

Oral Roberts University

Honors Student Council

Constitution

ARTICLE I: Title

This Organization is hereby titled the Oral Roberts University Honors Student Council.

ARTICLE II: Mission Statement

It is the purpose of the Oral Roberts University Honors Student Council to act as a liaison between the faculty and students of the Honors Program and to assist the Honors Program Committee in fulfilling the stated purpose for the Honors Program:

"The purpose of ORU's honors program is to provide academically gifted students an educational experience at a level that transcends both the rigor and scope of the general curriculum and integrates the ethical responsibilities of using God's intellectual gifts for the healing of humanity into the concept of the 'whole person' education. The program encourages servant-leadership opportunities both on and off campus."

ARTICLE III: Objectives

- a.** We shall be a liaison between the faculty and students of the Honors Program.
- b.** We shall facilitate Honors Program events in conjunction with the faculty.
- c.** We shall foster faith through intellectual pursuits.
- d.** We shall represent the ORU Honors Program to other universities.
- e.** We shall assist students in pursuing high undergraduate, graduate, and career goals.
- f.** We shall provide an avenue for leadership development and service to ORU and the surrounding community.

ARTICLE IV: General Structure and Procedures

- a.** The HSC has three branches: the executive (the President and Vice President), the Senate, and the Officers.
 - i.** The President and Vice President are responsible for directing the actions of the Honors Student Council.
 - ii.** The Officers are responsible for the actions and planning necessary for the general functioning of the program.
 - iii.** The Senate is responsible for the representation and debate required for the general planning of the program.

- b.** The President, with the assistance of the Vice President, presides over the Officers and the Senate, directing all Senate, Officers, and Joint meetings.
 - i.** The President and Vice President have the tie-breaking vote in the Senate, and if they are in disagreement, then the affected Officers cast the vote.
 - ii.** Any legislation passed by the Senate can be revoked by the faculty. All decisions made by the faculty are final.
- c.** The Officers (including the President and Vice President) can repeal any act of the Senate by a unanimous vote.
- d.** Each Officer is responsible for submitting a semester plan to the Senate by a date to be determined by the President.
- e.** The semester plan consists of a tentative list of activities and projects (with all possible specificity) coordinated by the Officers and a general plan for the carrying out of responsibilities.
- f.** The Senate must approve, approve with specific revisions, or deny with reasons each plan by a date to be determined by the President.
- g.** The Senate may also submit suggestions to the Officers.
- h.** The Senate may create an ad hoc committee to fulfill any suggestions that the Officers are unable or unwilling to sponsor.
- i.** Each Officer, after receiving the approval of the Senate, must find a faculty sponsor for any event or major project.
- j.** If the Officer is unable to find a sponsor, the proposal is dropped until one is found or permission is given from the director of the Honors Program for the proposal to proceed.
- k.** All elected officials are to maintain constant communication with faculty. The President is required to communicate with at least one Honors Program faculty member no less than once per week. The president is also responsible for presenting the business of the HSC to the Honors Program faculty committee (HPC).

ARTICLE V: Elected Officials

a. Executive Officers

i. The President shall be responsible for:

- 1.** Maintaining consistent dialogue with the Honors Program director and faculty
- 2.** Upholding the constitution
- 3.** Directing the Officer and the Senate
- 4.** Setting year-long goals for the Honors Student Council
- 5.** Enforcing Senate resolutions

6. Deciding which committees should handle new business
7. Forming ad hoc committees for business not related to the formed committees
8. Fostering relationships with alumni
9. Representing the Honors Student Council's singular voice to the faculty, the campus, and the greater world
10. Actively establishing contacts with other campus organizations
11. Monitoring the ideas of other university honors programs
12. Maintaining consistent (at least once a month) communication with the general Honors Program students

ii. The Vice President shall be responsible for:

1. Upholding the constitution.
2. Assisting and advising the President
3. Presiding with the President over Senate meetings, Officers meetings, Joint sessions and open forums
4. Enforcing Senate resolutions
5. Facilitating transfer of information and resources between committees
6. Enforcing proper selection of committee members
7. Providing the tie-breaking vote (with the President) for propositions in the Officers, Senate, or Joint meetings
8. Fostering relationships with other campus organizations
9. Monitoring the ideas of other university honors programs

iii. Incapacities:

1. In the event that the President is unable to fulfill his duties, the Vice President shall assume all duties of the President.
2. In the event that the Vice President is unable to perform his duties, the President shall appoint a new Vice President, subject to the approval of the Senate.
3. In the event of both being permanently unable to fulfill their duties, a new election for the two positions shall occur.

b. Officers

- i. Five Officers positions shall be created. The titles of these positions shall be: **Secretary, Treasurer, Events Coordinator, Communications Director, and Chaplain.**
- ii. Each Officer shall be responsible for forming a committee to perform the duties specified for their respective positions. Each Officer is responsible for any and all paperwork associated with that office and must not withhold any information that may be pertinent to another Officer.

iii. Committees:

1. Any Honors Program member may volunteer to serve on a committee by approaching the Officer.
2. No unelected person is officially considered to be a committee member until his name and starting date are recorded by the officiating Officer. The Officer must then report the addition to the Secretary.
3. Officers may reject an applicant or expunge a committee member if they are deemed incompetent or extraneous. If the affected committee member disagrees with that decision, that person may then appeal to the Vice President.
4. Terminations of service shall be recorded by the Secretary and will be defined as the second consecutive unexcused absence from a committee meeting.

iv. Officers must complete a report at the end of their tenure recording strategies, ideas, and tips for executing the duties of their offices.

1. The Officers will add their reports to those already compiled under their offices and transfer this information to the incoming Officer.
2. These reports are considered public information and may be viewed by any member at any time.

v. If asked to do so, the Officers and their committees must make an effort to assist Honors student events or projects planned independently of the elected Honors student leadership and faculty unless it is deemed by the faculty to be unwholesome or unrelated to the Honors Program.

vi. In the event that a Officer resigns or becomes incapacitated, a member of his committee shall be elected by the committee to take his place immediately pending approval from the Vice President.

vii. The Secretary shall be specifically responsible for:

1. Taking and publicizing minutes
2. Acting as the Honors Program parliamentarian at major meetings (defined as the Senate, Officers, joint session, and open forum meetings) whenever *Robert's Rules of Order* is invoked by the chair
3. Handling Honors Program paperwork
4. Obtaining and distributing all member contact information
5. Compiling academic advising information (see Appendix IIa)
6. Seeking opportunities for off-campus studies
7. Maintaining an organized filing system

viii. The Treasurer shall be specifically responsible for:

1. Managing the Honors Student Council bank account
2. Recording and approving financial transactions
3. Coordinating and executing fundraisers (see Appendix IIb)

ix. The Events Coordinator is responsible for:

1. Coordinating and executing all faculty-sponsored and Senate-approved events
2. Securing Honors Faculty sponsors for events
3. Acting as a liaison between the Honors Program and the ORU Admissions office (see Appendix IIc)

x. The Communications Director shall be specifically responsible for:

1. Producing program publicity on and off campus (see Appendix IId)
2. Internal communication between elements of the Honors Program (see Appendix IIe)
3. Performing all duties as the Honors Program historian (see Appendix IIf)

xi. The Chaplain shall be specifically responsible for:

1. Initiating spiritual social activities (see Appendix IIg)
2. Handling any internal awards system the program chooses to adopt
3. Promoting Christian philosophical thinking, expressed in essays or some other format
4. Maintaining a form of faculty-student mentoring and upper class-freshman assistance
5. Coordinating community service and outreach activities

c. Senators

i. There shall be eight Senator seats: two for each class-year. Each class-year shall possess equal power in the Senate, each Senator represents all members of his class-year, and each Senator wields one vote, with the President and Vice President giving the tie-breaking vote. If only one student applies for Senate from a certain class-year, an applicant from another class-year shall be drafted by the election committee to fill the empty spot.

ii. Senators are charged with translating the ideas of their constituents into acceptable, practical legislation. They shall do so by:

1. Approving the plans of the Officers
2. Giving suggestions for plans to the Officers
3. Presenting corporate, semester reports to the faculty with the feedback of the program

iii. Replacing Senators:

1. In the event that a Senator is impeached or becomes incapacitated, the Vice President shall appoint a willing replacement, pending approval from the other Senators.
2. In the event that a Senator resigns, he shall nominate no less than two willing replacements, which shall be duly voted on by the other Senators.

ARTICLE VII: Open Forum

a. The Open forum occurs once per semester.

b. All program members are invited to bring feedback to their elected officials and brainstorm for new plans.

- c. All elected officials are required to attend, and faculty shall be cordially invited and encouraged to attend.
- d. The President presides and keeps order.
- e. Parliamentary procedure may be called by the presiding chair in case of an extreme dispute, and will be observed according to *Robert's Rules of Order*.
- f. The Secretary shall compose a summary of the topics addressed and the points of view expressed in the open forum, and shall publish the report in a public place. Officers addressed or affected shall then publish written responses to those notes within two weeks.

ARTICLE VIII: Elections

- a. All candidates must be members of the Oral Roberts University Honors Program in good standing.
- b. All voters must be members of the Honors Program. No member of the Honors Program shall be denied the right to vote.
- c. Elections for Senators shall occur in November, and elections for Executive Officers and Officers will occur in April.
- d. Elected officials shall be sworn in by the last day of the semester containing their election, and shall begin their tenures on the last day of that same semester (the end of the semester shall be defined as the last day of classes).
- e. The writing of the ballot, vote counting, determination of election date, and enforcement of procedures shall be administered by the Secretarial committee during November (Senate) elections and by an ad hoc Senatorial committee during April (Officers and Executive) elections.
- f. Voting shall be available for a minimum of eight hours and a maximum of twenty-four hours.
- g. Members wishing to run for an office must report their candidacy to the appropriate committee at least two weeks before the election.
- h. The ballot for the November elections must allow voters to weigh their vote for different candidates, and the ballot for the April elections must require voters to vote for only one candidate or ticket per office.
- i. Absentee ballots must be provided by the election committee for students not present on campus during the voting period, and must be requested by the students voting in that manner. They must be received by the appropriate committee before the end of the voting period.
- j. Election dates must be publicly declared at least one month in advance of the election.
 - i. Students wishing to run for an office must report their candidacy to the appropriate committee at least 21 days before the election.
 - ii. Campaigning may not begin until 21 days before the election (see Appendix III).

- k.** On election day, intentional campaigning may not take place in the same room or within sensory perception of the official voting location.
- m.** The President and Vice President must run together, and the Officer and Senators must run individually.
- n.** Vacancies occurring while school is out of session:
 - i.** Freshmen may apply for the Senate before the first joint session of the Honors Student Council in a given year.
 - ii.** Elected officials leaving their position during a school break must nominate at least two willing replacements. Students may also independently apply for vacant elected positions.
 - iii.** Applicants and nominees must be voted on at the first joint session of the Honors Student Council, which must take place in the first 14 days of the semester.
- o.** Officers and Executive positions may not run for Senate positions for the same year for which they are to serve.

ARTICLE IX: Impeachment

- a.** Elected officials who find another in error should handle all disputes personally and should resort to public sharing of information only when the official acts in a manner dangerous to the values of the program and simultaneously refuses to accept exorbitantly gracious private efforts at mediation.
- b.** Procedure:
 - i.** At least three elected officials (not including executives) are required to propose an impeachment of another elected official (not including executives). Impeachments may be proposed at a joint session or at a Senate meeting.
 - ii.** A unanimous vote in the Senate or a _ vote from all elected officials (including executives) is required for impeachment.
 - iii.** In the case of an impeachment, procedure shall follow the rules listed in Article V.
 - 1.** Clause b-vi shall be used to replace impeached Officers.
 - 2.** Clause c-iii shall be used to replace impeached Senators.
- c.** Executive Officers can only be impeached at an Open forum.
 - i.** Fifteen percent of the entire Honors student body or _ of the standing body of the Open forum—whichever is larger—must approve the impeachment.
 - ii.** Faculty reserve the right to veto the impeachment of an Executive Officer.
 - iii.** Two weeks' due notice must be provided for a motion of impeachment to be presented at the Open forum. The notice must be given to the secretary and duly published at least 14 days before the event.

ARTICLE X: Meetings

a. Rules of Order

- i.** The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* will be the authority on parliamentary procedure whenever it is used.
 - ii.** The presiding chair of any meeting (including open forums, joint sessions, Officers or Senate meetings, standing committee meetings, or ad hoc committee meetings) may invoke parliamentary procedure in the case of excessive dispute.
- b.** All elected officials must take appropriate measure to inform the Secretary of their actions regarding the Honors Student Council business. All basic meetings, plans, and actions must be logged with the Secretary.
- c.** All pertinent legislation and information regarding established committee duties shall also be compiled at each meeting and sent to the appropriate committee.
- d.** Major meetings (Open forum, Joint sessions, Senate meetings, and Officers meetings)
- i.** The President shall preside at all major meetings and assigns a reasonable time and place.
 - ii.** The Secretary or a proxy shall act as records clerk and, when necessary, as the parliamentarian.
 - iii.** The Senate and the Officers shall meet at least once a month. The Open forum shall meet at least once a semester. There shall be at least two Joint sessions per semester.
 - iv.** The first Joint session of each semester shall take place within fourteen days of the beginning of classes.
- v.** Senate declarations:
- 1.** A majority Senate vote may call an Open forum by announcing such fourteen days in advance.
 - 2.** A majority Senate vote may call a Joint session by announcing such seven days in advance.
 - 3.** Two Senators may call a Senate meeting by announcing such four days in advance.
- vi.** Executive declarations:
- 1.** The President may call a Joint session by announcing such ten days in advance.
 - 2.** The President may call a Senate or Officers meeting by announcing such four days in advance.
- vii.** Quorum at Joint sessions, Senate meetings, or Officers meetings is defined as two thirds of the requested attendance, rounding up to the nearest whole number.
- e.** Minor Meetings (Officers's committee meetings, ad hoc committee meetings)
- i.** Officers shall preside at committee meetings and assign a reasonable time and place.
 - ii.** Parliamentary procedure shall be observed in the same manner as for major meetings.

ARTICLE XI: Constitutional Amendments

- a.** At least three Senators, or a faculty member, are required in order to propose an amendment to the constitution.

- b.** The President has until the next joint session to seek approval of the amendment from faculty and administration; any changes desired by faculty and administration are made to attain their approval.
- c.** If the amendment is approved by faculty, or altered and approved, it goes to vote at the next joint session and must be approved by a majority of all elected officials.
- d.** Upon passage by the elected officials of the joint session, the amendment is put up for vote at the next election or at a special election if a majority of the election officials so decide. It must be passed _ of the voters.
- e.** Amendments are to be added onto the end of the Constitution, numbered by chronological order.

Appendix I: Expanded Objectives

- a.** To refine intellectual leaders prepared to heal mankind.
 - i.** To attract and develop, in their unique needs, the young people of exceptional talents meriting the best fit for this program, called by God to heal the totality of human need.
 - ii.** To provide practical tools for growth through networking and the free flow of voluntarily shared talent.
 - iii.** To habitually gather fresh insights, knowledge, and perspectives of current trends as a natural policy of a people devoted to the healthy transformation of the self for living in the world but not of it.
 - iv.** To provide opportunities for practical experience infusing truth in the cultural institutions of the world.
 - v.** To lift up the examples, lessons, and professions of Christian intellectuals from the current day and the church's proud heritage so as to make them a normative aspect of members' cultural literacy.
 - vi.** To facilitate student mentoring of younger students by older to mutually boost practical advantages they possess in their vocation.
 - vii.** To sponsor activities conducive to the best fellowship allotted to mankind, free in playful curiosity and wonder of the truth, while committed to a disciplined life of the mind requiring rest, focus, and purposeful recreation.
- b.** To establish within the souls of its members a proper relationship of the mind with the spirit.
 - i.** To instruct members in the validity of Christianity on the basis of its truth rather than its fulfillment of felt needs.
 - ii.** To initiate and maintain the highest standards of education under the confidence that all truth is God's truth.
 - iii.** To extend the spiritual resources of the university to consciously understanding and practicing habits of the mind necessary for proper worship of God.
 - iv.** To provide resources - faculty and peer interaction, books and media, and a culture of kingdom-building - which instigate the clear renewal of the mind and knowledge of its designed role.
 - v.** To submit members' lives in prayer to the grace of God which brings hope and power to their callings.
 - vi.** To practice the mindful and spiritual elements of loving people as Christ loves.
 - vii.** To always maintain freedom in methods but never in functions, allowing the Spirit of Truth, to have His way in the lives of program members.
- c.** To integrate the university's purpose into every facet of campus life.
 - i.** To culturally establish a synergistic community mutually committed to helping each other fulfill the purpose of God's call on members' lives.
 - ii.** To raise a standard of exemplifying and enforcing the spirit of the honor code in daily life.
 - iii.** To establish mutually beneficial relationships with other campus organizations.

- iv. To establish a sense of campus ownership on the part of the students through organizational empowerment steering individual interests toward ORU initiatives.
- v. To voluntarily assist and equip regular campus functions best performed by students, freeing up the administration's focus and funds toward other ministerial needs.
- vi. To take the call for physical discipline at ORU as a serious spiritual responsibility requiring public awareness of information and personal willingness toward obedience.
- vii. To uphold and enhance the traditions of ORU.

Appendix II: Recommendations for Officers

- a. The Secretary shall consider the following information when compiling academic resources:
 - i. Which Honors classes are needed for various goals or situations
 - ii. How to convert 'normal' classes into 'Honors' classes
 - iii. What is required for graduating with Honors
- b. The Treasurer shall consider the following fundraisers when composing the semester report:
 - i. T-Shirt or sweatshirt sales
 - ii. Poster or sticker sales
 - iii. Mabee Center pick-up nights
- c. The Events Coordinator shall consider the following events relating to the ORU Admissions office when composing the semester report:
 - i. Planning orientation activities
 - ii. College weekends
 - iii. College expos
- d. The Communications Director ought to consider the following publicity projects when composing the semester report:
 - i. Professional newsletters once a semester showcasing Honors Students' best work.
- e. The Communications Director ought to consider the following internal communications systems when composing the semester report:
 - i. Maintaining the Honors Program bulletin board
 - ii. Handling and expanding Honors Program web development.
- f. The Communications Director ought to consider the following historian ideas when composing the semester report:
 - i. Collecting and archiving media, objects, or stories for archiving
 - ii. Maintaining an online library

g. The Chaplain ought to consider the following spiritual social activities when composing the semester report:

- i.** Honors Program chapel services
- ii.** Bible studies
- iii.** Prayer and/or worship at other events
- iv.** Prayer vigils in the gardens

Appendix III: Definition of "Campaigning"

Campaigning shall be defined as election-oriented:

- a.** Posters
- b.** Phone calls
- c.** Buttons or stickers
- d.** Websites
- e.** Any form of the written word
- f.** Any form of media whatsoever