

Constitution and By-laws of the University of Rhode Island College of Nursing Student Nurses' Association

Article I: Name

Section 1.

The name of this organization shall be the Student Nurses' Association of University of Rhode Island College of Nursing (URI-CON).

Article II: Purpose and Function

Section 1. The Purpose of this organization is:

- a) To assume responsibility for contributing to nursing education and to provide the highest quality health care;
- b) To provide programs representative of fundamental and current professional interests and concerns; and
- c) To aid in the development of the whole person and his/her responsibility for health care of people in all walks of life.

Section 2. The functions of this organization shall include the following:

- a) To have direct input into standards of nursing education and influence the educational process;
- b) To influence health care and nursing education and practice through legislative activities;
- c) To promote and encourage participation in community affairs and activities toward improved health care and the resolution of related social issues;
- d) To represent nursing students to the consumer, to institutions, and to other organizations;
- e) To promote and encourage;
 - 1) the nursing profession for all those interested regardless of race, color, creed, age, life style, national origin, or economic status
 - 2) participation in interdisciplinary activities
 - 3) participation in student activities
 - 4) recruitment efforts
 - 5) educational opportunities
 - 6) foster relationships with the National Student Nurses Association, Rhode Island Student Nurses Association, American Nurses Association as well as other nursing health related organizations.

Article III: Membership

Section 1. 10 Members of this association shall constitute the membership of the National Students' Nursing Association. Recommended to all members to seek membership to NSNA.

Section 2. Membership is in good standing when active participation is achieved and members adhere to the bylaws

Section 3. Members of the association shall be:

a) Active Members:

- 1) Students currently, with an interest in healthcare at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing.
- 2) At least eighty percent (80%) of all members of this organization shall be active members. (Defined as – attending 75% of the meetings)
- 3) Voting membership is restricted to matriculated, currently enrolled students and faculty, with an interest in healthcare at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing
- 4) At least eighty percent (80%) of all members of the organization are matriculated, currently enrolled students, with an interest in healthcare at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing.
- 5) Active members shall have all of the privileges of membership.

Section 4. Active memberships may be extended six months beyond completion of a student's program in nursing.

Section 5. Membership in the organization shall not be denied to anyone on the basis of race, creed, religion, sex, physical disability, or sexual orientation.

Section 6. There shall be no hazing.

Article IV: Affiliation

Section 1. Student Nurses' Association at the University of Rhode Island, College of Nursing is a local constituent of the Student Nurses association of Rhode Island (SNARI) and a constituent of the National Student Nurses' Association, Inc., (NSNA).

Article V: Elections

Section 1. Members of the association shall hold elections of officers annually by the second week of March, by secret ballot, with the nominees not being present.

Section 2. Members shall cast their ballots at a time and place specified by the President.

Section 3. Officers shall be elected by plurality of the votes.

Section 4. A revote by ballot shall be taken in the event of a tie.

Section 5. In cases where an office is vacated, the office may be filled by a majority vote of members.

Section 6. Term of office shall be one years, beginning the day of election, or until successors are elected.

Section 7. Senior officers will mentor junior officers each year.

Section 8. All officers of the organization shall:

- a) be matriculated, currently enrolled students at URI CON.
- b) be active members of URI CON SNA.
- c) be in good academic standing in the nursing program.
- d) hold no more than one voting office.

Section 9. **Duties of Offices:**

- a) The **President** shall: 1 active member
 - 1) preside at all meetings of this association.
 - 2) appoint special committees with the majority approval of the officers.
 - 3) perform all duties properly designated to the executive of an organization and represent this association in matters relating to SNA.
 - 4) represent this association as a Chapter Delegate at the State and National Convention or assign an alternate Delegate.
- b) The **Vice President** shall: 1 active member
 - 1) assume responsibilities of the President during his/her interim period.
 - 2) serve as Chair Person of the Nominations Committee for all elections during his/her term.
 - 3) appoint an active member or members to make posters and signs for meetings and special events
 - 4) responsible for reviewing and recommending changes in the by-laws annually.
 - 5) Be responsible for organizing trips to convention.
 - 6) Perform all other duties as delegated by the President.

- 7) Be responsible for maintaining a newsletter twice a semester
- c) The **Secretary** shall: 1 active member
- 1) record the minutes of all meetings of this association.
 - 2) provide a copy of the minutes to the SNA Advisor, President, and place a copy of the approved minutes on the SNA board and website.
 - 3) keep records of all association correspondence.
 - 4) conduct the general correspondence of this association as requested by the President and/or Vice President.
 - 5) maintain the SNA minutes file.
 - 6) update and distribute the SNA membership directory.
 - 7) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- d) The **Treasurer** shall: 1 active member
- 1) act as custodian of organizational funds.
 - 2) keep accurate and current financial records.
 - 3) make regular and annual reports summarizing income sources and expenses.
 - 4) provide information to the organization upon request.
 - 5) facilitate monetary disbursements with the approval of the president and majority of the members.
 - 6) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- e) The **Student Senate Representatives** shall: 2 active members
- 1) attend the student senate meeting on Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the memorial union of URI and report back to this constituent chapter.
 - 2) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
 - 3) attend designated interclub council meetings on campus and act as liaison between the SNA and URI.
- f) The **Scholarship/Awards Officer** shall: 1 active member
- 1) distribute scholarship/awards information to SNA members ongoing (fall/spring).

- 2) collaborate with the website officer in collecting and updating information concerning scholarships and awards.
 - 3) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- g) The **Fund Raising Officers** shall: 2 active members
- 1) oversee fundraising activities, including clothing and other merchandising sales.
 - 2) report to the treasurer all income and expenses related to fundraising
 - 3) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- h) **The EVENT/ Diversity/ Community Projects Officers** shall: 2 active members
- 1) serve as coordinator of all events, diversity, community projects approved by the members.
 - 2) publicize and promote participation within the membership for all events, diversity, community projects.
 - 3) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- j) The **Legislative Officer** shall: 2 active members
- 1) seek an elected office at the Student Nurses Association of Rhode Island
 - 2) support the resolution as a chapter delegate at the state and national convention.
 - 3) perform all other duties as delegated by the President.
- k) The **Membership Officer, Nationally called the Breakthrough To Nursing Officer/Public Relations Officers**:2 active members,
- 1) serve as coordinator of efforts to recruit new members into SNA; particularly students coming into Nursing 103 or NUR 103
 - 2) coordinate recruitment strategies for elementary, high school, college students, health-care and non-health care professionals.
 - 3) coordinate "Food for Thought" speakers.
 - 4) publicize the events of this organization as designated by the members.
 - 5) serve as organizer and coordinator of all communications.

6) coordinate efforts to develop poster presentations that illustrate highlights of SNA/NSNA conventions.

7) perform all other duties as delegated by the president.

- 1) **The Web Site Officer shall:** 1 active member
 - 1) maintain and update the chapter website with assistance from the lab staff a minimum of two times a semester.
 - 2) perform all other duties as delegated by the president.

Article VI: Standing Committees and special committees

Section 1. The President may establish standing committees and special committees composed of members of the organization as deemed necessary by membership.

Section 2. The committee chairperson shall make progress reports at each meeting.

Article VII: Voting power and Quorum

Section 1. Each member in good standing shall have one vote.

Section 2. A quorum shall consist of twenty-five percent (25%) of the total membership in good standing. At least two of the members shall be officers.

Article VIII: Meetings

Section 1. General Meetings of this association shall be held bi-monthly at 12:15, usually Mondays or Fridays, in the Students Commons, White Hall, College of Nursing

Section 2. The delegate and alternate to the State and/or National conventions shall be members in good standing in the Chapter and shall be selected or elected by members of this chapter.

Section 3. The SNA at the University of Rhode Island constituent is entitled to representation at the annual convention according to the NSNA by-laws.

Section 4. The parliamentary authority of this organization shall be Robert's Rules of Order.

Article IX: Amendments

Section 1. These by-laws may be amended at a general meeting with quorum approval.

Section 2. The Vice President shall make editorial changes in the by-laws as needed provided that these changes have been approved by the members.

Section 3. Any amendments to the SNA or NSNA by-laws within the areas of conformity shall automatically go into effect in these by-laws.

Section 4. An amendment may be originated by any member in good standing.

Section 5. An amendment shall be adopted by a majority (50%+1) of the quorum.

Section 6. An amendment shall become effective immediately after the adoption.

Section 7. The by-laws will be reviewed and confirmed annually.