

# **The Residents' Action Council Constitution**

## **Preamble**

We, the residents of Ohio University, in order to unite all students who live in the residence halls, here by establish this Constitution in order to promote the advancement of the residential community and give residents an active voice on campus.

## **Article I Name**

The name of this Organization shall be the Residents' Action Council (tRAC) at Ohio University.

## **Article II Purpose**

*Section 1:* tRAC shall serve to unite all students who live in the residence halls and to give them an active voice on the campus of Ohio University, while maintaining strong relations with Ohio University officials.

*Section 2:* tRAC shall provide and support social, cultural, educational, and recreational programming for on-campus students, as well as promote opportunities to serve the surrounding community.

*Section 3:* tRAC shall promote, support and develop Hall Councils at Ohio University through leadership development, funding, and recognition.

## **Article III Membership**

*Section 1:* Any student living in one of the residence halls on the Ohio University campus can attend and participate in tRAC General Body Meetings.

*Section 2:* Residence Hall/Complex Representation

2.1 Each hall/complex shall be entitled to one voting Representative, called the tRAC Representative, on the General Body of tRAC.

2.2 Multiple students from the same hall/complex may attend tRAC General Body Meetings, but for voting purposes, they must work together to produce decisions.

- 2.3 Each hall/complex must register a tRAC Representative, and that Representative must meet the attendance requirements for the hall/complex to be considered a member of tRAC. The Representative must be a Hall Council Member or a Resident Assistant.

*Section 3:* Attendance

- 3.1 In order to maintain and continue membership and have the ability to request funds, a hall/complex must have attended at least 50% of the regularly scheduled General Body Meetings thus far into the semester.
- 3.2 Attendance will be kept at every meeting. Failure to meet membership status makes a hall/complex ineligible to request funding and to vote.
- 3.3 Current Executive Members will hold permanent voting rights for their respective residence hall/complex.

*Section 4:* Voting

- 4.1 Each hall/complex will be considered a voting bloc and will have one collective vote.
- 4.2 Only tRAC Representatives will be able to vote during tRAC General Body Meetings.

*Section 5:* Executive Board Members

- 5.1 Executive Board Members will count as hall/complex Representatives for attendance only. Therefore, if a hall/complex has an Executive Board Member, they do not have to send a Representative unless they are presenting a program proposal or would like to exercise voting rights.
- 5.2 Executive Members will not be able to vote on behalf of their hall/complex.
- 5.3 Executive Members will not be able to present funding requests, or other proposals unrelated to tRAC, for councils, staffs, and/or other organizations.
- 5.4 Executive Members cannot hold both a tRAC Executive Position and an NRHH Executive Position at the

same time.

## **Article IV Executive Board Members**

### **Section 1: The Executive Board**

- 1.1 Eight Executive Officers shall be elected from all students living in the residence halls:
  - A. President
  - B. Vice President of Administrative Affairs
  - C. Vice President of Finance
  - D. Vice President of Programming
  - E. Vice President of Student Services
  - F. Vice President of Marketing & Public Relations
  - G. National Communications Coordinator (NCC)
- 1.2 An Executive Board member from The National Residence Hall Honorary will serve as an ex-officio Member of the Executive Board. This member shall not hold a vote.
- 1.3 Any Ohio University student living on campus who has been elected or appointed to the Board of Directors for either CAACURH or NACURH shall be made an ex-officio Member of the Executive Board. This member shall not hold a vote.
- 1.4 Future appointments for ad hoc positions may be added by a simple majority of Executive Members.

### **Section 2: Election/Appointment of Executive Members**

- 2.1 All students who, during the duration of their proposed tenure, would be living in the residence halls are eligible to run for Executive Office.
- 2.2 Incoming Executive Board Members will be elected by a majority vote from all tRAC General Body Members who hold voting rights.
- 2.3 Election by the General Body will be based on candidate presentations to the General Body with an evaluation. All individuals running for any office will be required to follow parameters set forth by the current Executive Board and permitted the opportunity to address the General Body during the elections.
- 2.4 In the event where there is no majority, the General Body will

incur another vote consisting of the two candidates with the most support.

- 2.5 In the event that two candidates each receive 50% of the overall vote, the current President will then vote on behalf of the Executive Board as one entity, unless the current President is a candidate in the election. In the event that this occurs, the advisor(s) will fill this role.
- 2.6 NRHH will appoint an ex-officio member of the tRAC Executive Board from the membership of their Executive Board.

### **Section 3: Term of Office**

- 3.1 Following Elections, the new officers will immediately begin working with the respective current tRAC Executive to be trained via weekly communication.
- 3.2 An Executive Transition Retreat will be held between the conclusion of elections and the Hall Council Recognition Banquet to plan for the following year and set goals and objectives.
- 3.3 Each Executive Officer shall remain active until the conclusion of the Hall Council Recognition Banquet in order to assist in the transition of new Executive Officers.

### **Section 4: Vacancies**

- 4.1 In the case of a vacancy of the President, the remaining Executive Board Members shall nominate, by a two-thirds vote, an Executive Board Member to assume the office and responsibilities of the President for the remainder of the term.
  - A. The nomination will be presented to the General Body for a majority affirmation.
  - B. If no Executive Board Member is willing to take the President's position or if the General Body fails to affirm the nomination of the Executive Board, a general election will be held using the procedures from Article IV, Section 2.
- 4.2 In the event of a vacancy of an Executive Member other than the President, the Executive Board shall choose to: appoint a

replacement, hold an election to replace the Executive, or delegate said Executive's responsibilities to the rest of the Board Members.

A. If the Executive Board chooses to appoint a replacement, the General Body must approve with a two-thirds majority vote.

## **Section 5: Impeachment of Executive Members**

5.1 In the case that an Executive Member fails to fulfill the responsibilities of their office, a motion may be made by any tRAC Member, before the Executive Board, to impeach the Executive Member.

A. Concerns will be expressed during Executive Board Meetings.

5.2 The Executive Board will discuss the possible impeachment of the Executive Member at the next scheduled Executive Board Meeting, which is to be attended by at least one Advisor.

5.3 A motion to impeach the Executive Member may be made by any Executive Member.

5.4 The Executive Member in question has the option to be present throughout the impeachment process, however, they may not participate in voting.

5.5 All tRAC Members will be informed of the situation which had led to the impeachment proceedings following the meeting at which the vote was taken.

5.6 The vote to impeach passes when approved by a majority of all remaining Executives.

A. Those impeached have the right to appeal the decision to the advisors of tRAC within one week of impeachment.

B. The President will act as a tie-breaker in the impeachment of an Executive Member.

C. In the case of a presidential impeachment, the advisors will act as a bloc to cast the tie-breaking vote.

## **Article V Meetings**

### **Section 1: Regularly Scheduled General Body Meetings**

- 1.1 The Executive Board shall determine the frequency of meetings.
- 1.2 There shall be at least two regular meetings per calendar month with the exception of those with University scheduled breaks.

### **Section 2: Specially Called General Body Meetings**

- 2.1 The Executive Board shall have the authority to call special meetings when necessary.
- 2.2 If a special meeting is called, a 24-hour notice must be given to all General Body members and attendance will not be tracked for voting rights.

### **Section 3: Executive Board Meeting Expectations**

- 3.1 Executive Board Members are required to attend all General Body, special, and Executive Board Meetings.
- 3.2 If an Executive Board Member is unable to attend a meeting, they must notify the President and include their reasoning.
- 3.3 Accumulation of three (3) unexcused absences per semester from obligations will be reviewed by the President and Advisor(s) and may result in impeachment procedures.
- 3.4 Executive Members will be allotted three (3) “personal days” per semester to excuse themselves from the day’s obligations which would result in an excused absence.
- 3.5 General Body Members may not attend Executive Board Meetings without prior permission of the Executive Board.

## **Article VI Recommended Hall Council Template**

**Section 1: Executive Hall Council Positions**

- 1.1 Hall councils can include but are not limited to: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Hall Council Advisor, Floor Section Representatives, and general members.
  - A. Any individual living in a residence hall is entitled to membership within their respective hall council and the Residents' Action Council.

**Section 2: Powers and Responsibilities of Hall Councils**

- 2.1 To coordinate Hall Council efforts that engage in advocacy, programming, and community service.
- 2.2 To manage the Hall Council budget and submit funding requests.
- 2.3 To serve as a liaison between residents and external parties.
- 2.4 To represent the residents and their interests.
- 2.5 To hold regular Hall Council meetings.
- 2.6 To send at least one representative from the Hall Council to attend General Body Meetings and relay information back to their Hall Council.

**Article VII Funding**

**Section 1: Funding Information**

- 1.1 Funding shall be provided for residence hall programming completed by Hall Councils, Housing and Residence Life staff, and Student Organizations that align with tRAC's mission of engagement, motivation, and empowerment of Ohio University's on-campus residents.
- 1.2 Funding shall support social, cultural, educational, and recreational programming for on campus students in addition to opportunities to serve the surrounding community.
- 1.3 Funding requests may be submitted by Hall Councils and Housing and Residence Life staff. A representative for that hall/complex will present the funding request to tRAC.
- 1.4 Co-sponsorships may be submitted by Student Organizations. A Representative from that Organization will present their request for a co-sponsorship to tRAC.

## **Section 2: Programming Expectations**

- 2.1 Alcohol/substances are not permitted or tolerated at any program sponsored by tRAC. Additionally, all other rules of the Ohio University Student Code of Conduct must be followed.
- 2.2 Failure to follow these rules will result in the revocation of tRAC funding and the immediate notification of the Director of Residence Life and applicable staff.
- 2.3 Other disciplinary actions may be taken at the discretion of the Executive Board and Advisors.

## **Section 3: Funding Guidelines:**

- 3.1 Any Hall Council may request funding after the second official tRAC General Body Meeting of each semester.
- 3.2 The guidelines in this section must be followed in order to receive funding. Funding may be revoked for a failure to complete all requirements.
- 3.3 Complete a funding request form. Forms must be submitted at least one-week prior to the Monday on which the presentation to the General Body will occur. Funding requests may not be heard if the event is the same week as the funding proposal. Untimely proposals are subject to rejection by the Executive Board.
- 3.4 After the program, the following must be completed, collected, and submitted to the Vice President of Finance:
  - A. Program Report Form
  - B. All advertisements, which must include the tRAC logo.

## **Section 4: Additional Guidelines**

- 4.1 All funding information is to be available on the tRAC website.
- 4.2 All funding requests are limited to a total amount of \$1,000.00.
- 4.3 Co-sponsorships are limited to a total amount of \$500.



- 4.4 Additional limitations and guidelines are posted on the tRAC website.
- 4.5 The Executive Board reserves the right to revoke funding under extenuating circumstances.

## **Article VIII Amendments**

### **Section 1: Amendments to the Constitution**

- 1.1 All motions to amend this Constitution shall be reviewed by the Executive Board and may be brought to the General Body for a vote at any scheduled meeting.
- 1.2 Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of all present voting Representatives.
- 1.3 Amendments to this Constitution may also be made at the Executive Retreat and ratified by a majority of all Executive Board Members.

### **Amendment I Constitutional Flexibility**

In the case of extenuating circumstances concerning the Ohio University and Athens community, this constitution is subject to flexible interpretation and implementation in such a way the Executive Board sees fit.