

# Resident Student Council (RSC) Constitution

*Drafted September 2006*

## Article I – Name

This student organization shall be known as Resident Student Council (RSC). Resident Student Council is a recognized student organization in the Office of Student Life at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg and is affiliated with the University's Office of Housing and Residence Life.

## Article II – Purpose

Resident Student Council has been established to serve as a representative body of government for those students living in residence halls on the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg campus. This governing body shall be charged with the following ongoing responsibilities:

1. Provide a voice to all resident students.
2. Serve as a liaison between campus residents, the Office of Housing and Residence Life, Student Government Association, the Village Councils, and the administration at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.
3. Work in cooperation with the Office of Student Services and Office of Housing and Residence Life in recommending and reviewing residence hall policies and regulations that are in the best interest of both the University and the resident student population.
4. Help maintain and improve the quality of living in the residence halls.
5. Promote interaction and communication between residence halls.
6. Serve as a source of social and educational programming in the residence halls.

## Article III – Membership

There are two kinds of memberships in RSC – General nonvoting membership and voting membership. Voting members are elected by the residents of each particular residence hall and will have a vote during regular RSC meetings, whereas nonvoting, general members may attend meetings and participate in RSC events, but do not have an official vote during RSC meetings.

Both general and voting members must be in good academic and financial standing with the University and enrolled as full-time students. The executive board and/or adviser may revoke a student's membership if he or she violates University policy.

1. **General nonvoting membership** in Resident Student Council is open to any student living in a residence hall on the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg campus. General members do not have voting rights, but may participate equally in Resident Student Council events and meetings. **Voting membership** in Resident Student Council is open to any student living in a residence hall who has been elected to serve as a representative of his or her residence hall during beginning-of-the-semester elections.

2. Each of the six residence hall areas/locations on campus (College, Robertshaw, and Westmoreland Halls, as well as University Court and the Behavioral Sciences and Humanities Academic Villages) will have three elected representatives.

3. Voting members elected at the beginning of the fall term will serve for one academic year, until the end of the spring term. Those members elected at the beginning of the spring term will serve only one semester, until the end of the spring term.

4. Resident Assistants employed by the University are not permitted to serve as voting members or officers of Resident Student Council.

5. Neither membership in, nor services provided by Resident Student Council, will be denied to anyone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, age, marital status, familial status, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam era.

#### **Article IV – Officers**

There shall be four elected officers – president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer. These officers will make up the Resident Student Council executive board.

1. The executive board shall be elected at a regular meeting prior to the end of the academic year. Resident Student Council officers must be elected by a majority vote of the current voting membership. Upon election, each officer will serve a term of one calendar year.

2. In order to be considered for an executive board position, a member must have a 2.25 QPA and maintain above a 2.25 QPA during his or her term. In addition, officers must attend all executive board and general meetings unless excused by the adviser or president. Failure to uphold these guidelines may result in removal from the executive board.

3. The vice president, secretary, and treasurer retain all voting rights. The Resident Student Council president votes only in the case of a tie.

4. Those members serving on the executive board will not affect the number of voting members that are elected from each residence hall. Upon election, officers automatically receive an additional one-year term in RSC for the following year.

#### **Article V – Advisor**

The Resident Student Council advisor shall be appointed by the Office of Housing and Residence Life.

1. The advisor must be a full-time staff or faculty member employed by the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg.

2. The advisor is a nonvoting member of Resident Student Council. His or her primary function is to provide advice and guidance to the general and voting members of the organization.

#### **Article VI – Meetings**

Regular Resident Student Council meetings shall occur at least once every other week at a time and location chosen by the executive board and advisor. These meetings shall be open to any resident student.

1. The president and/or advisor may call special meetings with an advance notice of at least 48 hours.

2. Notification of upcoming and special meetings will be made in writing via e-mail.

3. All meetings will be run by the president, or the vice president in his or her absence.

#### **Article VII – Quorum**

A quorum is the number of voting members that are required in order to conduct official business at a Resident Student Council meeting. A quorum for any regular or special meeting will consist of at least one-half (1/2) of

the voting membership present. If less than a quorum is present, Resident Student Council may take no official actions.

## **Article VIII – Operations**

### **1. Election Process**

Executive board members will be elected by a majority vote of the voting membership of Resident Student Council. As noted in Article IV, these elections should be held prior to the end of the academic year.

The president will take nominations from the floor one meeting prior to the meeting at which elections will be held. All voting shall be done by secret ballot and collected and tabulated by the advisor and his or her student designee. Newly elected officers will assume office one week after elected.

### **2. Removal**

Any officer or voting member of Resident Student Council in violation of the organization's constitution or the University's Student Handbook, Resident Handbook, or Code of Conduct may be removed from the organization. Voting members who accrue three or more unexcused absences at meetings may also be removed from the organization. Following his or her second unexcused absence, the member shall be notified in writing that his or her membership is in jeopardy of being revoked.

Any voting member or officer of Resident Student Council may request the removal of another member by detailing his or her request in writing and submitting this request to the advisor. With the advisor's consultation and guidance, the executive board makes all final decisions on removing voting members and officers. All members maintain the opportunity to speak on his or her own behalf prior to removal and should be notified of this opportunity in writing. Upon removal, the individual will be notified of the executive board's decision and reasoning via a written letter.

Removal of an officer from his or her position requires the approval of the Resident Student Council advisor.

### **3. Replacement**

In the case of an officer's resignation or removal, a special election will be held at the organization's next official meeting. In the case of the president's resignation or removal, the vice president shall assume his or her duties until an election takes place. These elections shall follow the same guidelines as set forth for officer elections in Section IV.

## **Article IX – Finances**

As a recognized student organization at the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg, Resident Student Council will retain the right to request funding from and the Student Government Association. The organization will conduct all financial activities in accordance with University policy and place all funds in its University account in order to keep an accurate account of these funds.

## **Article X – Amendments**

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed in writing by any voting member of Resident Student Council at any meeting in which a quorum is present. Amendment proposals will be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting and must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of all voting members present. Proposed amendments will become effective immediately following approval by the voting membership.