**SECTION N:** The Community Service Chair shall be responsible for coordination and oversight of, including work to be done by committees, necessary for the execution of Resident Student Association sponsored or endorsed community service projects. The Community Service Chair shall work to inform members of the General Assembly, and members of University Housing of the service opportunities available to them.

**SECTION O:** All members of Executive Board cannot vote on any matter passing before the General Assembly. However, in the case of a tie, the President shall have the deciding vote. Further, if a member of the Executive Board is the registered delegate for a hall or council, they are entitled to vote with that delegation. However, the President may not be a registered delegate.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

**SECTION A:** The delegates to represent halls and councils in the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association shall be chosen by direct vote by the resident student body of the hall or council of which they shall represent no later than the third (3) full week of the fall semester, and will begin to serve their full term until the residence halls close at the end of Spring Semester or for a full calendar year, whichever comes first.

**SECTION B:** The delegates to represent halls and councils in the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association shall conduct regular meetings at which, in order to conduct business, a quorum of one half of the General Assembly's membership plus one must be present.

SECTION C: The General Assembly shall hear and vote upon all legislation regarding University Housing and policies of interest to or concerns of the University Housing resident population.

SECTION D: The General Assembly shall retain all powers not specifically delegated in this Constitution.

SECTION E: The President shall preside over all meetings of the delegates, to be called the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association, and shall conduct such meetings in a manner that allows all provisions of this Constitution, its by-laws, and policies enacted to be faithfully executed in a manner he/she deems necessary.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

SECTION A: Grounds for impeachment shall be for the failure to fulfill the duties of office as outlined in this Constitution, or for failure to meet attendance requirements as set forth in the By-laws of this constitution.

SECTION B: Any member of the Delegation or Executive Board of the Resident Student Association may initiate impeachment proceedings against any officer of the Resident Student Association by submitting written charges to the President. The charges must be read on two (2) different days at two (2) separate meetings. After this time, a vote of the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association will determine the validity of these charges and whether these charges warrant removal from office. These charges must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly in order for further actions to be taken toward impeachment.

SECTION C: With the above written requirements met a hearing shall be called by the President. If the charges are against the President, the presiding officer shall be anyone other than the president, and shall be elected by a quorum of delegates. Otherwise, the President shall be the presiding officer. Further, the hearing shall be closed to everyone except for the single delegate per hall or council on file with the Secretary, unless all parties agree otherwise, or unless the appearance of a witness is necessary. The impeachment of a Resident Student Association Officer requires that three-fourths (3/4) of the Resident Student Association General Assembly attend the hearing. Upon hearing the cases and evidence presented by all parties involved in the action(s), the delegates shall vote and render a decision, by secret ballot. Conviction shall require a three-fourths (3/4) majority in favor of removal from office. Upon conviction, the Resident Student Association officer shall be removed from office, and succession as outlined in Article IV, Sections D-E shall initiate.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FINANCE**

SECTION A: The Resident Student Association will be funded by fundraisers, fees collected by the Office of University Housing through the collection of student University Housing activity fees, and allocations from the Student Activities Budget Committee, and Student Government Association. Fees will be made available by the director of University Housing.

SECTION B: In order for the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association to allocate funds, a bill must be passed by a simple majority outlining the intent for use, and amount of the funds being requested.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **ELECTIONS**

SECTION A: The executive officers of the Resident Student Association shall be chosen by direct vote by the resident student body no later than the third (3) full week of the fall semester, and will begin to serve their full term until the residence halls close at the end of Spring Semester or for a full calendar year, whichever comes first.

SECTION B: The delegates to represent halls and councils in the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association shall be chosen by direct vote by the resident student body of the hall or council of which they shall represent no later than the third full week of the fall semester, and will begin to serve their full term until the residence halls close at the end of Spring Semester.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **RESIDENT ASSISTANT ADVISORS**

SECTION A: Each hall council delegate shall be advised by a resident assistant, complex assistant or similar University Housing staff member. The major role of the advisor shall be to represent the views of the University Staff. The Advisor shall not have a vote in the decisions of Resident Student Association General Assembly or the Resident Student Association Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **HALL COUNCILS**

SECTION A: The purpose of the Hall Councils is to serve as the official liaison between the residents of their respective residence hall(s)/complex(es) and its staff. To serve as a programming organization to the Resident Student Association constituents living in their respective residence hall(s)/complex(es). To plan and execute events and programs within their respective residence hall(s)/complex(es). To strive to make their respective residence hall(s)/complex(es) an attractive and desirable community.

SECTION B: Each Hall Council executive board should consist of five positions: a President who is the chief executive and will chair the meetings; a Vice President who is responsible for aiding the Hall Council in planning and executing programs; a Treasurer who is responsible for the financial management of the Hall Council; a Secretary who is responsible for weekly minutes; and a Resident Student Association Delegate who is responsible for representing the Hall Council at the Resident Student Association General Assembly meetings.

SECTION C: The authority of the Hall Council is derived from this Constitution. Hall Councils may not adopt a constitution of their own, but are permitted to adopt bylaws, legislation, and other rules that will govern their own internal structure and procedures where they do not conflict with any portion of this Constitution, or any bylaws, rules, or procedures that the Resident Student Association may adopt.

SECTION D: In order for a Hall Council to receive recognition from the Resident Student Association, it must qualify as a functional Hall Council.

SECTION E: Hall Council elections will be run by the hall or complex staff within the first three (3) weeks of the fall term. Terms of office will last twelve (12) months or until the residence hall is closed, whichever comes first. After the initial fall election, Hall Councils will be responsible for developing and administering procedures to fill vacancies in their executive boards under the supervision of the Hall President.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **AMENDMENTS**

SECTION A: An amendment to this Constitution may be proposed by any member of the Resident Student Association. The proposed amendment must be read on two (2) different days at two (2) separate meetings to the General Assembly. After this time, a vote of the General Assembly of the Resident Student Association will determine to pass the proposed amendment. The proposed amendment must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the General Assembly in order to have the amendment enacted.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

SECTION A: This constitution shall be placed into effect after being approved by delegates of the Resident Student Association in accordance with the amendment procedure as described in the existing Constitution of the Resident Student Association.

**BY-LAWS *of***  
**GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY'S**  
**THE RESIDENT STUDENT ASSOCIATION**

ARTICLE I: The by-laws and constitution shall be interpreted by a majority vote of the Executive Board, however, no provision of the by-laws and constitution shall be interpreted to be contrary to the rules and regulations of Georgia College & State University.

ARTICLE II: The delegate on file, or an official proxy, of a recognized Resident Student Association hall or council must be present at half of the Resident Student Association General Assembly sessions of the previous month in order to have their hall or council to receive funds for the month. A delegate who has missed two meetings will have their hall put on probation the following month and will be required to be present or have their proxy present the entirety of the following month as well as become an active participant in a committee of their choosing. Penalties will not hold over to the following school year, but will continue from one semester to the next.

ARTICLE III: In order for a contract to be binding to the Resident Student Association, both the Resident Student Association advisor and President must sign the contract.