

The Constitution of the MIT Casino Rueda Group

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the MIT Casino Rueda Group is to promote, instruct and perform in the different Salsa dance styles, particularly the Casino Rueda style.

Article II: Membership

Section 1.

Any member of the MIT community and beyond **shall** be eligible to become a member of this organization.

Section 2.

One is considered a member of this organization in any given academic or summer term if the current officers to perform for the Group recruit said person.

There **shall** be two types of recruiting, active and passive. These are defined as follows:

- Active recruiting is when current officers pursue candidates that they feel will fit well with the Group, and have the necessary skills to learn the dance, even if they are not at performance level.
- Passive recruiting is when current officers pursue candidates who have consistently attended Group events, particularly workshops, shown interest in learning more, and have reached a skill-level consistent with that of other current Group members.

The basic criteria for offering a performing member a spot **shall** be as follows:

- Visible or expressed interest to learn and improve dancing skills.
- Visible or expressed interest in being part of the Group.
- Be able to commit the time required for the smooth operation of the Group.

All other criteria are at the discretion of the Inner Circle, the Group's officers.

Decisions on candidates are to be discussed by the Inner Circle taking into consideration opinions from current performing members. A vote of the Inner Circle **shall** be required to offer a candidate a performing member slot in which no more than one member **shall** disagree on a candidate.

Section 3.

Members **shall** be required, except at the discretion of the President, to attend and help in the planning, organizing and execution of the Group's events, and to attend all Group practices and meetings on time. Members who are not excused by the President, and do not fulfill these requirements may be placed under suspension at the discretion of the President, and may not be allowed to take part in performances and a number of special events held using Group funds such as, but not limited to, private lessons with professional instructors and trips to Salsa conventions.

Section 4.

Members **shall not** engage in any of the following:

- Perform rueda with any other group without a majority vote of Inner Circle.
- Receive payment for teaching rueda independent of the group, in any capacity other than on behalf of the group.
- Share moves created for the exclusive use of the group (proprietary moves).

Section 5.

The membership of this organization **shall** at all times contain at least 5 MIT students and at least 50% of the organization shall consist of MIT affiliates.

Section 6.

This organization **shall not** discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Non-Discrimination Statement.

Section 7.

If this organization charges any monetary dues, there **shall** be exceptions made for students that cannot afford these dues. Proof of need **shall** be required in order for any dues to be waived. Such decisions are to be made at the discretion of the Treasurer.

Article III: Officers (Amended December 6, 2014)

Section 1.

This organization **shall** have up to twelve officers. One Group member may run for and hold multiple offices as long as he/she can fulfill all duties of each office. However, the President **shall** not hold other offices within this Group. There shall be two Artistic Coordinators, and the Internal and External Outreach Chair positions shall be held by a recommended two and a maximum of three Group members; all other positions shall be held by a maximum of one Group member.

- **President**
 - The President **shall** be the official representative of the Group to MIT and any other organization.

- The President **shall** be the liaison to all new recruits.
- The President **shall** be responsible for overseeing all Group matters such as, but not limited to, workshops, dancing breaks, parties, performances, advertisement, meetings, practices and recruitment.
- The President **shall** call and preside over meetings.
- The President **shall** be responsible for determining when meetings are to be held and for publicizing this to the Group.
- The President may sign any check/ voucher of the Group if the Treasurer is unable to do so for whatever reason.
- **Treasurer**
 - The treasurer **shall** be responsible for the finances of the Group.
 - The Treasurer **shall** be required to sign all checks/vouchers of the Group.
 - The Treasurer **shall** be responsible for collecting dues from members if applicable, and of collecting fees at Group events that require payment from participants.
 - The Treasurer **shall** be responsible for the President's tasks if the President is unable to carry out his/her duties.
- **Artistic Coordinator**
 - The Artistic Coordinator **shall** be responsible for the artistic aspects of the Group which includes, but is not limited to, maintaining and updating the Group's syllabus, and learn and perfect new moves for the syllabus, and deciding on the Group's performance repertoire.
 - The Artistic Coordinator **shall** make final decisions on performance costumes and music.
 - The Artistic Coordinator **shall** call and preside over practices.
 - The Artistic Coordinator **shall** propose events, trips and outings that benefit the general artistic welfare of the Group.
- **Internal Outreach Chair**
 - The Internal Outreach Chair **shall** be the liaison between the Group and the MIT community, including but not limited to other MIT groups, the MIT graduate community, and the MIT undergraduate and graduate dormitories.
 - The Internal Outreach Chair **shall** be held by at least one MIT undergraduate student, when possible.
 - The Internal Outreach Chair **shall** be responsible for organizing, planning and overseeing all events the Group shall engage in connected with the groups listed above and for delegating the work required for such events to other officers and members.
 - The Internal Outreach Chair **shall** be responsible for providing updates to the Webmaster and the Secretary for event publicity.
- **External Outreach Chair**
 - The External Outreach Chairs **shall** be the liaison between the Group and non-MIT groups including but not limited to dance groups in Boston such as Boston Rueda and MetaMovements, and other non-dance groups outside of MIT which the Inner Circle decides to work with.

- The External Outreach Chair **shall** be held by at least one Group member with connections to the groups listed above, when possible.
- The External Outreach Chair **shall** be responsible for organizing, planning and overseeing all events the Group shall engage in connected with the groups listed above and for delegating the work required for such events to other officers and members.
- The External Outreach Chair **shall** be responsible for providing information and updates to the Webmaster and the Secretary for event publicity.
- **Secretary**
 - The Secretary **shall** be responsible for publicizing all applicable Group events to Group members and to the general public.
 - The Secretary **shall** be responsible for creating all documents related to the advertisement of Group events such as, but not limited to dancing breaks, workshops and parties, and for organizing advertisement efforts by the Group. These include, but are not limited to emails to lists, posterings, handing out informational sheets (i.e. hand-bills, cards, etc...) and ads in newspapers.
 - The Secretary **shall** handle all public relations matters, which include but are not limited to, answering questions about the Group, signing up people for workshops, and presenting the Group and the history of the dances at performances.
 - The Secretary **shall** be the keeper of the image of the Group. This includes, but is not limited to creating and maintaining all documents that are handed out to the public, and being the head spokesperson at Group workshops and performances.
 - The Secretary **shall** take notes at meetings and send out minutes to the Group.
- **Webmaster/Web Designer**
 - The Webmaster **shall** be responsible for creating and maintaining the webpage of the Group, which includes, but is not limited to designing the site, creating images and navigational tools for the site, updating the content based on the current and future events of the Group, posting documents that are relevant to the Group's purpose and adding/deleting links of related sites.

Section 2.

The President, Treasurer, and all official signatories **shall** be distinct MIT students.

Article IV: Elections

Section 1.

The Term of office runs from April until April of every year. Election of officers **shall** occur every spring term.

Section 2.

Any member of this organization, and who is eligible to be an officer, **shall** be eligible to run for office. Quorum for elections is two-thirds of the Group.

Section 3.

Any member **shall** be elected if he or she wins a majority of the voting members. If more than two people are running and no one wins a majority, the person with the fewest votes shall be dropped from the ballot and the votes recast.

Article V: Impeachment and Dismissal

Section 1.

Elected officers **shall** be brought up for impeachment to other members only by a majority vote of the Inner Circle.

Section 2.

Elected officers **shall** be removed from office by a four-fifths positive vote of all members., either in presence or by proxy.

Section 3.

Members **shall** be brought up for dismissal to other members only by majority vote of the Inner Circle. The basic criterion for removing members **shall** be that of disrespecting the Group's values and goals as prescribed by **Article I** and **Article II, Section 3**, and other issues at the discretion of the Inner Circle.

Section 4.

Members **shall** be dismissed by a three-fifths positive vote of all members, either in presence or by proxy.

Article VI: Meetings

Section 1.

Meetings **shall** be held at least every week, and **shall** be presided over by the President, unless he/she is absent, and in that case the Treasurer **shall** preside.

Section 2.

All decisions **shall** be made by a majority vote of all members present.

Section 3.

Quorum for a meeting **shall** be two-fifths of the members of the organization.

Article VII: Performances

Section 1.

The Inner Circle shall decide upon solicited performances after consulting other members for availability.

Section 2.

Performers **shall** be selected by the Artistic Director from those available to perform at a specific performance. Criteria **shall** include, but it's not limited to, the following:

- Visible knowledge of performance repertoire.
- State of readiness (i.e. synchronization with the rest of the performers and the Group)
- Eagerness to perform.
- Not being under suspension as prescribed by **Article II, Section 3.**

Section 3.

The Group **shall** not solicit a fee for performances.

Section 4.

Miscellaneous costs related to performances (i.e. transportation costs) **shall** be paid by inviting party, unless its in the best interest of the Group. The Inner Circle **shall** vote on such decisions, a majority required to pass.

Article VIII: Funding

Section 1.

The Group **shall** provide funds, whenever possible, for events, trips and outings, and for material that benefit its general artistic welfare, giving preference to those related to Casino-style Salsa, the basis of Rueda. Funding **shall** be provided by majority vote of the Inner Circle.

Section 2.

The Artistic Coordinator **shall** propose people to go on special evens, and the Inner Circle **shall** vote on them. A majority vote is required for attendees to be approved.

Section 3.

The Treasurer, with the advice of the President, **shall** determine a cost-effective way of providing funds, and how much to provide for a single event.

Article IX: Amendments

Section 1.

Any member of the organization **may** present amendments.

Section 2. (Amended January 21, 2012)

Amendments **shall** be passed by a three-fifths positive vote of Group members who vote. Group members can vote in person in the specified meeting as determined by the President, or via email. After the voting meeting, the President is to email the amendment(s) to those who were absent from the meeting, and the members have 72 hours from the time the email is sent to reply with their vote.

Article VIII: ASA God Clause

The MIT Casino Rueda Group agrees to abide by the rules and regulation of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.