

RIT VOICES CONSTITUTION

Last Updates January 6th, 2021

ARTICLE I: NAME, PURPOSE AND AFFILIATION

Section I. Name

The official name of this club will be RIT Voices.

Section II. Purpose

RIT Voices strives to be a place for students to safely express themselves and their concerns regarding their negative experiences on and off campus. RIT Voices actively works to support students through the development of community bonds, networking skills, and creating a communal bridge between campus clubs/organizations/associations.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

Section I. Membership

RIT Voices will have an open membership. In order to be a member you must be a:

- Full-time RIT undergraduate or graduate student

Everyone is welcome to attend, participate, and assist in the coordination of events.

Section II. Membership Privileges

- Due to RIT Voices having an open membership, there will be no removal of membership, unless requested by the member, graduation or removal of student status at RIT.
- All member will be able to vote for new officers each term
- Eligibility for awards

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section I. Officer Description and Responsibilities

The Executive Board of RIT Voices will consist of a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Student Liaison, Webmaster, Historian, Freshman Representative

- **President:** Set and monitor goals for the club, run club meetings, assign officers and delegate tasks as necessary, Recruitment of other club members
- **Vice President:** In the absence of the President, the vice President will preside. Will also help recruit new members, coordinate with President on future events and plans, coordinate information to the rest of the Executive board
- **Treasurer:** Financial Overseer, Organize and maintain budget (funds), coordinate fundraising events. Record keeping of financial records
- **Secretary:** Take notes at all club meetings, keep records of member attendance, ensuring that all meetings are effectively organized
- **Student Liaison:** Be a communication bridge between RIT Voices and any organization which they become affiliated with.
- **Webmaster:** Responsible for the public image of the club when relating to social media, manages all social media accounts (Instagram, Email, etc.)

- **Historian:** Catalogs all RIT Voices events throughout the school year with photos and/or videos.
- **Freshman Representative:** Represents the Freshman community as a whole, will be responsible for relaying information to freshman when necessary, as well as voicing concerns that the freshman community may have.

Section II. Officer Eligibility

To be eligible for an officer position, the member must be a full-time student at RIT. All members of RIT Voices will be eligible to run for any officer position. Deadlines will be set to apply for the position as well as vote for potential candidates.

Section III. Terms

The term of office for each Executive Board member of RIT Voices shall be exactly one academic year. Executive Board members may serve in the same position for four terms.

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND IMPEACHMENT

Section I. Election

Elections are held once per academic year during the spring semester. Only voting RIT Voice members are eligible to vote. RIT Voices has zero tolerance for any form of bribery.

Section II. Process

The RIT Voices election “season” lasts 5 weeks and is followed by 2 weeks of a transition (transfer from one Executive Board to the next) period. The season will start the Monday that falls 7 weeks prior to the last day of classes.

Week 1: Members fill out forms to acknowledge that they are interested in being a candidate for the election. In the form, members should provide a platform, bio and candidate picture.

Week 2: Candidates notified of their eligibility for intended position.

Week 3: Campaign week begins and candidates are announced.

Week 4: Election week begins and voting takes place on the Wednesday of this week. Campaigns continue until the end of election day.

Week 5: Election results announced.

Week 6: Transition Week

Week 7: Transition Week

Section III. Voting

In the event of a tie for the winner, candidates who have tied will be given the opportunity to address the members and re-present their platforms. Another vote will take place that same week, the president can only vote in the event of a second tie.

Voting will be done via a Campus Groups Election survey set up by the president.

ARTICLE V: ADVISOR

Section I.

RIT Voice shall have at least one advisor who is a faculty or staff member of RIT. RIT Voices may have a secondary advisor who is a faculty or staff member of NTID.

Section II. Advisor Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the advisor(s) are to check in periodically, give general advising to the club when needed, attend events when possible, and show support.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section I. Frequency

RIT Voices meeting frequency will happen bi-weekly. This is also subjected to change and at the discretion of the President and Vice President of that school year.

Section II. Attendance Policy

All members are required to attend meetings unless notice is given to the president 24-48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Section III. Quorum

Quorum is defined when at least 50% of voting members at present.

Section IV. Voting Rules

Only voting members are eligible to vote during meetings.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section I. Committees

RIT Voices will have committees formed based on upcoming events that RIT Voices is hosting. There will be the event planning committee, the fundraising committee and the marketing committee.

- **Event Planning:** In charge of the logistical planning of events. A temporary chair will be appointed when the committee is formed.
- **Fundraising:** In charge of setting a budget for events and making sure RIT Voices has enough funds for the event; in some cases smaller fundraising initiatives need to take place. All funds requested must be approved by the Treasurer.
- **Marketing:** In charge of creating flyers and marketing campaigns for events. All media must be sent to the webmaster at a reasonable time prior to the event to ensure proper notice to the RIT community.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENTS AND BY-LAWS

Section I. Amendment Proposals

An amendment to this constitution may be proposed to any voting member, requires a $\frac{2}{3}$ affirmative vote by voting members, and requires approval of the President and Vice-President.

ARTICLE IX: ADHERENCE TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Section I. Anti-Hazing

Per the RIT Hazing Policy: Hazing/Failure to Report Hazing. Behavior, regardless of intent, which endangers the emotional, or physical health and safety of a Student for the purpose of membership, affiliation with, or maintaining membership in, a group or Student Organization. Hazing includes any level of participation, such as being in the presence, having awareness of hazing, or failing to report hazing. Examples of hazing include, but are not limited to, beating or branding, sleep deprivation or causing excessive fatigue, threats of harm, forcing or coercing consumption of food, water, alcohol or other drugs, or other substances, verbal abuse, embarrassing, humiliating, or degrading acts, or activities that induce, cause or require the Student to perform a duty or task which is not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or involves a violation of local, state or federal laws, or the RIT Code of Conduct.

NY State Hazing Law: § 120.16 Hazing in the first degree. A person is guilty of hazing in the first degree when, in the course of another person's initiation into or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person and thereby causes such injury. Hazing in the first degree is a class A misdemeanor.

NY State Hazing Law: § 120.17 Hazing in the second degree. A person is guilty of hazing in the second degree when, in the course of another person's initiation or affiliation with any organization, he intentionally or recklessly engages in conduct which creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such other person or a third person. Hazing in the second degree is a violation.

Section II. Anti-Discrimination Clause

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, sexual orientation gender identity and gender expression, religion, age marital sate, national origin, disability or veteran status. This policy will include but is not limited to, recruiting, membership, organization activities or opportunities to hold or run for club office.

Section 3. Statement of Compliance with University regulations

This organization shall comply with all university and Center for Campus Life policies and regulations, and local, state and federal laws.

President: Olivia Moore

Date: 11/03/2020

Treasurer: Mesha Johnson

Date: 11/03/2020