



RICE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Blanket Tax Standing Committee 2015-2016
Report on Review of New Blanket Tax Application
Rally Club

Abstract

Rally Club is a registered student organization with the aim to increase student participation, interest, and support for Rice Intercollegiate Athletics through advertising, promotions, and events. The Blanket Tax Committee has reviewed Rally Club's application and recommends the Student Senate **approve** Rally Club'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. Rice Athletics is an important aspect of student life on campus and a source of campus pride. We strongly feel that the funds will contribute to encouraging better participation at Rice games and in the process create a stronger and unified Rice community.

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

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds the funds will contribute to the organization's mission, purpose and goals by financially supporting tailgates and other events the organization holds to encourage participation before games.

3. Does the organization have a strong financial need?

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rally Club has a strong financial need.

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

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rally Club has exhausted most means of acquiring funds.

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

The Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that Rally Club's financial need is long-term and annual as Rice Athletic events are annual and since athletics is an important aspect of college student life.

6. Proper Budgeting

The Blanket Tax Committee finds Rally Club's budgeting appropriate and reasonable. However, the Blanket Tax Committee recommends that they organize the information in a more presentable manner.

Conclusion

As thoroughly discussed above, the Blanket Tax Standing Committee finds that the Rally Club proposal to be a subsidiary organization with access to blanket tax funds does satisfy all of the review criteria. This alone is sufficient for a recommendation to **APPROVE** the proposal.

As such, formally, The Student Association Blanket Tax Standing Committee for the 2015-2016 academic year hereby recommends that the Student Senate **APPROVE** Rally Club.

Respectfully submitted, Sai Chilakapati
Chair, Blanket Tax Standing Committee

Rally Club Response

No Formal Response Given

Blanket Tax Application

1. Org. Name, Year Founded, Name and Email of President, Treasurer, and Advisor, # of Active Members
Rally Club, founded in 1926 and refounded in 2014, Jeremy Reiskind jdr5@rice.edu, James Kittelman, Dr. Schell, 25 board members with anyone in student body as members
2. Statement of the organization's mission, purpose, and goals
As members of the Rice community, we aim to increase student participation, interest, and support for Rice Intercollegiate Athletics through advertising, promotions, and events.
3. Your Organization's Current Constitution
PDF of constitution is attached
4. Copy of Current and Previous Academic Year Budget
PDF of budgets are attached
5. Copy of Hypothetical Budget should your organization receive priority access.
PDF of budgets are attached
6. General explanation of request for funds
We are requesting funds because first and foremost our events are advertised and open to all members of the Rice student body just like RPC and the SA. In 2014, there was a move away from college specific tailgates, and the Rally Club gained responsibility for planning and organizing tailgates for football games. To throw tailgates, watch parties, and other events that are fun and engaging for the student body, we need financial support. We not only hold these events for football, but we have at least one tailgate for every sport that has a home game/meet on campus. Our overall mission is to increase student participation, interest, and support for Rice Intercollegiate Athletics. Right now our athletic department is currently on the rise, but many students still have negative perceptions of our sports teams based on past failures. With appropriate funding, we can advertise about the success of the teams, as well as throw tailgates and other events that get a student to the game to watch the much improved product. We believe Intercollegiate Athletics can play a vital role in student body unity, morale, and pride, and we want to continue driving towards these goals.
7. Current efforts to acquire other sources of funding. (SAPP, Alpha, etc.)
In 2014, we received funding from student activities and the residential colleges. This past year, we received funding from the initiative fund.
8. Explanation and evidence of the organization's financial practices, including budgeting and record-keeping;
As shown in our attached budget documents, after each event we record what we bought, how much it was, what event it was for, as well as our current remaining budget.
9. Why the above sources of funding are not sufficient to sustain your organization?
There are two main reason why the current sources of funding are not sufficient. The first reason is the timeline on receiving funds. Football season begins right when we return from school, and we need funding so we can begin throwing tailgates and other events at

football games. This year, we didn't receive our funding until the end of football season, and requested funds that did not include football season. The second reason is just the breadth of events we throw we need a good amount of money to reach our goals. Ideally we are throwing 20-30 tailgates/events during the year for sports ranging from football to swimming. To be able to have something that encourages students to attend, we will need funding for food and other prizes. This year we helped start the Rice Owl Rewards app with the athletic department and will need money to replenish the supply of prizes (shirts, gift cards, free meals, socks, keychains, etc.) after this year as well as add new ones.

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

The events the Rally Club sponsors, Rice Athletics events, are ones that occur every single year. Therefore, we will need financial support each year to produce and execute our events. After a few years of doing each event, much of the planning required is understood, but each year funds are needed to make the purchases to buy equipment, food, and other expenses. Also, by knowing we will have money for each year, it helps us budget as we can exactly know how much we want to spend on each event. The second part of sustainability is in regards to the new Rice Owl Rewards system. If there are no prizes each year, the app will not be effective. To assure that each year there are prizes, we need sustainable funding which blanket tax can help us achieve.

11. 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.

See attached PDF.

12. How additional funds will benefit the student body?

Attending athletics events is part of a collegiate experience. Turning an athletic game into an event can take anything from tailgates, food, and giveaways to signs, cheers, contests, and of course people. By having a substantial source of funding at the beginning of the year for multiple years, we are able to provide the best activities to turn the games into experiences that students will remember for the rest of their life. Also, Rice is a community all about supporting our peers. This club looks to make sure that the student-athletes, who compose ten percent of the student body, are supported by the rest of the community. Just like our music students at Sheppard understand, after putting in hours of practice, when you actually performance, you want an audience that will appreciate the process and the outcome. We want to make sure that there is a raucous audience for all the athletic team performances. With funding, we are able to make it more enticing for students to attend

athletic games to support their peers as well as just go crazy for a few hours to relieve stress from the hard academic rigors of our university.

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

We work very closely with the athletic department to create the best experiences possible for our students at athletic events and have their support to continue to grow as a club as we try and reach our goals.

Event (Predicted 2015-2016)	Money	Stuff Bought	Other Notes
Poster Supplies	\$100	Poster board and markers for all events throughout the year	
Wagner Football Tailgate	\$100	Basic snacks (chips, cookie, soda)	•Home Opener
Texas Football Watchparty	\$250	Pizza, chips, cookies (pub will provide soda)	
WKU Football Tailgate	\$200	Chips, Salsa, Queso, Guac	•Hispanic Appreciation Day •Incorporate HACER
Middle Tennessee Soccer	\$75	Donuts	
LaTech Football Tailgate	\$350	Dessert (smoosh or beignets)	•Key Game •Friday Night
SoMiss Football Tailgate	\$250	Basic snacks (Chips, Cookies, Soda)	•Work with Homecoming Committee to plan tailgate
Basketball Kickoff (W&M Basketball)	\$150	Ice cream bar for men's game	•Pub watch party kick off •Women's game at 5 then men's game at 9 •Homecoming Event
Oregon State M Basketball Tailgate	\$250		•Home opener
Texas W Basketball Tailgate	\$200		•Home opener
Houston W Basketball Tailgate	\$100		•Double header game with the men's
St. Edward's M Basketball Tailgate	\$250		•Holiday Game •Ugly Sweater contest
WKU M Basketball Tailgate	\$200		•CUSA Opener •Important Game
Middle Tennessee W Basketball Tailgat	\$150		
Arizona Baseball Tailgate	\$250		•Home Opener
FIU M Basketball Tailgate	\$200		•Televised Game
Old Dominion Baseball Tailgate	\$250		•Home Opener
Texas A&M Baseball Tailgate	\$250		•Rivalry Game
Charlotte Baseball Tailgate	\$250		•Dead days study break
M Tennis Tailgate #1	\$150		
M Tennis Tailgate #2	\$100		
M Tennis Tailgate #3	\$75		
W Tennis Tailgate #1	\$150		
W Tennis Tailgate #2	\$100		
W Tennis Tailgate #3	\$75		
Rice Owl Rewards Prizes	\$750		
		Requesting (everything minus football season)	
	\$5,225		\$4,075

Event (2014-2015)	Date	Location	People (FB)	People (Actual)	Food	Money	Additional				
Notre Dame Football Watch Part	8/30/2014	Pub	179	200+	Pizza (through the hoot)						
Football vs ODU (Home Opener)	9/20/2014	Rice Stadium	297	845	Kolaches and Coffee		\$250	Poster Competition			
Football vs Hawaii	10/4/2014	Rice Stadium	98	250			\$250	Best dressed Hawaiian (free food for a week), Breast Cancner tshirts			
Football vs UNT	10/25/2014	Rice Stadium	218		100 Breakfast Burritos, Bagels and Cream Chees		\$250	Costume Contest, Allstate \$1,000 kick			
M Basketball vs PVA&M (HO)	11/19/2014	Tudor	178		Wingstop Wings	Athletics		Wing eating contest, rice rising shirts			
Football vs UTEP (Senior)	11/21/2014	Rice Stadium	195		BBQ		\$250	Military appreciation tshirts			
M Basketball vs St. Edwards	12/6/2014	Tudor	282		Raising Canes, Pizza, Dessert	\$38.76 + Athletics		Sweater Constest, Santa Hats, \$50,000 half court shot			
M Basketball vs Louisiana Tech	1/24/2015	Tudor	181		Jimmy John's, chips, dessert	\$81.54 + Athletics		Mechanical Bull			
Baseball vs Texas (HO)	2/13/2015	Reckling	401		Pizza						
W Basketball vs FIU	2/19/2015	Tudor	17		Banh Mi			College Prez Knock Out			
M Basketball vs ODU	2/26/2015	Tudor	167		Torchy's tacos	Athletics		Rally Towles and shirts			
Baseball vs UTSA	4/17/2015	Reckling	192		Tacos A Go GO		\$572	Cornhole tournamnet			
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Event (Hypothetical Budget	Money			
Supplies	\$200			
Football Game #1	\$350			
Football Game #2	\$350			
Football Game #3	\$350			
Football Game #4	\$400			
Football Game #5	\$350			
Football Game #6	\$500			
Football Watch Party	\$250			
Soccer Game #1	\$75			
Soccer Game #2	\$75			
Swimming Match	\$50			
M Basketball #1	\$100	*Athletics covers majority of men's basketball cost		
M Basketball #2	\$100			
M Basketball #3	\$100			
M Basketball Watch Party	\$250			
W Basketball #1	\$150			
W Basketball #2	\$150			
W Basketball #3	\$200			
W Basketball Watch Party	\$250			
Baseball #1	\$250			
Baseball #2	\$200			
Baseball #3	\$150			
Baseball #4	\$250			
M Tennis #1	\$75			
M Tennis #2	\$75			
M Tennis #3	\$150			
W Tennis #1	\$75			
W Tennis #2	\$75			
W Tennis #3	\$150			
Rice Owl Rewards	\$1,500			

	\$7,000			

Rally Club Constitution

Last Revised November 19, 2015

Article I. Name

Section I.A. Name. The name of this organization shall be Rally Club, abbreviated RC.

Section I.B. Mission Statement. As members of the Rice community, we aim to increase student participation, interest, and support for Rice Intercollegiate Athletics through advertising, promotions, and events.

Section I.C. Purpose. The purpose of this organization shall be:

- I.C.1.** Increase student attendance at athletic events
- I.C.2.** Improve the atmosphere of support for athletic events
- I.C.3.** Increase recognition for athletes and athletic events
- I.C.4.** Provide information regarding the athletic happenings
- I.C.5.** Create a sustainable athletic culture among the students and alumni
- I.C.6.** Increase relations between scholar-athletes and the remainder of the campus (students & faculty)

Article II. Membership

Section II.A. Classes. There shall be three classes of members:

II.A.1. Student Members. All currently registered students at Rice University shall be eligible for student membership. Student membership shall be granted to any eligible person who submits a completed member information form.

II.A.1.a. At no time shall fewer than half of the organization's members be student members.

II.A.1.b. Eligibility. Only student members who are not on Disciplinary Probation or otherwise prohibited from holding office in a registered student organization shall be eligible to seek and hold office.

II.A.2. Community Members. All those not eligible for student membership shall be eligible for community membership. Community membership shall be granted to any eligible person who submits a completed member information form to the Secretary and pays dues to the Treasurer.

II.A.3. Honorary Members. By a majority vote of the membership in accordance with other applicable provisions of this Constitution, any person may be granted an honorary membership. Honorary members shall have none of the obligations of membership but shall be entitled to all the privileges of membership except of voting, making motions, and holding office.

Section II.B. Removal

II.B.1. Grounds for Removal. Any of the following shall constitute grounds for removal of membership:

II.B.1.a. Conduct injurious to the organization and its mission, where injurious conduct is any conduct tending to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its wellbeing, or hamper it in its work;

II.B.1.b. Conduct unbecoming a member of the organization; and

II.B.1.c. Ineligibility for membership according to the requirements of this organization the Student Association, and/or Rice University, whichever are applicable.

II.B.2. Process for Removal. If an officer or the sponsor of the organization has reason to believe a member has acted in a manner warranting removal under Section II.B.1, the member may be called before the officers and sponsor in a closed meeting. After hearing the alleged grounds for removal and the member's response, the officers may remove the member by a majority vote. The President shall notify the member of the decision in writing within 48 hours.

Article III. Officers

Section III.A. Definition. The officers of this organization shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Treasurer, Sport Heads, and College Reps

Section III.B. Executive Committee

III.B.1. Definition. The officers shall constitute the Executive Committee

III.B.2. Authority. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between its regular meetings, make recommendations to the membership, and perform any other duties listed in this constitution. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of this organization, and none of its acts or omissions shall conflict with action taken by this organization. Accordingly, the Executive Committee shall be authorized to spend this organization's funds.

III.B.3. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall select its own time and place of meeting. A special meeting may be called at the President. Upon the request of two other officers, the President shall be obligated to call a special meeting.

Section III.C. Duties of Officers

III.C.1. The President shall:

- III.C.1.a.* Oversee all the meetings and activities of this organization;
- III.C.1.b.* Chair all meetings of the membership and of the board;
- III.C.1.c.* Act as the immediate contact with the Rice Athletic Department; and
- III.C.1.d.* Oversee half the sport heads.

III.C.2. The Vice-President shall:

- III.C.2.a.* Assist the President in the execution of his or her duties;
- III.C.2.b.* Oversee half the sport heads; and
- III.C.2.c.* Oversee the college reps.

III.C.3. The Treasurer shall:

- III.C.3.a.* Create a budget for the year;
- III.C.3.b.* Maintain a correct balance of this organization's funds; and
- III.C.3.c.* Make available, when requested, a current breakdown of the organization's income and expenses.

III.C.4. The Sport Heads shall:

- III.C.4.a.* Plan tailgates and activities for his or her individual sport; and
- III.C.4.b.* Promote games and tailgates for his or her sport.

III.C.5. The College Reps shall:

- III.C.5.a.* Be a liaison to your residential college; and
- III.C.5.b.* Communicate with his or her individual college about all upcoming athletic events and Rally Club events.

Section III.D. Eligibility. Only student members who are not on Disciplinary Probation or otherwise prohibited from holding office in a registered student organization shall be eligible to seek and hold office. No member may hold more than one office at a time. No member may be elected to the same office more than twice in a row.

Section III.E. Selection. Officers shall be elected in accordance with Article V (Voting) at a regular meeting.

Section III.F. Term. Officers shall serve until their replacement, removal, or resignation.

Section III.G. Removal

III.G.1. Grounds for Removal.

III.G.1.a. Failure to satisfactorily fulfill the duties of the office

III.G.1.b. Conduct injurious to the organization and its mission, where injurious conduct is any conduct tending to injure the good name of the organization, disturb its wellbeing, or hamper it in its work.

III.G.1.c. Conduct unbecoming a member of the organization.

III.G.1.d. Ineligibility for membership according to the requirements of this organization, the Student Association, and/or Rice University, whichever are applicable.

III.G.1.e. Violation of Rice University rules or regulations, including the Code of Student Conduct and the Rice Alcohol Policy, where the violation occurs in the course of fulfilling the duties of the office, and where the member has been found in violation by an appropriate judicial body or official.

III.G.2. Process for Removal. An officer may be removed through either of the following processes:

III.G.2.a. Upon receipt of a petition of at least 20 percent of the voting members of the organization, the President shall be required to schedule a recall election to be conducted between 48 hours and two weeks from the time of receipt. A two-thirds vote of voting members present is required to remove an officer in a recall election.

III.G.2.b. If an officer or the sponsor of the organization has reason to believe an officer has acted in a manner warranting removal under Section III.E.1, the officer may be called before the other officers and sponsor in a closed meeting. After hearing the alleged grounds for removal and the officer's response, the other officers may remove the member by a unanimous vote. The President (or Vice-President if the removal hearing is for the President) shall notify the member of the decision in writing within 24 hours.

Section III.G. Vacancies. In the case of a vacancy for any office, the Executive Committee shall call a special election to be conducted between 48 hours and two weeks from the time of vacancy.

Article IV. Meetings

Section IV.A. Regular 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. The Secretary shall send a reminder to the membership via appropriate means between 24 and 48 hours in advance of each regular meeting.

Section IV.B. Special Meetings. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee. The President shall be obligated to call a special meeting upon the written petition of at least 10 percent of the student members. The purpose of the meeting shall be stated in the call. At least 48 hours' notice must be given for special meetings.

Section IV.C. Quorum. Fifteen percent of the student members shall constitute a quorum for all purposes under this constitution.

Section IV.D. Attendance. Officers are expected to attend all meetings.

Article V. Voting

Section V.A. Voting Members. Voting members shall be officers.

Section V.B. Threshold. Except where otherwise noted, any matter put to a vote shall be decided by a majority of voting members present.

Section V.C. General Elections. Elections shall be held annually in the spring semester for all officer positions. A majority of voting members present shall be required to elect an officer. Preferential ballots shall be used in all officer elections involving more than two candidates. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-preference votes, a preferential method shall be used to determine the winner.

V.C.1. The general election must be held at a regular meeting with at least one week's notice that general elections are to be held.

Section V.D. Special Elections. Special elections shall be held in the same manner as general elections, except that they may be held at a special meeting when appropriate.

Article VI. Finances

Section VI.A. Budget. The Treasurer shall prepare a proposed budget by November 1 of each year. The budget may be approved or amended only by a majority vote of voting members present at a general meeting with at least 48 hours' notice

Section VI.B. Dues. Annual dues shall be set by a majority vote of the membership at a regular meeting no earlier than September 1 and no later than October 1. All members must pay the annual dues on or before November 1 of each year. A member who has not paid dues by December 1 shall be placed on probationary status without any of the privileges of membership until his or her dues are paid.

VI.B.1. In cases of financial hardship, the Executive Committee may reduce or waive a member's dues by a majority vote. Members who have received a waiver or paid a reduced amount shall be considered current with their dues. A waiver or reduction must be requested annually.

VI.B.2. New members shall pay pro-rated dues based on the number of whole months remaining until dues are next due.

VI.B.3. The dues for student members and community members may be different.

Section VI.C. Club Funds. All funds gathered by the organization must be deposited into a club account through the Office of Student Activities within one business day of their receipt.

VI.C.1. The president, vice-president, treasurer, and sport heads all have the ability to use funds.

VI.C.2. If a college rep wants to use funds, his/her request must be approved by two members of the executive board (president, vice-president, treasurer).

Section VI.D. Misuse of Funds. The sponsor shall refer to the relevant University office(s) any member reasonably suspected of spending club funds without authority, failing to deposit club funds appropriately, or otherwise misusing or abusing club funds.

Article VII. Sponsor

Section VII.A. Requirement. The organization must have a sponsor who is a member of the Rice faculty or staff and who plans to be at Rice for the full academic year.

Section VII.B. Selection. The sponsor shall be selected at a regular meeting by a majority vote of voting members present.

Section VII.C. Term. The sponsor shall serve until his or her resignation or replacement.

Section VII.D. Training. The sponsor must meet the training criteria set by the Office of Student Activities by the deadline determined by that office.

Section VII.E. Replacement. If the sponsor resigns, is replaced, or is otherwise unable to continue serving as the sponsor for the remainder of the academic year, the organization shall select a new sponsor and notify the Office of Student Activities of the change within 15 class days.

Article VIII. Parliamentary Authority

Section VIII.A. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern this organization 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 IX. General Polices and Regulations

Section IX.A. Nondiscrimination Policy. This organization shall not discriminate against individuals on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, age, disability, or veteran status.

Section IX.B. Anti-Hazing Policy. This organization shall not engage in any form of hazing, as defined by the Code of Student Conduct and any other applicable Rice University rules and regulations.

Section IX.C. Conflict of Interest Policy. The business of this organization shall not be conducted in any manner that creates a conflict of interest or the reasonable appearance thereof.

Section IX.D. Approval of Contracts. No commitments or contracts shall be made by any member of this organization on behalf of this organization without the approval of both the sponsor and a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section IX.E. Interpretation of this Constitution. This document shall be interpreted based on the letter, the spirit, and the intent of any provision(s) in question, with reference to appropriate archival documents to provide insight into the intent or spirit of a provision where relevant. Article and section titles are intended to aid in reading and interpreting the document but shall not be construed as binding upon or limiting the content of their respective articles and sections. Where a general statement and a specific statement appear to be contradictory, the specific statement shall be taken as a binding exception to the general statement.

Article X. Primacy of the Student Association

Section X.A. This organization shall recognize the primacy of the Student Association Executive Branch, the Student Senate, and ultimately, the Student Association.

Section X.B. This organization shall be bound by the requirements of the Constitution of the Student Association and any associated rules and regulations.

Section X.C. This constitution and any bylaws or policies adopted by this organization are subordinate to the Constitution of the Student Association.

Article XI. Amendments

Section XI.A. Approval by Membership. Proposed amendments to this constitution may be approved by the membership only by a three-fourths vote of voting members present with at least one week's prior notice.

Section XI.B. Approval by Student Association Parliamentarian. Amendments approved by the membership shall be submitted to the Student Association Parliamentarian. Amendments may not take effect until they are approved by the Parliamentarian or the Student Senate in

accordance with the Constitution of the Student Association. The Date of Last Revision on title page of this constitution shall be updated to reflect the date of approval by the Parliamentarian or Senate.