



# **Pan-Orthodox Christian Students**

## **ARTICLE I - ESTABLISHMENT**

We the students, faculty, and staff of the University of Rochester hereby establish **Pan Orthodox Christian Students (POCS)** of the University of Rochester and enact this constitution for its governance. Failure to follow this constitution could result in penalties or revocation of Students' Association recognition of this organization.

## **ARTICLE II - MISSION STATEMENT**

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Students seek to unite Orthodox Christian students and the broader University community by fostering faith, fellowship, and service across diverse backgrounds. We are committed to providing a space where students can grow and support one another spiritually, deepen their understanding of the Orthodox Christian faith, and live out the teachings of Christ in their academic and personal lives.

## **ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION ONE - MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Eligibility - All Students' Association (SA) members shall be eligible for membership. An SA Member is a University of Rochester undergraduate of the College who has paid their SA activities fee. All members and associate members shall be listed on the organization's CCC site. Membership is automatically renewed yearly unless the member graduates, requests to cancel their membership, or fails to meet membership requirements.
- B. Definition of active member - Active members must attend at least 50% of semester meetings and events and contribute to a minimum of one meeting an academic year.
- C. Definition of associate member - All University of Rochester faculty, staff, graduate students and Eastman students shall be eligible for associate membership but not eligible to hold an officer position. Graduate students, faculty, and staff are not eligible to perform, compete, nor travel as part of a college student organization. They may not represent the organization in any capacity and do not have voting rights. They may contribute to meetings freely.

## **ARTICLE IV - MEETINGS AND VOTING**

### **SECTION ONE - QUORUM**

- A. A meeting shall be valid if a quorum is present. Quorum is defined as 50% of the active membership plus two officers.

### **SECTION TWO - VOTING**

- A. Voting on any issue shall be official only if the meeting is valid.
- B. All members shall have equal voting power.
- C. Procedure – All decisions shall be arrived at by simple majority using a hand vote unless otherwise specified by the presiding officer. The President shall only vote to break a tie.

## **ARTICLE V - OFFICERS AND QUALIFICATIONS**

### **SECTION ONE - OFFICER POSITIONS**

- A. President - Must have at least one year of experience on the POCS executive board, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.
- B. Vice President - Must be an active member for more than one semester, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.
- C. Business Manager - Must be an active member for more than one semester, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.
- D. Outreach and Service Chair - Must be an active member for more than one semester, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.
- E. Events and Program Coordinator - Must be an active member for more than one semester, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.
- F. Public Relations Manager - Must be an active member for more than one semester, unless no one else is qualified. Must be a baptized Orthodox Christian.

### **SECTION TWO - DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

- A. All officers shall be members of the Students' Association.
- B. All officers shall promote active recruitment of new members.
- C. All officers shall enforce this constitution.
- D. All officers shall be responsible for knowing the sections of the Students' Association constitution and bylaws that apply to this organization.
- E. The President shall preside over the meetings and shall maintain organization within the club, communicate with other officers and delegate duties to maintain a functioning club that fulfills the purposes set forth above. The President serves as the spiritual and organizational leader of the Pan Orthodox Christian Students organization. They provide vision and direction for the group and ensure that all activities align with Orthodox Christian teachings and values. The president is responsible for overseeing the planning and execution of spiritual and community events, and representing the organization in communications with the University, clergy, and the wider University community.
- F. The Business Manager shall be responsible for maintaining all finances and

keeping detailed records of all transactions. They are responsible for overseeing the financial operations of the organization. This includes managing the budget for events, religious services, and other activities. They work to ensure that funds are allocated properly, especially for the organization's spiritual needs (e.g., purchasing icons, liturgical books, and materials for religious activities). The business manager also maintains records and fundraising efforts to support the group's service programs.

- G. The Vice President shall be responsible for maintaining a current copy of this constitution open to inspection by all members of this organization, Senators, and all members of the Students' Association. They assist the president in fulfilling their duties and steps in during their absence. They play a central role in ensuring that the group's spiritual mission is carried out effectively. The vice president coordinates activities related to religious observance, such as organizing prayer services, liturgies, and feast day celebrations. They also work with the president to plan outreach initiatives and ensure the group remains inclusive of all students.
- H. The Public Relations Manager shall also take roll call at all meetings, tally votes, keep an accurate list of organization members and take and maintain meeting minutes. This includes taking minutes, tracking attendance, and ensuring that all members are informed about upcoming activities, services, and events via email or CCC. In addition, public relations manager manages the organization's visibility both on campus and online. They create promotional materials, manage social media accounts, and communicate regularly with the University community, local Orthodox parishes, and other student organizations. The goal is to keep members informed, increase participation, and promote the group's mission while maintaining a consistent and engaging public presence.
- I. The Outreach and Service Chair organizes charity and volunteer opportunities that reflect the Orthodox Christian call to serve others. This includes coordinating outreach to the local community, such as organizing food drives, helping the needy, or supporting Orthodox Christian missions. They may also facilitate partnerships with local Orthodox churches to provide service opportunities for the group. The goal is to embody Christ's love through tangible acts of service to those in need.
- J. The Events and Program Coordinator is responsible for planning and executing events that promote spiritual growth, fellowship, and community within the Orthodox Christian context. This may include organizing Bible studies, prayer vigils, social gatherings, and retreats. They work with other officers to ensure that events align with Orthodox Christian traditions and teachings, such as organizing Pan-Orthodox liturgies or feast day celebrations. They ensure that there is someone responsible for meeting content weekly and that members' needs are being met through events. The Events and Program Coordinator will also serve as the primary contact between Events and Classroom Management and POCS.

### **SECTION THREE - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

- A. Nomination and Elections Procedure – Votes of any active members will be tallied, with the majority candidate winning the vote if they are eligible. Eligibility includes that the candidate is an active member for all positions except for president and vice president. President and vice president must have served on the executive board for a year prior unless there are no other eligible candidates. Vote will be taken by secret ballot.
- B. Term of Office – The executive board member is permitted to serve on the executive board for the entire length of the academic year, from the first day of classes in the fall semester to the last day of finals in the spring semester. If executive board members wish to resign from their position, they must do so with one month's notice.
- C. Timing of Elections - Elections will be held in early to mid-April of the spring semester annually. Formal elections must be held at least two weeks prior to the last of classes in the spring semester. If all executive board positions are not filled, open nominations may occur again in the following fall semester.

### **SECTION FOUR - VACANCIES, RESIGNATIONS, AND REMOVALS**

- A. At the first valid meeting following a vacancy of an office, the position is to be filled by the same manner described in *Article V, Section Three*.
- B. A vote of no confidence is a vote to remove an officer. Such a vote shall require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority of the entire active membership to pass. Any member of the organization may call for a vote of no confidence.
- C. If a vote of no confidence on any officer is to take place, they must be notified one week in advance.
- D. An office shall be declared vacant as the result of a vote of no confidence.

## **ARTICLE VI - RESOURCES**

### **SECTION ONE - RESOURCES**

- A. The Pan-Orthodox Christian Students of the University of Rochester will abide by their Resource Agreement.

## **ARTICLE VII - HAZING POLICY**

Hazing, defined as the harassment of one individual by another individual or organization, is not permitted by the Pan-Orthodox Christian Students. Behavior prohibited under this rule includes actions threatening substantial risk of physical or mental injury; actions exposing the individual to distressing, repulsive, or alarming situations or sensations; forced consumption of alcohol or drugs; actions in the form of social pressure which might cause harm to an individual.

## **ARTICLE VIII - NONDISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The Pan-Orthodox Christian Students abides by the nondiscrimination policy of the University of Rochester.

*Rachel Soliman*

11/18/2024

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Signature of Confirmation Date

Rachel Soliman

**President, Pan-Orthodox Christian Students**

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Signature of Approval Date Jessie Li

**Chair, Student Organization Administration & Review Committee**