

## Article I.

### **Identity**

This organization shall be known as The RIT Skeptics, also known as R-Skep, and shall be referred to as “the organization” within this document.

For the purposes of this organization, “RIT Skeptics” will stand for “Really Intensely Thinking Skeptics.”

The purposes of the organization shall be to 1) promote and practice the open, rational, and scientific examination of the universe and our place in it, 2) and that ethics and morality can be meaningfully based on rational and humanistic ideals and values, 3) promote skeptical inquiry, 4) provide community for atheists, agnostics, humanists, skeptics, naturalists and other freethinkers, 5) organize activities, such as forums for discussion, guest speakers, and debates that educate the Rochester Institute of Technology and surrounding community, 6) foster acceptance of freethinkers, 7) advocate for the separation between church and state, 8) provide consumer protection services, and 9) advocate and perform public science education.

## Article II.

### **Membership**

Membership shall be open to all students, faculty, and staff, and community members. Only students may be voting members. All may be non-voting members.

To become a member, one need only inform the Secretary. Membership lasts from the time of membership to the end of summer quarter of that academic year. Membership may be renewed by speaking to the Secretary, up to a year in advance.

Membership ends upon 1) end of the normal membership cycle without a prior request to renew, 2) the member's request, 3) the member no longer being a student, faculty, staff or community member, 4) majority vote of the membership at a properly announced meeting with quorum to revoke that person's membership. Voting membership becomes non-voting membership when a voting member is no longer a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

Members who are removed by a vote may not join the organization again until the next academic year. Members who are removed lose any officer positions they may have held within the organization.

In certain cases, honorary membership can be granted to those who cannot qualify as members. Honorary membership is a symbolic way to show affiliation with the organization for interested parties and to give organizational acknowledgment for the honorary member's support for the organization. Honorary members do not have the privilege of voting. Honorary membership may be extended to anyone via a majority vote of the elected officers.

Alumni membership can be granted to members of the group that have graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology. Graduates will be given the option to be Alumni members at their discretion. Students that transfer out but do not graduate cannot be Alumni members but can still be honorary members. Alumni members do not have the privilege of voting.

### Article III

#### **Officers**

The **elected** offices of this organization shall be Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. These elected officers will **appoint** via majority vote additional officer positions as necessary. These include, but are not limited to the event coordinator, public relations director, development officer, and webmaster. Additional positions may be created via a majority vote of the elected officers.

Officers shall be elected at least a month before the end of each Spring term. Members shall be notified of a pending election at least one month in advance. The elected officers shall appoint a nominating committee to recruit a slate of officers before the election, though nominations can also be taken from the floor. Only voting members that plan to remain voting members during the next year are eligible to run. Election shall occur by secret ballot of voting members at a meeting with quorum. The candidate with the most votes wins; uncontested candidates win by default. Terms shall begin at the general meeting following the election, and shall last until the terms of the next officers begin. There is no limit on the number of terms an individual may hold office.

If for any reason an officer is unable or unwilling to fulfill their commitments, they may resign and the remaining elected officers may appoint, via majority vote, replacement(s) who will serve until the next election period.

**Chair** shall 1) organize and preside over meetings, activities and events, 2) be the official representative for the organization, 3) maintain contact with related outside organizations, 4) ensure this Charter is followed, 5) have the final word in all decisions where a vote is not specifically called for in this document, 6) break any tie vote.

**Vice Chair** shall 1) assist the chair in all matters related to the running of the club, 2) serve as Chair in the absence of the elected Chair, 3) work with the chair to establish long range goals, 4) organize events in the absence of an event coordinator.

**Secretary** shall 1) take minutes at all official business meetings of the organization, 2) process all applications for membership, 3) maintain a roster of current members, 4) maintain copies of all important documents related to the club, 5) be responsible for filling out any paperwork necessary for the functioning of the club

**Treasurer** shall 1) be responsible for all financial matters, 2) be responsible for keeping records and possession (on behalf of the group) of all merchandise, 3) keep the organization current with all paper work that needs to be filed with the Rochester Institute of Technology, 4) prepare a budget for the following academic term by the last meeting of the current academic term 5) if there is not a secretary, the Treasurer shall take on the roles of processing membership requests and keeping a current roster of all members.

**Events Coordinator** shall 1) plan, organize, and coordinate events for the organization, 2) be responsible for reserving appropriate spaces for events, 3) thank all presenters.

An appointed officer may be removed by a majority vote of the elected officers. Officers and members shall have the opportunity to present their sides at the meeting, before the vote. If the officer is removed, a new officer shall be appointed as quickly as possible.

An elected officer may be removed by a majority vote of the membership. Officers and members shall have the opportunity to present their sides at the meeting, before the vote. If the elected officer is removed, a new officer shall be appointed as quickly as possible by majority vote of the remaining elected officers.

General meetings shall occur at the discretion of the elected officers; however a schedule of meetings for an academic term must be created prior to the beginning of said term.

Officers may call special meetings at any time for important matters. Prior notice should be given to all members as soon as possible.

Voting may only take place at a meeting.

A quorum is 5/10 of the voting membership. If a quorum is not present, voting shall be postponed until the next meeting. The number constituting 5/10 of the membership shall be determined by the officer in charge of keeping the membership roster.

#### Article IV

##### **Committees**

Possible purposes of committees will be to 1) take care of distributing out work equally on any given issue that the committee is created to address, 2) brainstorm and create new ideas to present at the organization business meetings 3) work through different ideas and issue and focus them so that they can be presented to the general membership in order to be voted on.

Any member or officer may propose the formation of a committee. The elected officers may create structure and dissolve committees through a majority vote.

## Article V

### **Amendments**

Any member may propose a constitutional amendment. Members shall be notified at least two weeks in advance of a pending vote on an amendment. The amendment shall be read aloud and discussed on the day of the vote and at the meeting two weeks previous. An amendment can be adopted only by a two-thirds majority vote of voting membership at a meeting with quorum

## Article VI

### **Adviser**

The advisory must be a full-time Rochester Institute of Technology faculty or administrative staff member. If the elected officers deem it so appropriate, they may appoint two full-time faculty or administrative staff members as co-advisors.

The nature of the advisor's role shall be determined by the advisory. However, the authority of the chair and the general membership of the organization trumps the authority of the advisory.

The advisory may be removed by a vote among the elected officers. The advisory can voluntarily remove herself or himself. Prospects for a new advisory would then be contacted and a new advisory would be decided upon by the elected officers.

## Article VII

### **Non-Discrimination**

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individuals for reasons of race, color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, sex, age, handicap, digestive enzymes, gene code, species, or veteran status.