

## MOTION

**Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate**

**Date:** November 13, 2017 | **Motion #1**

The Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate hereby RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the specified Articles and Sections to the *Bylaws of the Rensselaer Union Student Senate*, as suggested by the Internal Reforms Committee:
  - a. **Article 9, Section 1, Item (c):** "If the committee does not have a Vice Chair, an acting Chair should be selected by either the committee's Chair, if possible, or the Grand Marshal to fulfill the Chair's duties in their absence."

SO MOVED BY

The Internal Reforms  
Committee

AND PRESENTED BY

Steve Sperazza '18

VOTE

21-0-1

## MOTION

**Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate**

**Date:** November 13, 2017 | **Motion #2**

The Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate hereby RESOLVES:

1. To approve the amendments to the specified Articles and Sections to the *Bylaws of the Rensselaer Union Student Senate*, as suggested by the Internal Reforms Committee:
  - a. **Article 3, Section 2, Item (b):** “The Vice Grand Marshal,”
  - b. **Article 3, Section 6:** “The Vice Grand Marshal shall be responsible for:
  - c. **Article 3, Section 6, Item (c):** “Acting as the substitute for the Grand Marshal at any meetings that the Grand Marshal cannot attend. At such a meeting, the Vice Grand Marshal shall not count towards quorum and may only vote to break a tie;”
  - d. **Article 13, Section 1:** “If the position of Grand Marshal is vacant, or if the Grand Marshal is unable to fulfill the duties or requirements of office, then the Vice Grand Marshal shall assume the duties of the Grand Marshal as Acting Chair of the Senate.

SO MOVED BY

The Internal Reforms  
Committee

AND PRESENTED BY

Steve Sperazza '18

VOTE

17-3-2

## MOTION

**Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate**

**Date:** November 13, 2017 | **Motion #3**

The Rensselaer Union 48th Student Senate hereby RESOLVES:

1. To endorse the following edits to the *Rensselaer Handbook of Student Rights and Responsibilities*, as proposed by the Student Life Committee on November 8, 2017 by a vote of 11-0-0:
  - a. Global Changes
    - i. Removed all Handbook dates.
    - ii. All office names and titles have been updated.
  - b. Grounds for Disciplinary Action
    - i. 10. Physical assault “or conduct that threatens, encourages, or causes physical harm to persons or property.”
    - ii. 12. Willful failure or refusal... “or where the procedures governing the investigation or proceeding expressly grant a right of non-participation”
    - iii. 13. Conduct which endangers the safety of the Institute community, including, but not limited to, tampering with fire-warning devices, “fire protection systems, portable fire extinguishers, and other fire safety equipment...”
  - c. Components of the Judicial System
    - i. Under the Judicial Inquiry Section, “In addition, at the sole discretion of the Dean of Students Office, and to the extent applicable law permits, a copy of the letter may be sent to the student’s parent(s) or guardian(s)”
    - ii. Under the Grounds for Appeal section, Note addendum, “A mandatory minimum sanction cannot be reduced or appealed, other than for mitigation purposes relating to organizations as specified in the Good Samaritan Policy.”
    - iii. Under the Judicial Hearing Boards section, Judicial Board subsection, “The Judicial Board has jurisdiction... except where other Institute policies or procedures grant jurisdiction to other panels (e.g., Sexual Misconduct Policy)...”
    - iv. Under the Judicial Hearing Boards section, Review Board subsection, “The decision of a lower board (other than the Faculty Academic Board) may be appealed to the Review Board, by either party.”
  - d. Record of Disciplinary Action
    - i. Changed titled to “Disclosure of Disciplinary Action”

- ii. Removed the paragraph stating that the Judicial System determines the length of time a disciplinary action will remain on student record because that language was not reflective of current practice.
  - iii. Clarified that “Any disciplinary action can be disclosed to federal, state, or local government entity, law, enforcement, licensing or certification board, or corporate entity upon request of said agency if and only if: (a) by subpoena or binding order of a court or government agency, or (b) a student signs a confidentiality waiver for said agency or government entity, or (c) such disclosure is otherwise in compliance with state and federal laws, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).”
- e. Policy on Transcript Notation
  - i. Removed all references to “Student Code of Conduct” as that is not the name Rensselaer gives to its Handbook and policies.
- f. Academic Dishonesty
  - i. Made clarifying changes to the Faculty Procedures for responding to Academic Dishonesty that were recommended by the Academic Dishonesty Task Force.
    - 1. “Faculty who choose to apply an academic sanction to a student found responsible for committing academic dishonesty must complete the Academic Integrity Violation Case Summary and Report Form.”
    - 2. Further information was added to include how this form would be handled.
- g. Non-Discrimination/Equal-Opportunity
  - i. Changed title to “Non-Discrimination/Harassment Prevention/Equal Opportunity Policy”
  - ii. Made updates recommended by HR to include harassment and updated information on the Title IX coordinators.
  - iii. Added information about reporting and external reporting options.
  - iv. Moved discrimination/harassment/retaliation reporting subsection from the Sexual Misconduct section to this section, as it covers a broader set of conduct that better fits here.
  - v. Updated reporting channels to include Public Safety and full title of AVP & Dean of Students.
- h. Computer Use at Rensselaer
  - i. Made updates to reflect the new cyber-citizenship policy (previously passed).
- i. Security Technology, Access Control System, and Emergency Phones
  - i. Created this section
    - 1. “The Institute has installed security technology, access control system, emergency exit alarms, and emergency phones to facilitate the safety and security of the campus. Tampering with the security cameras, access control devices,

- emergency exit alarms, and/or emergency phones creates a safety and security risk and are serious offenses which will be treated as such.
- j. Steam Tunnels, Designated Confined Spaces, & Roofs
    - i. Added language to include roofs and access to roofs as being prohibited unless specifically authorized by the Division of Administration and Environmental Health and Safety.
  - k. Student Sexual Misconduct Policy
    - i. Created a more succinct and updated summary of the policy.
    - ii. Included a link to the full policy.
    - iii. Updated the Title IX Coordinator names/ numbers.
    - iv. Added additional external reporting information.
  - l. Necessary changes offered by the Student Life Committee:
    - i. Adding a section in the Introduction that states “Changes to this Handbook will be communicated to the Rensselaer community. Such communication will include access to the updated Handbook.”
    - ii. Adding a paragraph at the end of the introduction stating:
      - 1. “Changes to this Handbook shall be made if and only if there is direct involvement by the Student Life Committee and the changes are approved by the Student Senate by a 2/3 majority vote.
    - iii. Student Conduct for Individuals and Groups
      - 1. “Any invasion of individual rights of privacy or activity... is strictly forbidden for all Rensselaer students.”
    - iv. Hazing
      - 1. Revised the section to read: “No Rensselaer Student or Rensselaer affiliated group may haze another at any time including initiation into, or affiliation with, any organization or on-going association or membership.”
    - v. Added links to the Campus Climate Assessment and the Annual Security Report, both of which to be made easily available to the campus community, in compliance with New York State and federal laws.

SO MOVED BY

The Student Life Committee

AND PRESENTED BY

Hannah Merrow '18

VOTE

20-0-2