



Blanket Tax Standing Committee 2015-2016
Report on Review of New Blanket Tax Application
Rice Environmental Society

Abstract

Rice Environmental Society is a registered student organization with the mission to promote the agenda set forth in the 100 Year Sustainability Plan; to give a formal name and unified identity to the environmental and sustainability focused groups on campus; to provide opportunities for students to implement environmental change on campus by offering funding and institutional support; to promote collaboration among members of the Rice Environmental Society through at least monthly meetings; and to create a centralized website where member groups can update their information and promote events; The Blanket Tax Committee has reviewed Rice Environmental Society's application and recommends the Student Senate **not approve** Rice Environmental Society's request for subsidiary status.

Evaluation

X.A.4.c and X.A.4.e of the Student Association Bylaws establishes criteria for the Blanket Tax Standing Committee to consider when reviewing an application for the creation of a new blanket tax. The Committee must find that an organization's proposal satisfies all of the criteria in order to recommend approval of that proposal. The Committee presents its findings with regard to each criterion below.

1. Would the requested funds benefit the student body and the Rice community?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the requested funds would benefit all of the student body and the Rice community. As highlighted in the 100 Year Sustainability Plan, environmental sustainability is an important issue for rice students and Rice Environmental Society serves an important role on campus to facilitate the goals of the plan to benefit the student body.

2. Would the requested funds contribute to the organization's mission, purpose, and goals?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the funds do not contribute entirely to the organization's mission, purpose and goals. The committee feels that the structure of the organization

as a board to reappropriate blanket tax money ultimately serves to benefit the organizations or individuals that it approves or disapproves. Whether or not those organizations which Rice Environmental Society will appropriate money to will follow the standards of the procedures highlighted in the SA constitution is a huge question.

3. Does the organization have a strong financial need?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rice Environmental Society has a strong financial need.

4. Have all other reasonable means of acquiring funding been exhausted?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the Rice Environmental Society has not exhausted all means of acquiring funds. The committee recommends Rice Environmental Society look to H&D and other campus resources like the Initiative Fund as possible financial solutions. The committee however does recognize on the basis of their application that they have made the effort to acquire corporate sponsorships.

5. Is the organization's financial need long-term and annual?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rice Environmental Society's financial need is long-term and annual. However, the committee feels that, as an organization that re-appropriates money based on applications to their board, predicting demand and financial need will be hard to determine. It could potentially be that one year the organization has a small demand whereas another year they receive increased demand. The committee feels that this could potentially lead to excessive approved surplus.

6. Proper Budgeting

The Blanket Tax Committee finds Rice Environmental Society's budgeting appropriate and reasonable. However, the committee is concerned about the organization's ability to maintain accountability and proper oversight over blanket tax money.

Conclusion

As thoroughly discussed above, the Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the Rice Environmental Committee's proposal to be a subsidiary organization with access to blanket tax funds does not satisfy all of the review criteria. This alone is sufficient for a recommendation to **not approve** the proposal.

To summarize, the committee is concerned about structure, how funds will be distributed, and if they have exhausted all sources of funding. Our committee is responsible for reviewing how blanket tax money for each organization is being spent. With this organization, we do not have the proper oversight based on their structure. As such, we do not feel that this is an accountable process. While

they did offer to allow us to be more involved in the allocation process, this is not required to be a blanket tax organization, leading to potential issues surrounded unsustainability and a lack of accountability.

As such, formally, The Student Association Blanket Tax Standing Committee for the 2015-2016 academic year hereby recommends that the Student Senate **NOT APPROVE** Rice Environmental Society.

Respectfully submitted, Sai Chilakapati
Chair, Blanket Tax Standing Committee

January 24, 2016

Dear Sai,

On behalf of the Rice Environmental Society (RES), I would like to thank you and the committee for having taken the time to review our application. The work you do is important for ensuring the responsible allocation of students' precious blanket tax dollars.

As the findings rightfully acknowledge, environmental sustainability is a vital issue that Rice University must address at all levels. Through its application for blanket tax funding, RES hoped to solidify the undergraduate commitment to doing its part. While RES-funded student initiatives are certainly not the only way that undergraduates can have a tangible effect on Rice's environmental impact, the far-reaching benefits of the projects to date are indisputable.

In detailing some of these projects, I hope to show these benefits and also emphasize the fact that RES truly funds student-driven initiatives, not just the projects of its member organizations. Approved applications include subsidizing the Hoot's transition to biodegradable foodware; purchasing more recycling bins for academic buildings; part of funding for an upcoming environmental justice poetry event hosted by the Queer Resource Center; and subsidization for an upcoming Coffeehouse campaign to increase reusable mug sales. All of these applications came from outside of the Rice Environmental Society. One of the few denied applications was that of the Rice Wildlife Conservation Corps to help fund a trip to a wolf refuge. Note that the club is a member organization of RES. The application review process is objective and fair, and all applicants have an equal opportunity to make the case for their own application.

In response to the concern that RES has not looked to other sources, such as H&D and the Initiative Fund, for funding, I argue that the strength of RES-specific funding lies in its very separation. First, RES is able to provide seed funding from its own account that stimulates further investment from other entities, such as its commitment to joining with the School of Architecture to fund the creation of an outdoor classroom. Second, because of its university-wide accessibility, RES funding is not limited to just the colleges, or just academic buildings, etc. Finally, because of the application process in place, RES is able to act very quickly to provide funds, such as when we provided funding for a Real Food Week event within a few days of receiving the application. Few sources of funding on campus are so agile.

Finally, fluctuations in demand for funding are not in and of themselves a basis for denying blanket tax monies. Blanket tax allocations should be reviewed annually regardless, for all organizations. Transparency of the subsidiary organization's budget means that your same committee could reduce RES's allocation one year, increase it the next. Sustainability initiatives from one year could benefit from funds from the previous year, should that surplus exist.

All of that being said, I do acknowledge that RES has room left to grow and after standardizing some its own processes will be better able to act as a subsidiary organization. I respect the findings of your committee, and given them think that RES should not be on the ballot this year so as to not tarnish its reputation and thus hurt the image of sustainability at Rice.

At a minimum, I hope that RES can hold on to the funds it currently has from the SA40k and continue using them to fund student initiatives into the next school year.

Thank you again.

Kind regards,

Michael Donatti

President of the Rice Environmental Society

Rice Environmental Society,

Application for Blanket Tax during the 2015-16 school year:

Org. Name, Year Founded, Name and Email of President, Treasurer, and Advisor, # of Active Members

The Rice Environmental Society, founded in 2013

President is Michael Donatti

All members (delegates from other environmental clubs) vote on funding requests from individual students

Advisor: Dr. Richard Johnson, Director of Sustainability

~20 active members

Statement of the organization's mission, purpose, and goals

Over time, Rice University has seen an increase in the number and variety of environmental and sustainability-focused groups on campus. As Rice celebrated its centennial anniversary, a document was passed through the Rice Student Association called the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan. To further the efforts set forth in the 100-Year Plan, we believe it is necessary to provide a channel for students to get involved in sustainability while promoting interactions between the individual clubs involved. We also recognize that sustainable initiatives require additional funding. Therefore, it is our mission to give students, faculty, and administrators a central name and website to find information about the environmental groups on campus and their initiatives. It is also our mission to generate and provide funding for the environmental groups and environmentally minded individuals to draw from in their sustainable efforts.

The purpose of this organization is to promote the agenda set forth in the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan; to give a formal name and unified identity to the environmental and sustainability-focused groups on campus; to provide opportunities for students to implement environmental change on campus by offering funding and institutional support; to promote collaboration among members of the Rice Environmental Society through at least monthly meetings; and to create a centralized website where member groups can update their information and promote events;

Your Organization's Current Constitution

appended to end of this document.

Copy of Current and Previous Academic Year Budget

RES handles applications for funding student initiatives on a rolling basis. Since May 2014, RES has received applications for the following projects/programs:

Summer 2015

Greening the Hoot through biodegradable foodware \$840- *approved and executed*

Indoor Recycling Bins for academic buildings \$1500- *approved and executed*

Fall 2015

Pub Eco-Fridge \$4540.41- *approved but project abandoned by pub*

Outdoor Classroom through Architecture Design Charette \$5000- *approved for 40-60%*

Dark Matter Poetry Slam event in the spring \$2000- *approved for \$1000*

Real Food Week event \$300- *approved and used \$289.04*

Food Waste Challenge \$200- *approved and executed*

Making seed balls for the Rice prairie \$11.47 - *approved and executed*

Coffeehouse reusable mugs 2-week event in the spring \$2,125 - *approved for a minimum of 50%*

Rice Urban Agriculture composting supplies \$609 - *pending a vote by the RES board*

*Note that some of these are still in the works.

Total requested monies for this school year to date ~ \$16,516.88

Copy of Hypothetical Budget should your organization receive priority access.

RES takes applications for student initiatives on a rolling basis, so predicting an exact budget is difficult. However, we allocate all of our budget to funding initiatives related to the environment or sustainability. Considering the amount of funding requested between Summer 2015 and Fall 2015, and accounting for a small increase in the number of applications as RES funding becomes more widely known, we estimate a budget of about \$20,000 per school year would cover a good breadth of student projects. However, any substantial funding (even less than \$20,000) would help the mission of RES.

Already, the SA Environmental Committee co-chairs are involved in RES funding decisions. However, RES would also be open to further SA involvement in funding decisions if using blanket tax monies.

General explanation of request for funds

A key component of the mission of RES is creating an additional source of funding to support student initiatives around sustainability. Oftentimes, individual students and clubs have the best ideas for making Rice a greener place, but virtually no money is earmarked for these projects. RES, with money from the SA40k fund, has met the need for sustainability funding; students have shown their interest in using that money, whether for programming, infrastructure, or initiatives. A blanket tax would ensure that RES has funding each year, even when the SA40k money is all used on student applications.

Current efforts to acquire other sources of funding. (SAPP, Alpha, etc.)

Because of the nature of how RES funding is used, to fund student applications on a rolling basis, finding other sources of funding is difficult. SAPP primarily supports events and only takes applications directly from clubs, so having to apply to SAPP separately for each student application would be unwieldy and ineffective. National sustainability grants exist, but they similarly require a set plan for the money. The beauty of RES is its ability to quickly turn around student applications for funding. Most applications are answered within a week or two, giving interested students the peace of mind that they will find funding for their projects that better Rice's environmental awareness and sustainability.

RES has also looked into corporate sponsorships, but for similar reasons of accountability has been unable to secure anything. A blanket tax perfectly suits the financial needs of RES, and it is very appropriate considering the student-centered application process of the organization.

Explanation and evidence of the organization's financial practices, including budgeting and record-keeping;

Please see ["Student Initiatives Funding Application"](#) folder on the Google Drive shared with satreas account. Each application is saved and shared with RES members. Votes are conducted with Google forms that take each user's netid, and discussions often occur over the list serv or at monthly meetings. The "Timeline of Applications" document in the "Submitted Applications" folder documents all historical applications and their status. The club of course has banner to track total availability of funding.

Why the above sources of funding are not sufficient to sustain your organization?

RES received \$22,200 from the SA40k fund. While a significant portion of this funding is still available, the money will run out as more applications come in. Already this year, students have requested over \$16,000 of funding; RES has not actually given out that much, but the figure is indicative of how interested students are in using the funding and how it will ultimately run out.

How priority access to the Blanket Tax General Pool will aid long-term sustainability of the organizations?

Rice has a long way to go in terms of improving its sustainability, and individual Rice students will always have good ideas for how to do this. Having a yearly source of funding will allow multiple generations of Rice students to fund their sustainability-related projects. The SA has on multiple occasions reaffirmed its commitment to Rice's environmental sustainability, most recently with the passage of Resolution 1 this school year, presented by Michael Donatti, the RES president, and Reagan Kapp, the Duncan College Senator. Committing blanket tax funds to this goal is the ultimate indicator of that commitment, and it will ensure that RES's goal of campus sustainability becomes a priority for many years to come.

Proposed amendments to the organization's constitution that would satisfy the requirements placed upon subsidiary organizations by this constitution, including the requirement for elected leadership set forth in Section IX.A.4 of the SA constitution.

Current language:

Article VII. Officers and Their Duties

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Treasurer, and a Student Association Ambassador. No member may hold more than one office at a time. The Executive Board may create any additional office it deems necessary at any time by amending this Article through the procedures set forth in Article XV.

Section 1. President

The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The President shall:

- 1. oversee all the meetings and activities of this organization*
- 2. chair all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board; and*
- 3. ensure that, at all times, this organization is abiding by the rules and regulations of the Student Association.*

Proposed new language:

Section 1. President

The President shall be elected by the Student Association in accordance with Article XII of the SA Constitution. The President shall:

- 1. oversee all the meetings and activities of this organization*
- 2. chair all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board; and*
- 3. ensure that, at all times, this organization is abiding by the rules and regulations of the Student Association.*

VII.1.a: Vacancy. In the event that the position of President becomes vacant, RES shall fill the vacancy according by a majority vote of its Executive Board. Within five business days of filling the vacancy, RES shall provide to the Senate and the Office of Student Activities a written explanation of the reason for the vacancy, the method by which the vacancy was filled, and the person filling the vacancy. The Senate shall provide its approval unless, by a two-thirds vote and with written justification, the Senate determines that the organization has used the vacancy process to subvert the requirement that it have an elected leader or elected representatives.

VII.1.a.i. During the time period between RES's selection of a replacement and the approval of the Senate, RES's selected replacement shall temporarily hold the office.

VII.1.b: Removal of Elected Leadership. The RES Executive Board shall have the power to remove the President by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote, following all parts of the Student Association constitution. The Senate may impeach the RES president in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section IV.A.7. IX.A.4.b.i of its constitution.

VII.1.b.i. In either case, the vacancy created by removal shall be filled in accordance with Section VII.1.a of this constitution.

VII.1.b.ii. Impeachment by the Senate of the RES president must not be in retaliation against or in anticipation of any decision by the RES that the Student Association finds unfavorable but that is in accordance with the mission and purpose of RES and with Rice University rules and regulations.

VII.1.b.ii.1. This protection includes, but is not limited to, the content of student media publications and broadcasts and the judicial findings and opinions of the University Court and the Honor Council.

How additional funds will benefit the student body?

The RES Initiatives fund is open to any student of Rice who has an initiative relating to reducing energy usage, water usage, or waste creation on campus. Additionally, Rice students may apply for Initiatives funding for environmental or sustainable programming. A Rice student requests an amount through an application set up by the RES Executive Board. Having this available funding empowers students to better their campus and the Rice community, and the number of applications that have come in while RES has had available funding demonstrates the desire among students to pursue their sustainability projects. Additionally, improving Rice's sustainability and having such a fund available to our students improves Rice's reputation and competitive edge.

Any other information you deem necessary for the Blanket Tax Committee.

Thank you for the consideration! I am happy to respond to any questions or comments.

Yours,

Michael Donatti

Co-Founder and President of the Rice Environmental Society

The Constitution for the Rice Environmental Society (RES)

First drafted: October 28, 2013

Revised: September 14, 2015

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be “The Rice Environmental Society,” heretofore referred to as “The Rice Environmental Society,” “RES,” or “The Society.”

Article II. Mission

Over time, Rice University has seen an increase in the number and variety of environmental and sustainability-focused groups on campus. As Rice celebrated its centennial anniversary, a document was passed through the Rice Student Association called the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan. To further the efforts set forth in the 100-Year Plan, we believe it is necessary to provide a channel for students to get involved while promoting interactions between the individual groups. We also recognize that sustainable initiatives require additional funding. Therefore, it is our mission to give students, faculty, and administrators a central name and website to find information about the environmental groups on campus and their initiatives. It is also our mission to generate and provide funding for the environmental groups and environmentally minded individuals to draw from in their sustainable efforts.

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be

1. to promote the agenda set forth in the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan;
2. to give a formal name and unified identity to the environmental and sustainability-focused groups on campus;
3. to provide opportunities for students to implement environmental change on campus by offering funding and institutional support;
4. to promote collaboration among members of the Rice Environmental Society through at least monthly meetings; and
5. to create a centralized website where member groups can update their information and promote events;

Article IV. Primacy of the Student Association

This organization will recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Committee, the Student Association Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association.

This organization will follow the Student Association Constitution and By-Laws and any associated rules and regulations.

This constitution is subordinate to the Student Association Constitution and By-Laws.

Article V. Members and Associates

Membership of and association with the Rice Environmental Society shall be governed by the Executive Board set forth in Article VI. Members and associates can be any organization—business, committee, club, etc.—or individual who is willing to promote the values outlined in the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan. All officers, members, honorary members, faculty sponsors, advisors, and affiliates of any organizational member or associate are also individual members or associates.

Section 1. Application for Membership or Association

With the exception of the founding members and associates listed in Article V, Sections 2 and 3, who will be considered members from the founding date, membership and association is evaluated at the start of each school year by the Executive Board of the Society. New or existing organizations whose goals or work falls in line with the mission and purpose contained in Articles I and II of this constitution are eligible. The Executive Board should, when possible, seek out and recruit new members and associates. However, organizations not recruited can apply (called the “Applicant”) for membership or association at any point by expressing in written form their interest to the President of the Society.

The Executive Board must approve all new members and associates by a three-fourths vote, either before the deadline for constitution submittal if at the beginning of the year or within two weeks if at any other time.

After the review, if the Executive Board finds that membership is either inappropriate or inapplicable, or if there is not a three-fourths vote in favor of the Applicant during the vote for approval, the Applicant shall be notified in writing within 48 hours of the decision.

All new approved members and associates are to be added to Sections 2 or 3 of Article V of this constitution (under “added members” or “added associates” with the month and year of approval) before the next submission to Rice Student Activities.

Section 2. Members

Members present a voting delegate to the Executive Board set forth in Article VI, are expected to be present at all Society meetings, and can request funds from the RES Flex Fund as set forth in Article VIII, Section 1. Additionally, members have all of the characteristics of associates.

The founding members are:

- Rice Bikes
- The Rice EcoReps
- Rice Endowment for Sustainable Energy Technology (RESET)
- Rice Environmental Club
- Rice Student Volunteer Program (RSVP) Environmental Committee
- Real Food Revolution (RFR)
- Student Association Environmental Committee

The added members, along with their dates of approval, are:

- Baltra Thrift Shop, *September 2015*
- Environmental Health Collaborative, *September 2015*
- Rice University Biodiesel Initiative (RUBI), *September 2015*
- Rice Oceans Club, *September 2015*
- Rice Electric Vehicle Team, *September 2015*
- Rice Solar Decathlon Team, *September 2015*
- Rice Urban Conservation Club, *September 2015*
- Rice Wildlife Conservation Corps, *September 2015*

Section 3. Associates

Associates align with the mission of the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan and RES. They appear in the marketing and on the website of the Rice Environmental Society, and their opinions should be highly considered in club decisions. Associates may present an advising delegate to the Board but that delegate may not have any voting power.

Additionally, associates may not request funds from the RES Flex fund.

The founding associates are:

- Administrative Center for Sustainability and Energy Management (ACSEM)
- Center for the Study of Environment and Society (CSES)
- Rice University Housing & Dining Services

The added associates, along with their dates of approval, are:

- Office of Sustainability, *September 2015*
- Center for Energy and Environmental Research in the Human Sciences (CENHS), *September 2015*

Section 4. Revocation of Membership

Should a member of RES act in a manner unbecoming of the Society, the member may

be called before the Executive Board to present their side of the story. After hearing this, the Executive Board may vote to remove the member. A majority vote and support of the sponsor are required for removal. The member will be notified of their removal either in writing or by phone within 48 hours of the decision.

Article VI. Executive Board

The Executive Board (“the Board”) shall be the governing body of the Rice Environmental Society. Its members shall include the presidents or appointed delegates of the RES members, which are outlined in Article V.

The Executive Board shall not exercise any control over a single organizational member without the express written or verbal consent of the organizational member’s president or appointed delegate. The Executive Board shall have general responsibility over the affairs within the Society, including membership applications, membership revocation, recommendations to organizational members, and performing all other duties listed in this constitution. The Executive Board shall be subject to the orders of the Society, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Society.

The Executive Board shall select its own time and place of meeting. At the call of the President or a majority of the other members of the Board, a special meeting may be called.

Article VII. Officers and Their Duties

The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Treasurer, and a Student Association Ambassador. No member may hold more than one office at a time. The Executive Board may create any additional office it deems necessary at any time by amending this Article through the procedures set forth in Article XV.

Section 1. President

The President shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Board. The President shall:

1. oversee all the meetings and activities of this organization;
2. chair all meetings of the membership and of the Executive Board; and
3. ensure that, at all times, this organization is abiding by the rules and regulations of the Student Association.

Section 2. Treasurer

The treasurer shall be elected by a majority vote of the Executive Board and shall:

1. maintain a correct balance of the Society’s funds;

2. manage the Society's funds as governed by Article IX;
3. make recommendations for funding usage; and
4. make available, when requested, a current breakdown of the organization's income and expenses.

Section 3. Student Association Ambassador

The Student Association Ambassador shall be one of the co-chairs of the Rice Student Association's Environmental Committee. Their position as Student Association Ambassador shall be decided amongst themselves and may change as necessary throughout the year. They shall:

1. serve as a liaison to the Student Association;
2. make recommendations to the Student Association in accordance with the 100-Year-Sustainability Plan; and
3. maintain the Student Association's recognition of RES.

Article VIII. Meetings

Regular meetings of this organization shall be held at a time and place that is convenient for the membership. The membership may, at its discretion, change the time or place of meeting.

Regular meetings shall be held at least monthly. A reminder shall be given between 24 and 48 hours in advance of each regular meeting.

Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Board. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least 48 hours notice must be given for special meetings.

15% of the student members shall constitute a quorum.

The rules regarding electronic communication in the parliamentary authority shall be followed, unless the Society acts to make special exemptions.

The members of the Executive Board are expected to attend all meetings unless they otherwise designate a proxy to attend the meeting on their behalf. To designate a proxy, the member of the Executive Board designating the proxy must tell the Executive Board the name of their proxy at least 24-hours in advanced. The proxy shall have the same responsibilities as the member of the Executive Board for the meeting in which they are proxying.

Article IX. Budget Appropriations

The budget of the Rice Environmental Society will be divided disproportionately into two categories: a Flex fund and an Initiatives fund. 10% of the budget will be allocated to the Flex fund, and 90% will be allocated to the Initiatives fund.

Section 1. Flex

The Flex fund is available to club members for environmental or sustainable programs or initiatives that fall outside of their individual budget. A club member requests an amount through an application set up by the Executive Board, which the Board must then approve by a three-fourths majority vote.

Section 2. Initiatives

The Initiatives fund is open to any student—undergraduate or graduate—of Rice who has an initiative relating to reducing energy usage, water usage, or waste creation on campus. Additionally, Rice students may apply for Initiatives funding for environmental or sustainable programming. A Rice student requests an amount through an application set up by RESET or the Executive Board, which the Board must then approve by a three-fourths majority vote.

This disproportionate division should typically be followed, but the Executive Board may decide by a three-fourths majority vote to change the allocation of the budget to better match applications for environmentally oriented funding.

Article X. The Faculty/Staff Sponsor

The Faculty/Staff sponsor shall be a faculty or staff member of Rice University who has expressed devotion to the same ideas and principles set for in the mission of this organization and who will be at Rice for the full academic year. The Executive Board has the right to designate a faculty/staff sponsor by a two-thirds vote at any regular meeting. The faculty/staff sponsor must meet the training criteria set by Student Activities. The Faculty/Staff Sponsor shall serve until a replacement is selected. Any updates to the club Faculty/Staff sponsor must be made through the Office of Student Activities.

Article XI. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern RES in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order this organization may adopt.

Article XII. Titles and Section Headings

The article and section headings contained in this constitution shall not be deemed to govern, limit, modify, or in any manner affect the scope, meaning, or intent of the provisions of this constitution.

Article XIII. Nondiscrimination Requirement

The Rice Environmental Society shall not discriminate on the basis of, but not limited to, any of the following: race, color, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status.

Article XIV. Anti-Hazing Policy

The Rice Environmental Society will not tolerate any form of hazing activities to members or potential members. Hazing activities are defined as "Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off university premises to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule."

Article XV: SA Primacy

This organization shall recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Committee, the Student Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association. This organization shall adhere to the Constitution of the Student Association and any associated rules and regulations. The constitution and bylaws of this organization shall be subordinate to the Constitution of the Student Association.

Article XVI. Amending this Constitution

Any part of this constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Board.

Amendments approved by the Board must be submitted to the Student Association Parliamentarian for approval. Upon approval of the Student Association Parliamentarian, amendments will be submitted to the Student Senate for approval in accordance with the Student Association's constitution and bylaws.

The Date of Last Revision on the title page of this constitution shall be updated to reflect the date of the Senate's approval of the amendments.

Amendments will take effect upon approval by the Student Senate.