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# Tar Heel Raas Constitution

**Co-Captains: Andy Liu, Divya Mehta, Deeya Pathak, Rohan Vora**

**External Manager: Neil Vakharia**

**Internal Manager: Vrinda Desai**

**Treasurer: Hinal Patel**

**Production Managers: Varun Kochar, Anjali Mehta, Pooja Shah**

## **Article I – Name**

The name of this organization is **Tar Heel Raas**.

## **Article II – Affiliations**

**Section 1:** No affiliations with local, state, regional, or national organizations.

## **Article III – Purpose and Objectives**

This organization has been formed to actively entertain the general public and raise cultural awareness of the traditional West Indian dances, raas and garba; we would also represent the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill at national intercollegiate dance competitions.

## **Article IV – Membership and Participation**

**Section 1:** General team membership will be determined by tryouts which will be held at the beginning of each academic semester or by captain's discretion. Specifically, the captains elected in the previous academic year will preside over tryouts. There will be no partiality on behalf of the team captains for choosing team members. Each member will be given the opportunity to read the constitution before joining. Each member will be expected to sign a contract verifying they understand and will comply with the terms set forth in the constitution. If you drop the team, you may still be asked to fulfill certain obligations (i.e. football and basketball game volunteering). All team members are allotted 2 practices per semester that they can miss no questions asked. The practices they are allowed to miss does not include the week before a competition. Punishments for this will be determined by the captains.

**Section 2:** Each member is required to read and sign the UNC DDN Sexual Misconduct Policy.

**Section 3:** Only currently enrolled UNC-CH students can be active members with the right to vote and hold office.

## **Article V – Advisor**

John Caldwell, Department of Asian Studies

**Section 1:** The advisor must be a full-time faculty or staff member of UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC Hospitals, or an affiliated department; an emeritus UNC-Chapel Hill faculty or staff member; a UNC-CH retiree with affiliate status; or a campus minister. The advisor does not have the right to vote.

## **Article VI – Meetings/Practices**

**Section 1:** Mandatory practices will be held at the discretion of the captains each semester according to availability of the facilities and team member schedules.

**Section 2:** Special meetings include interventions and extra practices before performances.

- i. Interventions will vary according to availability and will be determined by captains.
- ii. Team members should be prepared to practice for fourteen days prior to performances and these practices will take place on a daily basis; these are also mandatory and the time and location of these practices will vary according to availability.
- iii. Team members should be formally notified about practices 12 hours prior to practice time

**Section 3:** Choreography meetings will be open to the entire team, and everyone is allowed to input into this.

**Section 4:** Team members will keep the theme confidential until first competition.

**Section 5 -** Team members will be required to attend at least one fundraising event each semester. Fundraising events will be organized by the team manager and treasurer. Failure to do so will result in lower priority in reimbursement.

**Section 6 -** If theme calls for lead(s), those dancers will tryout and be selected by an alumni member. Dancers will tryout by themselves in front of a crowd.

**Section 7 -** Each returner should commit to completing Summer break bootcamp videos.

**Section 8 -** There will be a mandatory winter bootcamp for 2-3 days that will be at the discretion of the new team, and will be determined within the first week of initiation.

**Section 9 -** All team members are guaranteed the opportunity to perform on stage during the year, if performances are occurring. Team members must notify captains if they will not be participating in stage performances.

**Section 10:** To remove a member or officer, adequate written notice to that person (7 days minimum) is required before officially removing them from the

organization.

- i. Due process must be allowed, as in the right to speak on one's behalf, and right to an appeal. Contact the Carolina Student Legal Services office or your organization's assigned Heel Life Coordinator to ideate about how to structure the due process.

## **Article VII – Executive Board**

### **Section 1 – Officers and Responsibilities**

- i. Team Captain(s) – Up to four team captains will be voted on by team members at the end of each academic year. There must be a minimum of two captains. They are to serve from the time of their election to the end of the academic school year. Their responsibilities are to ensure that practices run smoothly and assign tasks to the other officers. Qualifications include (but are not limited to) organizational skills, social skills, good leadership abilities, ability to grasp/hold attention, prior dance experience, spirited, and most importantly, willingness to devote time and energy into the team. Duties include choosing who will take care of choreography and the final music production as well as keeping up team spirits. Additionally, captains should make efforts to perform on campus events as well. If captains deem it necessary, they may reasonably require the team to condition themselves. If more than 2 captains are being elected, one of them cannot be a rising senior to protect the interest of the team in the future. It should be noted that the Captains have the final decision with anything relating to this dance.
- ii. External Manager – External managers will handle all competition applications, and booking gigs and on-campus performances. External manager must run all proposals by the captains before carrying them out permanently. External manager will be elected by team at end of the year. The external manager will work in tandem with the treasurer to fundraise. Additionally, it is preferred that external managers attend all competitions with the team.
- iii. Internal Manager - Internal managers will handle all social media accounts for the team, as well as coordinating with external manager for booking gigs and ordering team gear and gifts. Internal manager also oversees all fundraising and benefit nights for the team, delegating as they see fit. The internal manager is also in charge of the creation of graphics for promotional materials and events, as well as planning of any team bonding. Additionally, it is preferred (but not required) that internal managers attend competitions.
- iv. Choreographers- He/she will be voted on by the captain(s). Duties include: choosing a theme for the routine, creating/choreographing

- a routine, teaching the routine to the team; and managing all aspects of the execution of the routine.
- v. Treasurer - One team manager would be responsible for handling all expenses. Their duties would include submitting funding requests to Student Congress and handling reimbursements. The treasurer will be elected at the end of every school year. The treasurer would work in tandem with the team managers to fundraise.
  - vi. Mix/DJ Person- will be appointed by the captains if they deem necessary. Will give advice/help with putting together the mix and communicating with the DJ.
  - vii. Production Manager: 2-3 people will be elected by the team. They will be responsible for all introduction video, props and t-shirt designs for the year. The production manager will be responsible for coming up with and executing the stage makeup design. The production manager will be responsible for assigning roles to team members for prop setup and breakdown at competitions.

**Section 2** – In case of vacancies within the executive board, the captain will assume responsibilities for missing person(s) until the next election. All executive board members will have to come to at least 1 practice a week if they are not dancing.

**Section 3:** All major officers of the organization must be full-time, registered students of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a minimum of a 2.5 cumulative GPA

## **Article VIII – Elections**

**Section 1** – The executive board will be chosen by election of the general membership requires majority, with a two-thirds majority for captain. Each election will be a vote for one academic year; team members must run again in each annual election in order to serve in a position for more than one year.

**Section 2** – Nominations and elections will take place at the end of each academic year. To be nominated, one must have been on the team for a full academic semester. Tryouts for the team will be held at the beginning of each new academic semester, captains elected at the end of the previous academic year will automatically be on the team and they will preside over tryouts for their term.

Nominating procedures are as follows: Individuals may nominate team members or themselves, and if seconded and accepted, they will be considered. Elections for captains will then be conducted in two rounds: the first round for returning captains and second round for new captains. Within each round of captain elections and each election round for all other positions, all candidates will be given an opportunity to give a speech up to 3 minutes. The team will have an

opportunity for a Q&A period and to deliberate as a large group, prior to voting. Nominations and elections will run simultaneously. Everyone who came to a majority of the practices is able to vote (seniors included).

**Section 3** – In the event of a tie, newly elected captains and former captains will deliberate to choose the winner.

**Section 4** – The positions will be elected in the order specified: captains, external manager, internal manager, treasurer, production managers.

#### **Article IX – Funds**

**Section 1** – Treasurer’s responsibility to organize, team should come together for grants and fundraisers.

**Section 2** – All expenditures must be proposed to the team before they are carried out permanently.

#### **Article X – By-Laws**

**Section 1** - Performance rosters will be determined by the captains. Tryouts will occur through video submission. Competition roster must be decided at least 2 weeks prior to competition date.

**Section 2** – Attendance is mandatory unless in case of family emergencies including dire illness and/or death. Tardiness will not be tolerated; dedication to the team is a prerequisite to membership. Respectfulness to all members of executive board as well as fellow teammates is expected and required. Lateness or excused absences MUST be announced to team captains prior to practice, at least an hour before time of practice. Failure to comply to any of these will result in the executive board taking necessary actions and/or enforcement to rectify the situation which can include termination from the team.

**Section 3** – Dues will be \$30 unless otherwise directed by captains; this will be deposited in the bank. T-shirt costs will also be collected.

**Section 4** - Dancers who are on the roster to perform at a competition must give two weeks notice before the competition date if they decide to leave the team.

#### **Article XI – Title XI**

**Section 1:** The organization abides by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Non-Discrimination Policy for Student Organizations, which states the following: (A) Membership and participation in the organization must be open to all students without regard to age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender

identity, or gender expression. Membership and participation in the organization must also be open without regard to gender, unless exempt under Title IX. (B) Student organizations that select their members on the basis of commitment to a set of beliefs (e.g., religious or political beliefs) may limit membership and participation in the organization to students who, upon individual inquiry, affirm that they support the organization's goals and agree with its beliefs, so long as no student is excluded from membership or participation on the basis of his or her age, race, color, national origin, disability, religious status or historic religious affiliation, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or, unless exempt under Title IX, gender.

i. Single Gender Organization Statement: Social fraternities and sororities are RSOs whose primary purpose is the personal development of their members, as distinguished from honorary, professional, departmental, and service fraternities. Some social fraternities and sororities are culturally- and/or community-based. Social fraternities and sororities may select members according to subjective criteria consistent with the University's non-discrimination policies. Social fraternities and sororities are entitled to single-gender membership, provided they qualify under the provision of Section 86.14 of the regulations promulgated under Title IX of the U.S. Education Act of 1972, which require the organizations be exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. To be recognized as a fraternal organization through Office of Fraternity & Sorority Life, the organization must meet the definition outlined by Title IX and be affiliated with at least one of the currently recognized councils.

## **Article XII – Amendments/Ratifications**

**Section 1:** The constitution may be amended at any regular business meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote of active membership, provided the amendment has been submitted to members in writing at least one week prior to the business meeting.