

# BYLAWS OF THE RURAL HEALTH INTEREST GROUP AT WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

## ARTICLE I

### *NAME:*

The name of the student organization shall be the Rural Health Interest Group (RHIG).

## ARTICLE II

### *MISSION:*

The purpose of the RHIG is to provide a platform for students interested in rural health to learn more about and discuss rural health issues related to West Virginia, rural practice, and recruitment. In addition, RHIG strives to promote a career in rural health care and primary care in the WVU community.

## ARTICLE III

### *MEMBERSHIP:*

Membership in RHIG is open to all students, faculty, and staff regardless of degree status, major, residency status, or school of enrollment. The only requirement is interest in West Virginia rural health.

## ARTICLE IV

### *RHIG BOARD OF ADVISORS AND ELECTED OFFICERS:*

Section 1: The affairs and business of RHIG shall be conducted by the officers elected (Board of Advisors) during the academic year of the host college/university, and members with the assistance of a faculty advisor. The student officers will be made up of three (3) elected offices, President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer.

Committee chairs will be appointed by and will report to the president of the organization.

Section 2: A majority of members or 75% of the Elected Officers shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3: The terms of all offices are for one academic year. The campus officers will be elected at the end of the academic year.

Section 4: All meetings shall be open to the public.

## ARTICLE V

### *MEETINGS OF MEMBERS*

#### Section 1. Meetings - General Membership

Meetings of RHIG will be held at least bi-monthly at noon on the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center campus while class is in session on dates to be determined by the Board of Advisors. The purpose of such a meeting will be to conduct all such business as may be necessary to support the mission and goals of the organization and hear from one or more guest speakers on topics related to rural health.

#### Section 2. Special Meetings - General Membership

Special meetings of the membership may be called at any time by the president or at least two members of the Board of Advisors. Notice of a special meeting, stating the purpose thereof, shall be provided to the membership.

## ARTICLE VI

### *OFFICER ELECTIONS:*

Section 1: The term of office of the elected officers of RHIG shall be one (1) academic year.

Section 2: Officers must be nominated in open meeting and with agreement of the nominated individual.

Elections may be held immediately after nomination and must be by paper ballot or other means as approved by the Board of Advisors, with the results tallied by a tellers committee consisting of at least one member not currently holding office or in nomination for an office and the faculty advisor.

Section 3: A yearly report on the status and membership must be filed with the faculty advisor of RHIG each year and contain specific information as requested by the faculty advisor on a date to be determined by the faculty advisor.

## ARTICLE VII

### *ELECTED OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES:*

**President:** The president shall serve as chief administrative officer for RHIG and shall possess broad discretionary and delegatory powers to act

as deemed necessary and proper to carry out the business of the organization. Duties shall include presiding over all group meetings, making an annual report on the affairs of the faculty advisor and fiscal and financial status, making all appointments to standing committees, and communicating with West Virginia University Student Organization Services to ensure the organization remains in good standing with the university. The president is also responsible for providing the faculty advisor with a tentative list of meeting dates and speakers, agreed upon by the Board of Advisors, no later than September 15<sup>th</sup> of each academic year. The President may submit a deadline extension request to the faculty advisor if needed.

**Vice President:** The vice president shall act in the capacity of the president at the president's bidding or in case of the absence of the president. Responsibilities shall include fulfilling duties delegated by the president, filling the unexpired term of the Office of President, if the latter office shall become vacant, and working with the Board of Advisor members on developing the yearly presentation list.

**Secretary/Treasurer:** The secretary/treasurer shall see that an up-do-date membership roster is maintained and provide required information on group membership to the president and/ or faculty advisor yearly and/or upon request. This officer will also take minutes of meetings and provide the faculty advisor with meeting minutes to be retained.

#### *DUES:*

Section 1: There are no membership dues.

Section 2: The membership year shall be one academic year from the month in which new officers are elected each year.

#### ARTICLE VIII

##### *RULES OF ORDER:*

Business sessions of RHIG meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, except as where otherwise specified.

#### ARTICLE IX

##### *RECORDS:*

All records of RHIG shall be kept in a central location as designated by the faculty advisor.

## ARTICLE X

### ORGANIZATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Section 1: RHIG is required to complete at least one activity that increases public awareness to rural health issues and/or at least one community service activity within an underserved or underprivileged community within one academic year.
- Section 2: Each student member must be present at a minimum of one meeting an academic year and must participate in at least one activity to be recognized as a member in good standing.

## ARTICLE XI

### *OFFICE VACANCIES:*

Vacancies for any of the offices, except for president, shall be filled by appointment of the president until the next meeting of the membership at which time an election shall be held to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

## ARTICLE XII

### *WITHDRAWAL OF STUDENT ORGANIZATION STATUS:*

Student organization status can be withdrawn by RHIG when such action is deemed necessary. The withdrawal of this status shall be done by vote of the Board of Directors of RHIG only after giving student officers an opportunity to present evidence and an argument for and against the taking of such action.

## ARTICLE XIII

### *ORGANIZATION STARTUP:*

The individuals joining the campus organization in the first year will be recognized as members of the **ORGANIZATION FOUNDERS COUNCIL**. This Council will be responsible for developing the formal mission statement, vision, and strategic goals. These members will also be responsible for petitioning and obtaining the approval of student organization status from West Virginia University Student Organization Services.