Code of Ethics

Preamble

In order to promote the highest standard of student leadership and service, the Rutgers College Governing Association (RCGA) has established this Code of Ethics.

The Code of Ethics serves as a benchmark for personal integrity and responsibility for which all elected members of the RCGA should hold themselves accountable. Failure to do so is not sufficient grounds for impeachment; however, habitual breach of these standards may be used as supporting evidence for such charges.

Responsibility to the Students

As outlined in the Constitution of the RCGA, the body serves to, “execute the will of the student body … and to represent the student body in College and University decision making.” Therefore, it is imperative that the members of the RCGA remain accountable to the students of Rutgers College:

Members should objectively assess the will of the students as a whole.

While it is important to consider the many interests of the college, votes should not be cast solely on personal interest or involvement. It is recommended that when members have conflicts of interest they should abstain or recuse themselves from the issue.

When representing the students in an official capacity, members should do so in a professional manner, as doing so will reflect highly on the college as a whole. For instance, attending meetings and being punctual should be standard practice.

Personal Responsibility

The members of the RCGA are expected to exemplify leadership on campus when they are acting on behalf of the students. For this reason, members are expected to hold themselves to a high level of personal integrity, including but not limited to the following:

A member should not accept financial or political rewards in exchange for influence in college or university policy formation.

In order to maintain the integrity of the member as well as the RCGA as a whole, no member should attempt to cover up or withhold evidence of wrongdoing. The RCGA and its members should earn the trust of the students, and any actions involving a cover-up of wrongdoing may irreversibly damage this trust.
Instigation should be considered as serious as the actual offense, and those found guilty of instigating should be subject to the same consequence as those who actually commit the violation.

**Fiscal Responsibilities**

Since the money the RCGA is allocated for its operations comes directly from student fees, members should practice discretion in spending these funds:

> Before any expenditure, members should consult the RCGA treasurer to ensure that the money is being spent in accordance to the funding guidelines set by the RCGA Allocations Committee.

> Expenditures should be justifiable in terms of benefit to the students of the college.

**Responsibility to the RCGA Congress**

The RCGA functions best as a team, and in effort to maintain a collaborative atmosphere, members are encouraged to consider the following:

> Consider issues with an open mind, and vote on behalf of the best argument and the will of the students of the college.

> With respect to debate, a member should always judge the merits of the issue, not the individual presenting or sponsoring it.

> When considering new members for a position, the RCGA should strive to select the best individual for the position, regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, or veteran status.

> During meetings, RCGA members should be courteous to others by refraining from unrelated conversation, including the use of cellular phones or other electronic communication while in the meeting room.

**Amendments**

This Code of Ethics shall be amended according to the standard process for amending the Standing Rules, as outlined in the RCGA Constitution.