

Phalanx Constitution and Bylaws

- I. Name and Purpose
 - A. The name of this society shall be Phalanx.
 - B. The purpose of the society shall be to honor those students who have distinguished themselves among their peers in the areas of leadership, service, and devotion to the alma mater, to band them together in a spirit of good fellowship, and thus create a greater interest in student activities and better the standing of Rensselaer in the college world.

- II. Membership
 - A. Inducted Members
 - 1. Inducted Members are those students who have been nominated, duly selected, and fully initiated into the society as per Section VI.
 - 2. Inducted members have no voting rights.
 - 3. The number of members inducted into the society each year shall be at the discretion of the Active membership at large.
 - 4. Once initiated, Inducted membership cannot be revoked for any reason whatsoever.
 - B. Active Members
 - 1. Inducted Members shall be considered Active Members as long as they remain full-time students as determined by the Registrar and have submitted their dues to the Treasurer.
 - 2. An active member becomes an alumnus of Phalanx upon cessation of full-time student status or upon non-remittance of dues.
 - 3. Active members have full voting privileges and are expected to participate in the operations of the society including, but not limited to, selection of new members.
 - 4. Active members are expected to participate fully in the selection process, including a minimum of one selection meeting, unless excused by the President.
 - C. Honorary Members
 - 1. Individuals who have increased the welfare of the Institute by their personal activity, including but not limited to Alumni, Faculty, and Staff, having been duly elected into the society, may be selected by the Active Members as Honorary Members.
 - 2. Honorary Members may attend regular meetings dealing with the operations of Phalanx and the Institute and can serve on the Advisory Board. However, they may not attend meetings concerning the selection of new members or special meetings.
 - D. Alumni Members
 - 1. Any Inducted Members, including those who never become Active Members and who cease to be full-time students shall be considered Alumni members. Alumni members shall have the same rights and privileges granted Honorary Members. These rights and privileges are designated in Section II.C.2.

- III. Officers
 - A. Positions and Duties
 - 1. The President shall preside at all meetings, enforce the By-Laws, appoint committees and act as their honorary chairperson, call for special meetings, conduct meetings in an orderly manner, and act as the public representative of Phalanx in the community.
 - 2. The Vice President shall assist the President when called upon, preside over the Tapping Ceremony, perform the duties of any officer in his or her absence, and indoctrinate new members concerning Phalanx operations, policies, and practices.
 - 3. The Secretary shall maintain on file a copy of the Phalanx Constitution and By-Laws, take minutes of all meetings, and handle official Phalanx records and correspondence. In addition, the Secretary is responsible for maintaining the accurate membership list.
 - 4. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all funds and securities belonging to Phalanx, pay all authorized warrants, keep all financial records, and promptly collect all moneys and dues owed Phalanx.

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B. Elections

1. Only Active Members may be nominated for an office.
2. No individual may hold more than one office.
3. The officers shall be nominated and elected at the last regular meeting of the academic year. Vacancies during the academic year shall be filled by election at the meeting following knowledge of the vacancy or at a special meeting.
4. Election of officers is by a Majority vote of the total number Active Members.
5. The term for officers shall begin the day after the spring commencement ceremony and conclude at the following commencement.

C. Resignation

1. An officer may resign if he or she finds it impossible to fulfill the obligations of the office. The resigning officer must immediately notify the other officers, who will bring up the situation at the next meeting or call for a special meeting at their discretion.

D. Removals

1. An officer can be suspended by compiling two consecutive unexcused absences. At this time the position will be considered vacant and it shall be filled in accordance with Section III.B.
2. Officers and officers-elect may be removed for cause by a 2/3 vote, rounded up, of the total number of Active Members.

IV. Advisory Board

- A. The Advisory Board shall be composed of at least three Honorary or Alumni Members of Phalanx appointed by the President in consultation with the other officers.
- B. The Advisory Board shall advise the organization on official Phalanx matters and community issues and assist in verifying membership selection requirements. The Advisory Board may also assist with the transition from one slate of officers to the next.

V. Voting and Meetings

A. Voting and Quorum

1. Each Active Member, as defined in Section II.B., may cast one vote.
2. Any Active Member may request for a closed ballot on any matter at any time.
3. Quorum shall be defined as 1/3, rounded up, of the total number of Active Members or five (5) members, whichever is fewer.
4. Any matter of Referendum shall require an affirmative vote by 2/3, rounded up, of the total number of Active Members. Any matter not specifically designated with a voting requirement in this Constitution or the Bylaws shall be considered a matter of Referendum.

B. Meetings

1. Regular meetings shall be held at least bi-monthly during the academic year at the discretion of the Active Members.
2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, by the request of two other officers, or 1/3 of the active members.
3. Meetings may only be conducted in the presence of Quorum as defined in Sec. V.A.3. No action whatsoever may be taken in the absence of Quorum.
4. Active Members shall be notified at least 48 hours in advance of a regular meeting and 12 hours in advance of a special meeting.
5. The Secretary shall maintain minutes of all meetings, except selection meetings, including records of attendance and voting. Only records of attendance shall be maintained for selection meetings.
6. The official language of all meetings shall be English unless, by unanimous vote of all those present at the meeting, an alternate language is preferred.

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VI. New Member Selection

A. Requirements

1. Students of at least Junior status as determined by the Registrar who are in good academic and judicial standing and have attended RPI for at least two consecutive semesters are eligible for selection into Phalanx.
2. Any person affiliated with RPI who has been actively associated with the Institute for at least five (5) years is eligible for selection for Honorary membership in Phalanx.
3. Any candidate may be nominated by any member of the campus community who writes down the nominee's name and submits it to the Phalanx President.

B. Official action can not be taken on candidates without Quorum.

C. Strict confidentiality shall be maintained regarding the selection process; information concerning references or the status of the proceedings shall not be released under any circumstances. At the conclusion of the selection process, only the names of those selected shall be released. Release or discussion of any other information, such as the names of other nominees or reasons for selection decisions, is prohibited.

D. It is the policy of Phalanx to provide, to the maximum extent feasible, equal opportunity to all students regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability for all aspects of the society. Reckless or intentional endangerment to health or forced consumption of alcohol or other drugs for the purpose of initiation or affiliation with this society is prohibited.

VII. Operations and Bylaws

A. Dues

1. Dues shall be \$10 per year.
2. The Treasurer is responsible for keeping a record of when dues have expired.

B. Selection Procedure for New Members

1. The President shall compile a list of those candidates who meet the requirements of Section VI.A. and distribute it to the members with ample time to complete the selection process.
2. The Active Membership shall divide the nominee list in order to verify references and recommendations.
3. The qualifications for membership of each nominee shall be discussed and voted on individually.
4. After discussion of the candidate, a vote shall be taken. Only those Active Members present for the entire discussion shall vote on that particular candidate. A simple majority of these members shall elect the candidate into the society.

VIII. Amendments

A. An amendment or bylaw change must be proposed and distributed to the Active Membership at least one week prior to the meeting at which action is to be taken on it.

B. A 3/4 vote of Active Members is required to ratify or amend this Constitution.

C. Bylaws are contained in Section VII. It shall require a simple Majority vote to adopt or change any bylaws for this organization. Bylaws may also be removed from the constitution and consolidated into a separate document by the same vote.

This Constitution was approved December 17, 2004.