

# **INTER-RESIDENCE HALL ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION**

The Inter-Residence Hall Association shall be formed to represent all students in the residence halls and to provide each residence hall member an effective voice in the University community. We do establish this constitution of the Inter-Residence Hall Association.

## **ARTICLE I – COMPOSITION AND AUTHORITY**

### **A. Composition**

1. The Inter-Residence Hall Association, hereafter referred to as “IRHA,” shall be composed of all residence halls at Iowa State University. For purposes of this Constitution and the IRHA Bylaws, a residence hall shall be defined as a self-governing building or group of buildings whose hall council has approved this Constitution and whose residents pay IRHA dues. 2. Every student who pays IRHA dues shall be represented by one and only one hall council.

### **B. Authority**

1. All members shall be bound by the provisions of this Constitution and by the acts of the IRHA governing body. At no time shall IRHA assume any power or duty specifically designated to the hall councils or to the residents as a whole.
2. IRHA, through law and action, shall willingly abide with Iowa State University rules and regulations.
3. IRHA shall make no laws that deny or abridge those rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution, the State of Iowa Constitution, and/or federal, state, and local law.

## **ARTICLE II- NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

### **A. Non-Discrimination Statement**

1. In a commitment to developing a safe and supportive climate for all members of the ISU community, IRHA does not discriminate with regards to race, ethnicity, pregnancy, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, gender identity, status as a U.S. veteran, marital status or sexual orientation.

## **ARTICLE III– EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

### **A. Membership**

1. The Executive Council of IRHA shall consist of at least the following members: President, Vice President, Director of Finance, and Director of Information Technology.
2. The Executive Council shall have an Advisor who will be an ex-officio member.

### **B. Term of Office**

1. The term of office for the President and Vice President shall be held from the time they take office until the beginning of the last meeting of the academic year.
  - i If elected the term shall begin at the beginning of the last IRHA meeting of the academic year in which they were elected.
  - ii If appointed the term shall begin at the time they are seated by the IRHA Parliament.
2. The term of office for the Executive Council members shall be from the time they are seated by the IRHA Parliament until the time specified in their Executive Confirmation Legislation.

C. Executive Powers

1. All executive powers and authority shall be vested in the Executive Branch.
2. Together with the Vice President, the President shall be responsible for the fulfillment of all laws and actions of IRHA as prescribed by this Constitution, the Bylaws, and Parliament Bills.
3. The President shall have authority over the removal of any and all executive officers and staff with the exception of the Vice President.
4. The President shall have the power to either approve or veto any Parliament Bill. The President shall signify his/her approval or veto by signing the said bill in the appropriate manner. If after ten days the bill is neither approved nor vetoed by the President, the said bill shall become law.
5. If a Parliament Bill is vetoed, it shall return to the Parliament with the President's written objections. During one of the two regular meetings of the Parliament immediately following a presidential veto, the Parliament may move to override. The procedures for overriding vetoed legislation shall be established in the Bylaws.
6. The President shall have the power to establish administrative procedures and job descriptions for members of the Executive branch and councils or commissions of the Executive branch by executive order. Unless otherwise stated in this Constitution, all executive orders shall remain in effect until terminated by another executive order or reversed by the Parliament. A copy of all executive orders shall be presented to the Parliament by the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Parliament or the Order shall be considered null and void.
7. The President, with the advice and consent of the Parliament, shall have the power to negotiate all contracts and agreements between IRHA and other outside entities.
8. The Vice President of IRHA shall chair the meetings of the Parliament. The Vice President shall be an ex officio member of the Parliament and shall vote only when the Parliament is equally divided and such a vote would affect the outcome.
9. The longest serving Director of Events shall, in addition to duties outlined in the Bylaws, be appointed the duties of Risk Manager, recommending risk management policies and procedures to the IRHA, submitting documentation to the ISU Risk Management Office and to ensure that Risk Management procedures are implemented at all IRHA events.
10. IRHA's President, Treasurer, and Advisor shall complete any required Iowa State University training programs set forth by the Student Activity Center.

#### **ARTICLE IV – LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

##### **A. Legislative Body**

The Parliament shall be the legislative body of IRHA.

##### **B. Composition**

1. Each hall council shall be represented on the Parliament by a delegation consisting of representatives that are granted to halls on the basis of hall population.
2. The number of representatives granted to each hall's delegation, shall be equal to the population of the hall divided by 250, rounded to the nearest whole number. The population used for this calculation shall be the number of people living in the hall on the tenth day of classes during the academic year in which the election is to be held.
3. In addition to the hall representatives, there shall be four voting members of Parliament elected by the IRHA population as a whole, referred to as an At-Large. If a vacancy exists in an At-Large position, the executive may choose to fill the vacancy by an appointment to be seated by the Parliament.
4. No individual may hold more than one voting position in the Parliament.
5. All members of the IRHA Executive Council are considered ex-officio members of the Parliament.

##### **C. Voting Representatives**

All non ex-officio members of Parliament shall have one vote in the Parliament.

##### **D. Powers of Parliament**

1. All legislative powers and authority of IRHA shall be vested in the Parliament.
2. The Parliament shall have the right to assess dues to members of all member halls, consider proposals regarding the IRHA budget, and distribute IRHA funds as it sees fit, in accordance with the Bylaws, through appropriate legislation.
3. Parliament may enact other legislation as needed to ensure the effective operation of IRHA.
4. Parliament may express the will of member hall councils regarding policies of Iowa State University, the Department of Residence, or ISU Dining through a Parliament Order.

##### **E. Written Legislation**

1. All voting members of the Parliament shall have the right to present legislation to the Parliament upon issues which they consider pertinent to the affairs of residence hall students. All bills and orders presented before the Parliament shall be considered legislation.
2. All legislation must be sponsored by at least two voting members of Parliament to receive consideration.
3. All legislation must receive an affirmative vote of a majority of voting members of Parliament to be approved, except where otherwise noted in the Bylaws.

Amended and Ratified: March 2015

4. Voting on policy recommendations solicited by the Department of Residence and ISU Dining shall take place no sooner than one week following the presentation of the proposed policy before Parliament.
5. The guidelines for the submission and consideration of legislation shall be delineated in the Bylaws.

**F. Parliament Sessions**

1. The Parliament shall have two sessions during each academic year. The first session shall commence at the beginning of the fall semester, and the second session shall commence at the beginning of spring semester.
2. Special meetings of the Parliament may be called by the President, the Vice President, or by petition of one-third of voting members of the Parliament.
3. Quorum of the Parliament shall consist of two-thirds of seated members of the Parliament.

**ARTICLE V – BYLAWS**

- A. Bylaws or amendments to the Bylaws, not in conflict with this constitution or any local, state, or national law, may be made by a two-thirds vote of the Parliament.
- B. Bylaws or amendments to the Bylaws must be presented as legislation before the Parliament.

**ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS**

- A. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed as legislation before the Parliament.
- B. Ratification of Amendments
  1. The proposed amendments shall first be approved by an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the voting members of the Parliament.
  2. Voting in Parliament shall take place no sooner than one week following the presentation of the proposed amendment.
  3. Upon passage by the Parliament, the proposed amendments must be approved in their exact form by the legislative processes of three-fourths of all member residence hall councils to be considered ratified.

**ARTICLE VII – RATIFICATION**

- A. This Constitution shall take effect upon ratification by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the IRHA Parliament.

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Any hall council that approves this Constitution in its exact form by a two-thirds vote of its respective legislative body shall be considered a member of the Inter-Residence Hall Association.