

QUEER ALLIANCE CONSTITUTION

March 2006 (Amended February 2008)

I. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

To serve as a hub of queer organizing on campus, building leadership and programming that is reflective of and responsive to the range of needs and identities in the queer community.

II. MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility to the QA is open to all full time undergraduate members of the Brown community and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, age, national or ethnic origin, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or sex. **Students eligible for membership shall be considered members of the Queer Alliance on the basis of consistent participation in the QA. Activities in general are open to the entire Brown community, as well as to members of the RISD community or Providence and Rhode Island queer communities at the discretion of the activity organizers.** Majority membership consists of full-time undergraduate students. Membership is defined by a person's participation in a QA affiliated subgroup or committee.

III. STRUCTURE

The QA serves as an umbrella organization. The QA helps to facilitate the coordination and building of a communal environment for various subgroups and committees. The agendas and activities of the subgroups and committees that fall under the QA banner are shaped by the membership of each subgroup and committee. For ease of coordination, subgroups and committees are asked to divide themselves into three broad categories: Community, Advocacy, and Outreach. **The division of subgroups into these categories is subject to revision by the Coordinating Committee in consultation with the groups involved, such that the three categories are kept in relatively even balance.** Groups that feel that they do not fit into any of these three loosely defined categories may negotiate their own means of defining themselves and placing themselves in the QA organizational structure. **In order to become a sub-group of the Queer Alliance, the group must remain active and in contact with the Coordinating Committee. Degrees of communication will depend on current sub-group leaders."**

IV. LEADERSHIP AND ELECTIONS

The central networking structure of the QA is the Coordinating Committee (CC). The CC consists of one representative from each of the three defined subgroup/committee departments (Community, Advocacy, and Outreach). **All sub-group leaders will vote for**

Community, Advocacy, and Outreach chairs. The CC shall also consist of three at-large representatives. The first at-large representative (**Head Chair**) moderates CC and QA general meeting **and** is responsible for administrative duties. The second at-large representative (**Finance Chair**) is responsible for the QA's budget and finances. **The third at-large representative (Secretary) is responsible for official communications, including but not limited to a regular newsletter, website updates, and a public calendar.** All at large representatives are elected by a simple majority vote of all current QA subgroup and committee leaders, (each subgroup/committee **entitled to one vote per leader up to** a maximum of 2 votes, regardless of the number of leaders of the particular group). A separate vote will be held for each chair position. Elections to the CC will be held at the close of each academic year or as needed if positions are prematurely vacated. The CC will meet once a week during the academic year. Meetings are open to the public. The CC will organize monthly community-wide town hall style meetings during the academic year. Department Chairs will periodically hold department meetings for leaders of the subgroups and committees of their respective departments. The CC's tasks include, but are not limited to, coordinating the resources and programming schedules of QA committees and subgroups, facilitating the creation of a master QA calendar of events/meetings/programming, and maintaining a newsletter and email lists to promote communication.

If any officer with a position on the Coordinating Committee fails to execute the duties assigned to that position, said officer will be subject to impeachment by a two-thirds majority of the CC. If the officer is impeached by the CC, subgroup leaders have seven days to reject the impeachment by a simple majority in a vote presided over by the Head Chair and Finance Chair. If the subgroup leaders vote to approve the impeachment or fail to act within the time allowed, the officer shall be considered removed from office. The position is considered open, and an open election shall be held as soon as possible. The Coordinating Committee may appoint an interim officer who may serve no longer than two weeks from the date of appointment.

V. FINANCES

All expenses of the QA shall be paid through the Office of Student Activities, and all funds collected by the group from any source shall be deposited with the Office of Student Activities. The QA agrees to follow all regulations regarding all financial transactions as set forth by the Office of Student Activities. All QA finances will be accounted for by the Finance Chair of the CC, **including both internal and SAO records. The Finance Chair shall present the financial state of the QA to the CC at least once monthly, or as requested.** The CC as a whole will be responsible for contributing to the Finance Chair's drafting of annual UFB budgets.

VI. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

An amendment shall be brought before the group by a majority vote. The CC Chair shall notify all current members of the group that an amendment to the group's constitution is considered. The amendment will then be considered at the meeting following its

announcement to the group. To be accepted, an amendment must gain support from two thirds (2/3) of the group membership. Once an amendment has been accepted by the QA, it shall be given to the UCS Coordinator of Student Activities at least two (2) full days before the next regularly scheduled full council meeting. Upon receipt of a simple majority from UCS, the amendment shall be considered a formal part of the QA's constitution.