

Constitution of OU Religion Newswriters Association

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be OU Religion Newswriters Association, hereafter referred to as OU RNA.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote excellence in media coverage and in student and public discourse concerning religion.

Article III: Affiliations

This organization is affiliated with the national Religion Newswriters Association. National Religion Newswriters Association statement of purpose: The Religion Newswriters Association is a charitable, literary and educational organization whose purpose is to promote excellence in media coverage and in public discourse about religion. RNA envisions religion reporting and commentary informed by civility, accuracy, fairness and insight.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1: The majority of the membership of this organization shall consist of enrolled Ohio University students and faculty.

Section 2: This organization shall not discriminate on the bases of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or protected veteran.

Article V: Officers

Section 1: The duties of each officer shall be:

- *President*: This person will facilitate meetings and spearhead the movement. This person will be the link between OU RNA, other student university chapters, and national RNA. This person will also be in regular communication with the faculty advisor, Dr. Michael Sweeney. This person will also serve as, or have the responsibility to delegate the role of Editor-in-Chief of any publication that may be founded in the course of the association conception.
- *Vice-president*: this person will stand in when the president is unavailable, or will step in in case of complications. This person will be responsible for reaching out to contacts to plan and advertise organization meeting. They will also serve as the Assistant Editor of any possible future publication.
- *Treasurer*: Handles anything monetary, including filling out organization forms for the university. This person will also attend a short training session at the start of each first semester.

Section 2: Officers must have a 2.5 GPA or above, and be registered for at least 6.0 credit hours through the Ohio University.

Section 3: An election shall be scheduled in April of each year to elect new officers by majority vote. The terms will be held for one year and incumbent officers shall have the option to run for re-election. Newly elected officers should assume office immediately following the meeting in which they are elected.

Section 4: Should an officer's position become vacant during the term, elections may be held as needed.

Article VI: Advisor

Section 1: Our organization advisor must be a member of the faculty administration, or staff of Ohio University.

Section 2: The duties and responsibilities of the advisor shall be to provide consultation on organization decisions, activities, and partnerships. The advisor shall be available for meetings with the executive board with advance notice on a monthly to bimonthly basis, as well as more frequently when circumstances require it. The advisor shall also attend the organization's first introductory meeting each Fall. The advisor must give prior approval for all financial transactions and off-campus activities the organization pursues, as well as act as publisher and executive editor in the case that the organization decides to form a publication.

Section 3: Should the position of advisor become vacant during the year, the executive board will nominate a faculty member to approach as a new advisor.

Article VII: Meetings

Section 1: Regular meetings of the organization shall be held bi-weekly and will be called by the unanimous agreement of both the president and vice-president.

Section 2: Special meetings of the organization shall be held when further planning is required for organization events, or, in the case of a publication, editing, fact-checking, or publishing is required to meet a monthly publication deadline. Both the president and vice-president have the authority to call meetings with a minimum of one-day notice required.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1: This constitution shall be amended by a vote of 2/3 majority of the membership at any regular or special meeting.

Section 2: Advance notice of amending the organization's constitution will be made through email, a posting on the organization's Facebook page, as well as an announcement one consecutive meeting prior.

By-Laws of OU Religion Newswriters Association

Article I: Membership

Section 1: All participants who attend at least three meetings and/or activities through one academic semester and who pay the yearly dues will be eligible for membership.

Section 2: Dues for this organization shall be collected yearly and shall be determined by the membership fee required for student membership with the national Religion Newswriters Association.

Section 3: Membership responsibilities shall include engaging actively in the organization's meeting and activities. In the case of a publication, members will be expected to submit, edit, or produce content for the organization's publication on a monthly basis.

Section 4: Membership shall be terminated if students violate university policy, the student code of conduct, or in the case that a member's words or actions compromises the missions and values of OU RNA.

Article II: Selection of Officers

Section 1: The selection of officers shall be done through nomination by members and shall be elected by a simple majority vote every April. The current standing president will break all ties.

Section 2: Any member may make a motion for the removal of any officer providing that evidence is presented to support the removal. Grounds for removal include the inadequate fulfillment of duties or the violation of regulations of University policies or any federal, state or local laws. A two-thirds vote by the membership is needed to remove an officer. Two-thirds of the active members must be present at the time of voting.

Article III: Selection of Advisor

Section 1: The executive board shall nominate one faculty or staff member to serve as advisor.

Section 2: Removal of an advisor, due to his/her inability to fulfill stated responsibilities or for the violation of any University policies or any federal, state or local laws will be possible through a two-thirds vote by the membership. Two-thirds of the active members must be present at the time of voting.

Article IV: Publication

Section 1: In the case that the organization is founds a publication, in addition to their activities for promoting better quality religion reporting, existing leadership will be responsible for serving in the leadership roles of the publication or appointing of members in these position with unanimous agreement between president and vice-president vote.

Section 2: In the case that the organization would like to found a publication they will be responsible for upholding the integrity of any previous publication they are associated with as well as created a code of ethics signed by all reporters who contribute content. This code of ethics shall be put on file with the OU Campus Involvement Center. If the founding of a publication reliant on the structure or principles of any existing publication, then members are responsible for gaining approval from the original Editor-in-Chief of any structure or content changes up to one year after the transition of the publication to OU RNA.

Article V. Rules of Order

Section 1: This organization shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article VI: Amendment

Section 1: These by-laws may be amended by a vote of simple majority. The current standing president will break all ties.

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