



A Guide to

**The Residence Hall Association**

of

**The University of North Carolina  
at Chapel Hill**

---

*Love Where You Live.*

*“We commit to enriching and maintaining a comfortable and supportive living learning community by representing residents’ concerns, offering diverse programming, and providing desirable residence hall enhancements.”*

-RHA Mission Statement

## **The Residence Hall Association**

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) was founded in 1973 to unify the various residential colleges and residence hall governments spread across campus under a single, consolidated organization. It has since grown into the third largest student organization on campus, possesses its own internal sources of funding, and maintains a strong, positive relationship with the Department of Housing and Residential Education (DHRE). In recent years, RHA has streamlined its structure to create an efficient system that schools across the country seek to model. Among the many activities conducted by RHA are:

- Community and campus-wide programming
- Community Enhancements
- Resident Advocacy
- Appointments to various campus committees
- Move-in Marketplace
- State, regional, and national residence hall conferences
- Tar Heel Bikes Program

This document gives a comprehensive overview of RHA, covering its structure, operation, and responsibilities. It is designed to educate both new leaders within the organization and external leaders, groups, and university administrators. Additional questions should be addressed to the RHA President by e-mailing [rha.unc@gmail.com](mailto:rha.unc@gmail.com) or visiting the RHA office in room 2504 of the Frank Porter Graham Student Union.

### **Membership**

All students living in university-managed residence halls and apartments, including Granville Towers, are members of RHA by virtue of their residency status. At present, approximately 9,500 students are members of RHA, with over 200 involved in direct leadership positions.

### **Structure**

RHA’s structure operates on different levels. Its main components include the RHA Executive Board, the Board of Governors, and Community Government. RHA also has four standing committees:

1. Ethics Board: The Ethics Board is the judicial arm of RHA, and is described in greater detail in a later section.
2. Programming Committee: The Programming Committee is responsible for all campus-wide programs, including RHA Week. Its membership consists of 6-10 residents (who may also serve in other RHA capacities) and it is chaired by the RHA Internal Affairs Officer.

3. **Recognition Committee:** The Recognition Committee is responsible for all recognition aspects of RHA, including the conferral of annual campus awards and recognition during weekly meetings. It is also responsible for writing the UNC RHA chapter's bids for awards at the state, regional, and national conferences. The committee includes 2-3 governors and is chaired by the National Communications Coordinator.
4. **Alumni Board:** The Alumni Board consists of all current and former RHA leaders (including executive officers, governors, and community government members) who maintain an interest in RHA. The Board offers alumni the opportunity to continue contributing to RHA after leaving UNC, and keeps members updated on RHA's current initiatives. The Alumni Board is chaired by the current RHA Secretary.

The RHA President reserves the authority to create circumstantial or ad hoc committees, which may be called to give special attention to a particular issue within the organization or within residential life. These special committees are typically composed of governors and executive officers, although other residents may be included.

### **Relationship with Student Government**

Article I, Section 5 of the Student Constitution of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill establishes the Residence Hall Association as an independent governing agency responsible for "all matters concerning student life in University-owned and approved undergraduate residence halls." As such, RHA, its activities, and its finances are wholly separate from and in no way subject to control by Student Congress or the Executive Branch of Student Government, notwithstanding amendments to the Constitution. Nevertheless, RHA should and does maintain an open, collaborative relationship with Student Government, and continually strives to integrate itself with the overall structure of student self-governance. Furthermore, RHA acknowledges the supremacy of the Student Body President, and fully supports the holder of that office insofar as he or she promotes the best interests of on-campus residents.

### **Relationship with Resident Advisors**

A common misconception surrounding RHA is that it is comprised of resident advisors (RAs). RAs are paid employees of the Department of Housing and Residential Education and they are responsible for fostering community on their floor and within their hall(s) through programming, peer mentoring, and arbitration of conflict. RHA is an independent student organization, and its leaders are comprised entirely of student volunteers living on campus. RHA provides community and campus-wide programming, enhancements, recognition, and advocacy of residents' concerns on issues concerning policy or residential improvements. RHA and RAs may collaborate through programming to provide a fun and inclusive living environment for the residents living on campus.

### **Executive Board**

The Executive Board constitutes the executive branch of RHA at-large—the President and his or her administration. This body of eight individuals is responsible for overseeing the lower levels of RHA, keeping the "big picture," and managing our presence on campus. The responsibilities of each Executive Officer are as follows:

## **President**

- 1) To serve as the primary student representative of RHA.
- 2) To serve as chief executive in all RHA business.
- 3) To call and preside over meetings of the Board of Governors and the Executive Board.
- 4) To create detailed agendas for all sessions of the Board of Governors and Executive Board.
- 5) To appoint and direct the Executive Officers.
- 6) To establish and direct committees of RHA as necessary.
- 7) To serve as ex-officio member on all RHA committees.
- 8) To serve as the RHA representative on external committees, or to appoint a representative in his or her stead.
- 9) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 10) To maintain at least three office hours in the RHA office every week.

## **Vice President**

- 1) To serve as appointed representative to committees in the President's stead.
- 2) To oversee community governor elections.
- 3) To oversee all community governor and community government training and development, including retreats, Fall and Spring training sessions, ongoing leadership development sessions, and transition.
- 4) To ensure accountability of governors and community governments to their constitutional duties.
- 5) To contact Community Directors to receive updates on governors, community governments, government meetings, and programming at least once per semester per community.
- 6) To oversee the expenditure of the directors' fund in compliance with the President and Executive Treasurer.
- 7) To coordinate team-building activities during meetings of the Board of Governors.
- 8) To directly advise the Community Governors.
- 9) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 10) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

## **Executive Secretary**

- 1) To maintain important records of official RHA business, including accurate accounts of meeting Minutes and all Legislation approved by the Board of Governors.
- 2) To compile the December and April Reports, detailing the semester accomplishments of RHA.
- 3) To maintain copies of all significant documents.
- 4) To create a scrapbook of the year's activities.
- 5) To maintain the RHA office and all necessary supplies therein contained.
- 6) To ensure mail is retrieved weekly.
- 7) To maintain the RHA website and other social media.
- 8) To serve as a liason between the Executive Board and the RHA Alumni Board.
- 9) To maintain a running inventory of all community government and RHA property.
- 10) To maintain copies of all Community Constitutions.
- 11) To directly advise the Community Secretaries.

- 12) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 13) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

### **Executive Treasurer**

- 1) To maintain accurate accounting records and fund requisitions for RHA.
- 2) To assist Community Treasurers with SAFO policies and procedures.
- 3) To, in conjunction with the President, create the annual RHA budget for approval by the Board of Governors.
- 4) To provide updated expenditure reports to the Board of Governors once per week.
- 5) To, in conjunction with the Chief Enhancements Officer, create an Enhancements budget, which must receive the approval of the President.
- 6) To supervise expenditure of all RHA funds, including spending by RHA-at large, Enhancements, and individual community governments.
- 7) To administer the distribution of External Programming Grants and Traditional Programming Grants in a manner to be prescribed by law.
- 8) To contact Community Treasurers and Community Directors monthly in order to ensure accountability of community government expenditures.
- 9) To directly advise the Community Treasurers.
- 10) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 11) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

### **National Communications Coordinator (NCC)**

- 1) To affiliate the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with the following conferences: the North Carolina Association of Residence Halls (NCARH), the South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (SAACURH), and the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH).
- 2) To organize delegations to attend the annual conferences of NCARH, SAACURH, and NACURH, including delegate recruitment and selection, travel and lodging, reviewing delegate program submissions, and writing post conference reports for approval by the Board of Governors.
- 3) To attend the annual SAACURH No Frills business conference, and organize the UNC-Chapel Hill delegation; the delegation should include the National Residence Hall Honorary (NRHH) representative, Advisor, and others as allowed by the President.
- 4) To vote on behalf of RHA in the state, regional, and national boardrooms, and to appropriately and professionally represent the views of the students the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 5) To serve as a liaison between the Board of Governors and the state, regional, and national organizations.
- 6) To complete the annual report to the National Information Center (NIC).
- 7) To determine, by the first of October of each year, the state, regional, and national awards for which RHA shall submit bids, and to supervise the bid-writing process in conjunction with the Recognition Committee. The NCC must ensure that RHA bids for no fewer than three awards each year.
- 8) To organize the recognition of Executive Officers and Governors, and to serve as chair of the RHA Recognition Committee.

- 9) To, in conjunction with the President, appoint an NCC-in training no less than one month prior to the No Frills business conference; and to supervise the NCC-in training and assist in his or her transition.
- 10) To have or develop a working knowledge of Robert's Rules of Order, and to serve as chief parliamentarian during meetings of the Board of Governors.
- 11) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 12) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

### **Chief Enhancements Officer (CEO)**

- 1) To maintain a running inventory of all community Enhancements.
- 2) To write, maintain, and update the Enhancements Policies and By-Laws as necessary; also, to ensure that Community Enhancements Officers and Community office staff fully understand said policies.
- 3) To, in conjunction with the Executive Treasurer, create an annual Enhancements budget, which must receive the approval of the President.
- 4) To supervise expenditure of the Large Enhancements fund.
- 5) To actively gauge student input into the purchase of both large and small Enhancements.
- 6) To supervise the appeal process for lost and/or damaged Enhancements charges, and to ensure that this process is conducted in a fair and consistent manner in each Community.
- 7) To facilitate vacuum maintenance for all Communities.
- 8) To directly advise the Community Enhancements Officers.
- 9) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 10) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

### **Internal Affairs**

- 1) To coordinate the campus-wide programming of RHA, including, but not limited to, that planned and executed by the RHA Programming Committee.
- 2) To coordinate RHA Week once per semester.
- 3) To, in consultation with the Executive Board, plan the End of Year Banquet.
- 4) To assist communities in planning programs and encourage collaboration between community governments.
- 5) To manage the Community Cup Championship and to maintain Community program reports.
- 6) To oversee collaborative programming initiatives with outside organizations, including, but not limited to, the Carolina Union Activities Board, the Campus Y, and the Executive Branch of Student Government.
- 7) To directly advise the Community Lieutenant Governors.
- 8) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 9) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

### **External Affairs**

- 1) To, in conjunction with the President, represent RHA and all on-campus residents before the University administration, including, but not limited to, DHRE.
- 2) To serve as a liaison with Student Government and Student Congress, including representation of RHA at Student Government Cabinet meetings.

- 3) To serve as the appointed representative to external committees in the President's stead, where appropriate.
- 4) To ensure accountability of all RHA appointees to external committees and to maintain accurate records of external proceedings.
- 5) To negotiate all contracts with Move-in Marketplace vendors, and to coordinate campus activities of said vendors as necessary.
- 6) To actively pursue new fundraising opportunities for RHA.
- 7) To serve as a liaison with other student organizations at the request of the President and/or the Board of Governors.
- 8) To serve as the chief spokesperson for RHA, second only to the President.
- 9) To report all resolutions of the Board of Governors to the appropriate parties.
- 10) To oversee the RHA marketing strategy.
- 11) To directly advise the Community Marketing Managers.
- 12) To learn the RHA Constitution in full.
- 13) To maintain at least two office hours in the RHA office every week.

## **Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors (BOG) serves as the legislative body of RHA at-large. All voting power is vested in the BOG, with the governor of each community possessing one vote. Each governor is expected to exercise his or her vote in a way that is most beneficial to the residents he or she represents (i.e., those in his or her community). The BOG and the Executive Board meet every Tuesday at 7:30 PM to deliver reports on their activities, to participate in ongoing leadership training, and to discuss various issues facing residents. As the legislature of the organization, the BOG exercises the greatest amount of power of any entity within RHA.

### **Duties and Powers**

The BOG has the power to approve or disapprove the RHA budget, to create and/or alter the RHA by-laws and Treasury laws, and to issue resolutions. The BOG alone may determine the official position of RHA on any issue, including proposed Housing or university policies, actions of Student Congress or the Executive Branch, and candidates for student offices. Its primary responsibility is to serve as the voice of campus residents to the Executive Board, to the Department of Housing and Residential Education, and to the University. In addition to this representative role, each governor serves as the chief executive of his or her community and oversees its community government.

### **External Grants**

An additional function of the BOG is the awarding of external programming grants. As part of its annual budget RHA appropriates a small portion of funds each semester for outside student organizations to put on campus programs in which the majority of beneficiaries will be on-campus residents. The purpose of these grants is to create opportunities for additional, diverse campus programs beyond those that RHA directly plans and executes. RHA recognizes that many innovative program ideas go unrealized due to insufficient funds and therefore wishes to do its part in further enhancing student life at Carolina. Organizations wishing to receive a grant must present their proposal to the BOG, which then votes on whether or not to fund the program.

## **Community Government**

Most programming and direct interaction with residents occurs via community government. Community Government consists of the Governor, the Community Executive Board, and additional officers as appointed by the governor. Community government meets weekly to plan programs and other initiatives, discuss issues facing their residents, and hear reports from each officer on his or her activities for the week. Resident Advisors (RAs), Living-Learning Community (LLC) coordinators, and Residential Computing Consultants (RCCs) often seek assistance from community government in planning their own respective programs, which highlights the high value RHA places on collaborative initiatives. The five members of the community executive board are mandatory positions that each governor must fill when forming his or her government; these officers receive extensive training at the beginning of each academic year and are required to attend one-on-one meetings with their counterpart on the RHA Executive Board at least once a semester. The following are descriptions of each community government position:

### **Community Executive Board**

#### **Governor**

1. To serve as the primary student representative of residents of the Community before the RHA Board of Governors, Student Government, the faculty, the administration of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and other organizations as deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
2. To serve as Chief Executive in all matters of official business of the Community Government.
3. To call and preside over meetings of the Community Government, and to create detailed agendas for all meetings.
4. To appoint each member of the Executive Board and the Community Government.
5. To establish and direct committees of the Community Government as necessary, and to serve as an ex-officio member on all committees.
6. To administer and governing documents of the Community and the Residence Hall Association.
7. To act as Chief Diplomat to other Residential Communities.
8. To attend weekly sessions of the RHA Board of Governors.
9. To assemble transition materials for the following Executive Board.
10. To attend no fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA Vice President.
11. To learn the Community Constitution and the RHA Constitution in full.

#### **Lieutenant Governor**

1. To direct the planning, execution, and delegation of duties for all social, educational, and philanthropic programs of Community Government.
2. To complete and submit all program reports within the guidelines set forth by the RHA Internal Affairs Officer.
3. To actively seek out collaborative opportunities with outside organizations.



4. To serve as the primary representative of Community in the Governor's stead, and to exercise the executive authority of the Governor where he or she is unable to do so.
5. To attend no fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA Internal Affairs Officer.
6. To learn the Community Constitution in full.

### **Secretary**

1. To maintain important records of all official business of the Community Government, including accurate accounts of meeting Minutes and all Legislation approved by the Government.
2. To maintain copies of all significant documents, including the constitutions of RHA and the Community.
3. To maintain the Community Government office and all necessary supplies therein contained, where such space is available.
4. To act as your community's historian, to include, but not limited to, taking and utilizing pictures for a community album.
5. To maintain a running inventory of all Community Government property.
6. To attend no fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA Executive Secretary
7. To learn the Community Constitution and the RHA Constitution in full.

### **Treasurer**

1. To maintain an accurate account of the Community Government revenues and expenditures.
2. To, in conjunction with the Governor, create the annual the Community budget for approval by the Community Government
3. To provide updated budget reports to the members of the Community Government once per week, or when requested by the Governor.
4. To supervise expenditure of all the Community funds.
5. To ensure all reimbursement for any Community Government expenditures are delivered to the proper party(ies) within one week upon receipt of invoice.
6. To submit an updated, accurate Community budget to the RHA Treasurer on the first of each month.
7. To attend no fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA Executive Treasurer.
8. To learn the Community Constitution and the RHA Constitution in full.

### **Community Enhancements Officer (cEO)**

1. To maintain an accurate running inventory of all Community Enhancements.
2. To ensure organization and maintenance of all Community Enhancements, and to report any major concerns to the RHA Chief Enhancements Officer.
3. To utilize the [NAME] Community Enhancements Fund to purchase new Enhancements in accordance with procedures set forth by the RHA Chief Enhancements Officer.
4. To actively gauge resident input into the purchase of both small and large Enhancements.
5. To meet bi-weekly with the Governor and the Community Manager to process charges for damaged or missing Enhancements and subsequent appeals.
6. To attend no fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA Chief Enhancements Officer.

7. To learn the Community Constitution and the RHA Constitution in full.

### **Marketing Manager**

1. To plan and implement the marketing plan for all Community Government initiatives.
2. To design and distribute all forms of publicity related to Community programs and other initiatives.
3. To manage all digital media of the Community Government, including any community websites and/or social media.
4. To promote and increase the presence of the Community Government within the Community and throughout the University.
5. To attend now fewer than one (1) meeting per semester with the RHA External Affairs Officer.
6. To learn the Community Constitution and the RHA Constitution in full.

### Other Officers

#### **Athletic Director**

1. To organize community intramural athletic teams.
2. To organize community outings to UNC varsity athletic events.
3. To organize athletic programs within the community.

#### **Photographer and/or Historian**

1. To document via photography and/or video all community government events, or to appoint an individual to do so.
2. To organize photos for use in community and RHA publicity, scrapbooks, and other media outlets.

#### **Green Games Coordinator**

1. To ensure all community programs are as sustainable and environmentally friendly as possible.
2. To submit program reports to the Green Games director for points.
3. To organize program information components on sustainable living.

#### **Floor/Hall Representatives**

1. To communicate with residents regarding community government programs and other activities.
2. To solicit input from residents and bring any concerns or suggestions regarding life in the residence hall to the attention of community government.
3. To assist the Publicity Officer in the distribution of fliers and other publicity
4. To attend no less than two programs each month and assist in their execution.

### Non-Voting Members

#### **Community Director**

1. To serve as organizational co-advisor, along with the RAM, to community government.
2. To inform community government on Housing and University policies.
3. To hold regular one-on-one meetings with the governor and to participate in biannual peer evaluations.
4. To attend at least two meetings a month.

### **Resident Advisor Mentor**

1. To serve as organizational co-advisor, along with the CD, to community government.
2. To serve as a liaison between community government and the resident advisors.
3. To inform community government on Housing and University policies.
4. To hold regular one-on-one meetings with the governor and to participate in biannual peer evaluations.
5. To attend at least two meetings a month.

### **Resident Advisor Liaison**

1. To serve as a liaison between community government and the resident advisors.
2. To update community government on planned RA initiatives and programs, and vice versa.
3. To attend at least two meetings a month.

### **Living-Learning Community Liaison**

1. To serve as a liaison between community government and the Living-Learning Community (ies).
2. To update community government on planned LLC initiatives and programs, and vice versa.

## **Finances**

### **Fee Collection and Processing**

The Residence Hall Association receives its funding from dues paid by its members. When students sign up for on-campus housing, they are automatically charged a \$9.25 fee *per semester* (\$18.50 per year) to cover their RHA dues. The charge is processed through the university cashier's office, which then sends it to the university accountant. The accountant releases portions of the fee to the RHA account over the course of the year as students pay their housing bills. RHA's account is managed by the Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO), a separate university entity designed to manage the finances of student groups.

### **Composition**

The \$9.25 fee breaks down into three categories. \$1.25 constitutes the association fee, and goes into the RHA at-large budget to fund campus-wide programs, conferences, and office expenses. \$2.00 is devoted to Enhancements, which are purchased by individual communities. Each community receives \$1000 per year for "small Enhancements" (DVDs, brooms, basketballs, etc.). The rest of the fund is used by the Chief Enhancements Officer to purchase "large Enhancements" (pool tables, TVs, etc.) for the communities. Finally, the remaining \$6.00 constitutes the social fee that each community has to spend on community programs. The social fund will vary according to the community's population, with larger communities receiving a

larger budget. However, RHA makes it a point to train its governors and community officers to spend this money wisely. Any funds remaining in a community's social fee at the end of the academic year will simply roll over to the following year.

### **Fundraising**

In addition to funds collected through the resident membership fee, RHA also earns a commission from the sale of residence hall necessities through its Move-In Marketplace program. RHA contracts with three corporations, On Campus Marketing (OCM), Collegiate Concepts, and Bed Bath & Beyond to provide carpets, linens, refrigerators, and room organizers to students. RHA publicizes these company's products, which are specifically designed for university residence halls, through its website and freshmen orientation. In exchange, each company provides RHA with a portion of the sales revenue, which enters RHA's at-large budget for additional programs. Thus, when students purchase products from these companies, they are not only getting a good deal on items for their room, but they also ensure their money comes right back to them in terms of residence hall improvements. RHA also contracts with OCM to sell diploma frames to graduating seniors.

### **Reimbursement Process**

With a few exceptions, no systematic means exist for students to charge purchases directly to a SAFO account. As such, individual group members must purchase items for RHA or community government programs. The individual then submits a receipt or invoice to the RHA or community treasurer (who must be certified by SAFO). The treasurer files a reimbursement request with SAFO, which writes a check against the group's account to the individual who made the purchase.

### **Budget and Accounting**

The RHA President and RHA Treasurer are responsible for compiling the annual budget for RHA at-large and submitting it for approval by the Board of Governors. The Executive Board exercises discretion in expenditure of at-large funds, although the BOG reserves the right to modify the budget at any time. Each governor must also work with his or her community treasurer to compile an annual budget for the community, subject to approval by the voting members of community government. Each community treasurer must submit annual budget updates to the RHA treasurer, in addition to mandatory one-on-one meetings. Each governor, with the advice and consent of his or her government, retains exclusive control of community funds, subject to oversight by only the RHA President and Treasurer.

As of Fall 2010, the RHA Treasurer must maintain accurate accounting records of all RHA expenditures. This involves keeping copies of all receipts and invoices in an organized budget notebook, as well as providing an updated budget at each meeting of the Board of Governors. Community treasurers are required to do the same for community government.

### **Enhancements**

A signature feature of RHA is the Enhancements system. Enhancements include DVDs, cooking equipment, cleaning supplies, and sporting goods. These are available for residents to check out

from their community offices on a temporary basis. Individual community governments receive \$1000 each year to purchase “small Enhancements” and are expected to pace out that spending over the course of the year.

### **Large Enhancements**

The Chief Enhancements Officer oversees expenditure of the large Enhancements fund, which includes items such as pool tables, furniture, and large electronics (televisions, game systems, etc.). Any Community Enhancements Officer wishing to purchase a large Enhancement must submit a request form to the CEO, including multiple price quotes for the product. The CEO determines whether or not the expenditure is justified, authorizing the purchase if he or she finds it acceptable. The CEO manages the finances and reimbursement processes for all Enhancements, but must work with the RHA Treasurer in terms of budgeting and accounting records.

The RHA President and CEO will occasionally agree to utilize part of the large Enhancements fund for a campus wide project. During the 2009-2010 academic year, RHA partnered with DHRE and ResNET to replace all televisions in the residence hall lounges with new, flat screen units. The following year, RHA purchased Playstation 3 systems to be installed with the televisions and obtained Netflix On-Demand accounts so that residents could watch recent blockbuster movies for free in their hall lounges.

### **Charges for Overdue, Lost, or Damaged Enhancements**

The SC Logic system keeps track of items using a bar code system. When a student checks out an item, his or her One Card is scanned and the system logs that student as possessing the item. If the student does not return the item by its due date, he or she automatically receives a warning e-mail. If the item is not returned within the subsequent “grace period” he or she is charged for that item. If the item is returned damaged, the student may also face charges. It is the responsibility of the Community Enhancement Officer to obtain monthly reports from the system on broken or stolen items and deliver those to DHRE, which then applies the charges to the student’s account.

### **Ethics Standards**

As the representatives of over 9,500 students, RHA holds its members to the highest standards of ethical behavior. Its leaders are expected to maintain a higher level of decorum, open-mindedness, and morality than the average UNC student, and to set an example for their fellow residents. Actions considered unacceptable according to the RHA ethics standards include:

- Embezzlement of RHA or community funds
- Improper use of one’s office for political, financial, or personal gain
- Theft of community and/or RHA property
- Abuse of official RHA privileges
- Negligence of responsibilities
- Violation of Housing or University policy
- Violation of the Honor Code
- Violation of local, state, or federal law

## **RHA Ethics Board**

RHA is the only student organization on campus to possess its own internal judicial system for dealing with ethics violations. The Ethics Board consists of 5 governors appointed by the RHA President, one of whom serves as Chair. Any suspected violation of the ethics standards by an Executive Officer, Governor, or Community Government member is reported to the Ethics Board. The Board reviews the evidence, holds hearings in which the accused party may defend himself or herself, and issues subsequent verdicts on the allegations. If the accused party is found guilty, the Board may issue a number of sanctions, which range from probation for minor offenses to removal from office for more serious infractions. If the Board decides to remove someone from office, the decision must be approved by a three-fourths vote of the full Board of Governors.

## **Conferences**

It may come as a surprise to many students that the Residence Hall Association is not unique to UNC. In fact, nearly every major college or university in the United States, and many smaller ones, have their own RHA (though some go by a different name; for example, the organization at NC State is known as the Inter-Residence Council, or IRC). Though schools vary considerably in the size and structure of their RHA chapters, all of them share a common mission of improving residential life.

In 1961, RHA chapters at several universities in the Midwest and the Rocky Mountain states came together to form the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH). The organization served as a communication link between affiliated schools, and began hosting annual conferences in which delegations from each university would come together for four days of leadership development programs, exchanging ideas, and meeting residence hall leaders from across the country. NACURH has since grown into the largest student-run organization in the world, with member schools in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong, and Qatar.

The UNC chapter of RHA affiliates with NACURH as well as its regional affiliate, the South Atlantic Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (SAACURH). UNC sends delegations to both annual conferences, which take place at a different university each year. UNC also affiliates with the North Carolina Association of Residence Halls (NCARH). Though not officially recognized by NACURH, the state conference operates similarly to both the regional and national organizations, and on average comprises 13-15 schools in North Carolina.

The UNC chapter of RHA hosted the national conference in 1980 under the leadership of President William David Porterfield. It has also hosted the state conference in 1999 and 2011.

## **Relationship to the Department of Housing and Residential Education**

The Residence Hall Association is an independent student organization and is not, in any way, managed or controlled by the Department of Housing and Residential Education (DHRE). Nevertheless, the two entities necessarily possess a strong working relationship, offer mutual advising services, and collectively strive to provide the most enjoyable experience possible for campus residents. The RHA-DHRE relationship has strengthened considerably in recent years, which has led to several collaborative initiatives and clear lines of communication that have allowed RHA to more effectively execute its mandate.

### **RHA Fee**

As mentioned under the section on finances, DHRE collects the RHA membership fee on behalf of the organization when students register for campus housing. Once collected and processed by the cashier's and accountant's offices, the funds transfer directly to the RHA account at SAFO. As such, the RHA fee and all funds collected thereby are not subject to control by Student Congress or any other campus entity. The RHA fee may only be modified by a referendum of on-campus residents in accordance with the organization's treasury laws, having been originally implemented in this manner.

### **Advising**

In order to ensure the maximum effectiveness of RHA, DHRE provides a member of its professional staff to serve as the organization's primary advisor. Presently, the Coordinator for Learning and Leadership holds this position as part of his or her job description. In addition, the RHA advisor and RHA President will work together to appoint a second DHRE professional as co-advisor (generally a Community Director). Finally, the community directors serve as advisors to their respective governors and community governments, ensuring a strong and well-informed RHA leadership structure.

### **RHA President Summer Internship**

In 2007, DHRE created a summer internship specifically designated for the incoming RHA President. During the summer months, the president spends time networking with DHRE administrators and learning how the department operates. In addition, he or she may take on some special projects for the department and assist in staffing information fairs during freshmen orientation. The internship further provides the new president time to begin working on some of his or her initiatives for the upcoming school year. The opportunity for the president to learn and network within the department is extremely valuable for carrying out his or her goals.

Revised 6/26/13