ITA Constitution

Mission Statement and Preamble

Founded in 1997 at Rice University, Ideas to Action is today Houston’s leading student entrepreneur society. Our organization's mission is to foster an atmosphere of vibrant entrepreneurial spirit in the Rice community and greater Houston through both competitive and cooperative exchanges. We offer members the ability to establish connections with prominent entrepreneurs and business organizations around the country and provide an atmosphere where entrepreneurially-minded people can network to form new ventures.

Article One: Name

The name of this organization is “Ideas to Action.”

Article Two: Membership

All members of the Rice community, including undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and alumni are eligible for general standing membership in ITA. Additionally, at the discretion of the CEO, individuals from the greater Houston area and at other colleges and universities may be eligible for full membership.

Article Three: Officers

The executive committee will consist of the following positions.

1. CEO: President and final decision maker for ITA.
   1. Responsible for drafting a vision for ITA each year
   2. Maintain external contact list
   3. Alumni relations
   4. Maintain Jones School and Rice Alliance relations.
   5. Forming concepts for events.
2. COO: Internal Operations
1. Manage CFO
2. Generate and approve marketing materials and ITA promotional materials
3. Manage committees and duty specific offices
4. Conduct research on potential speakers for events
5. Direct fund raising programs
6. Manages list serve
3. CFO: Finances
   1. Provides semester and quarterly financial reports.
   2. Assists the COO with operations

The presence of all members of the executive committee is mandatory for all meetings. The CEO shall be considered ITA's exclusive and only "Principal Officer and Spokesperson" as that term is used in the Rice University Student Activities Office Clubs' Manual. No more than two individuals may share an executive committee officer position at a time. Up to three individuals on the executive committee who are not in the CEO position may come from non-Rice universities and colleges or the greater Houston area.

Article Four: Pro Tempore Leadership Positions

Any leadership position not explicitly mentioned in Article Four is a pro tempore leadership position.

Individuals who serve in ITA pro tempore leadership positions do so at the full pleasure and discretion of the executive committee.

With a 51 percent or greater affirmative vote by the executive committee, the CEO may:

1) Create and remove pro tempore positions from the ITA leadership structure.
2) Assign and hire new individuals to fill pro tempore positions.
3) Remove and fire individuals currently serving in pro tempore positions.

Article Five: Elections

In order to make a decision 51 percent of the executive committee must vote. To pass a measure 51 percent of executive committee members must vote in the affirmative.

Members of the executive committee for each new year shall be selected by a 51 percent vote from the executive committee of the current year from the pool of candidates running that year. All candidates who have not previously served on the executive committee must submit a resume and give a speech not to exceed 5 minutes on ITA’s future.

The executive committee shall be normally reelected on August 15th of each year, unless one of the following conditions is met:

1. A member of the committee voluntarily resigns. Or,
2. A member of the committee is rendered in a condition (including but not limited to severe illness, relocation, and death) such that:
   1. He or she can no longer voluntarily resign because he or she is unable or unavailable to communicate coherently with the rest of the executive committee,
2. He or she can no longer perform his or her position's duties because of this condition, and
3. 51 percent of all remaining executive committee members agree to hold a reelection for his position.

The selection of faculty sponsors must be voted on by the executive committee. Approving a faculty member requires a 51 percent vote.

**Article Six: Finance Protocol**

The CEO and COO must approve all expenditures. The authority to sign checks shall be given to the executive committee.

**Article Seven: Constitutional Amendments**

This constitution may be amended at any time with a 100 percent affirmative vote from the ITA executive committee. The latest version of this constitutional will always be made available to members on the ITA website.