

Baits II Hall Council 2025-2026

Constitution

Preamble

We, the members of the Baits II Hall Council, in order to develop as an effective student organization and as leaders through community building, training and education, do hereby establish this constitution for the 2025-2026 school year.

Article I: Name

The name of the organization will be Baits II Hall Council, henceforth referred to as Baits II Hall Council.

Article II: Affiliation with other groups

Baits II Hall Council is affiliated with the Residence Halls Association (RHA) of the University of Michigan and is a Sponsored Student Organization of University Housing.

Article III: Purpose, vision, mission, aims, functions of the organization

Section 1. Purpose:

The purpose of this organization is to serve as the governing body of Baits II and serve all residents with impartial and equitable care.

Section 2. Mission:

The mission of the organization is to support residents by listening, assessing and advocating for the needs of the hall residents. The organization is committed to meeting the needs of the residents by providing resources and events in an inclusive and equitable manner.

Section 3.:

Baits II Hall Council understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by the University of Michigan policies and procedures.

Article IV: General Membership

Section 1. General membership shall include:

General membership shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of Michigan as registered students and residents of Baits II. In addition, the following requirements are necessary to constitute general members:

1. Payment in full of financial obligations as determined by the RHA.
2. All members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of Baits II Hall Council.

As a general member, you are able to participate in general elections, run for leadership positions and take advantage of community resources and events.

Section 2. Active membership shall include:

Active membership shall be limited to persons officially connected with the University of Michigan as registered students and residents of Baits II. In addition, the following requirements are necessary to constitute active members:

1. Payment in full of financial obligations as determined by the RHA.

2. Active participation in all activities and events sponsored by Baits II Hall Council.
3. Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of Baits II Hall Council.
4. Active membership is determined and regulated by the Baits II Hall Council's executive board.

As an active member, you are able to participate in general elections, run for leadership positions and take advantage of community resources and events. In addition, you are listed as members in official documents (i.e. maize pages, RHA records, etc.). You also have a leading voice in resources and events happening within the hall and are a voting member within council meetings.

Baits II Hall Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities.

Section 3:

A member may voluntarily withdraw from the organization by notifying the executive board of their desire to discontinue membership. Financial obligations previously paid to the organization will not be refunded.

Article V: Officers

Baits II Hall Council will be governed at minimum by an executive committee consisting of 4-5 officers:

1. **President or Chair** - An elected President will preside at all meetings. The President will maintain the power to appoint all committee chairpersons, shall present all motions to the body, and shall be present at 90% of the Baits II Hall Council events and meetings.
2. **Secretary** - The Secretary's duties shall be to preside at all meetings and functions that the President cannot attend.
3. **Treasurer** - The Treasurer will be responsible for all financial operations including: budget tracking (using tracker sheet provided by RHA), submitting CCF, allocating and approving purchases for council programs.
4. **RHA Representative** - There may be 1-2 RHA Representatives based on the size of the residential community. The Representative shall be present at 90% of RHA meetings (Thursday evenings) and is responsible for communicating to Council updates and procedures from RHA. RHA Returner Representatives Placement; One-half of the representative positions will be open for returning representatives. In the instance of an odd number of representatives in a residence hall, this will be rounded down. The timing of this election will be determined by the current RHA Executive Board but it shall be no later than the Housing application process. The resident's applications to be a representative for the following year must be first screened by a RHA selection committee, outlined in RHA Constitution 3.4.2, before they may be considered in an election. Under exceptional circumstances, the selection committee previously mentioned has the power to directly select the returning representatives. Representatives will be placed in the hall by RHA assembly in consultation with Housing Advisors. RHA returner representatives are subject to the responsibilities and removal process as all other officers of council.

Article VI: Advisor

The role and duties of the advisors shall include attending meetings, providing counsel to the executive committee, and advising the organization on policies, decision making, and leadership development. Advisors are also responsible for helping the council grow into an inclusive organization by interrupting harmful behaviors. The Department of University Housing will designate Hall Director(s) to serve as a professional staff advisor. In addition, Resstaff Coordinator(s) and/or Diversity Peer Educator(s) will be selected to serve as a student staff advisor. Student staff advisors will attend each council meeting. Professional staff advisors will either attend council meetings every other week (if they advise both

Multicultural and Hall Council) or each week (if they only advise one council). Advisors shall not vote on official organization business.

Article VII: Operations

Section 1: Voting eligibility.

Those members meeting all requirements of active membership as set forth in Article IV, Section 1 will be granted voting privileges.

Section 2: Selection of Officers.

The selection method of officers will be decided by the advisors at the beginning of Fall Semester. Advisors can choose from one of three methods:

Selection by Open Elections

1. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote from the general member population of Baits II. Elections will be organized by advisors and held during the month of September.
2. The Student Advisor will take interest from the body of general members, the interest process will close one week before the community wide vote
3. Incoming officers will assume their positions one week after elections are held.
4. All voting shall be done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the professional staff advisor, student advisor and one general member not running for a position in Baits II Hall Council, appointed by the RHA Returner Representative or RHA President.

Selections by Closed Elections

1. Officers shall be elected by a majority vote from the active member population of Baits II. Interested members from the general population will join as active members of Baits II Hall Council. After the active group membership has been formed, elections will be organized by advisors and held during the month of September.
2. Incoming officers will assume their positions one week after elections are held.
3. All voting shall be done by secret ballot to be collected and tabulated by the professional staff advisor, student advisor and one general member not running for a position in Baits II Hall Council, appointed by the RHA Returner Representative or RHA President.

Selection through Interviews

1. Officers shall be selected based on an application and interview conducted by the student advisor and professional advisor. Application and interviews will be conducted during the month of September.
2. Incoming officers will assume their positions one week after elections are held

Section 3: Filling Vacancy

In the case of a vacant officer position, the remaining executive board can choose a new officer from either the general or active members to fill the vacancy through a unanimous decision.

Section 4: Meeting Structure

All meetings will occur on a weekly basis at a time selected by the executive committee and will follow the procedure set forth below.

- I. Attendance
- II. Report by the President
- III. Committee Reports
- IV. Vote on all committee motions/decisions
- V. Any other business
- VI. Dismissal by the President

Section 5: Creation of New Role

In the case where the executive committee feels a need for an addition of a hall council position, the president of the hall council can apply through the process outlined in RHA bylaw 5.7.

Article VIII: Finances

Baits II Hall Council will finance the activities it engages in by the following means:

1. Membership dues via the process designed by RHA.
2. Applying to Community Council Funding by RHA.
3. Applying to funding grants from the Central Student Government.

Article IX: Quorum

Two-Thirds (2/3) of the active members must be present to constitute a quorum for elections and official business that requires a vote.

Article X: Removal of Members and Officers

Section 1: Removal of Membership

Any officer of Baits II Hall Council in violation of Baits II Hall Council's purpose, constitution, or who fails to meet the membership requirements as outlined in Article IV, may have their privileges as a member revoked through the following process:

1. A written request by at least three members of the organization must be sent to the executive committee.
2. A unanimous decision by the executive committee members, in consultation with the advisor, to remove the member from the organization.

Section 2: Removal of Officers

Any officer of Baits II Hall Council in violation of Baits II Hall Council's purpose, constitution, or who fails to fulfill their responsibilities as outlined in Article V, may be removed from office by the following process:

1. A written request by at least three members of the organization.
2. A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) majority vote of eligible active members is necessary for removal.
3. RHA representatives can also be removed in accords to the RHA constitution

Section 3: Removal by Harmful Behavior or Misconduct

As a Sponsored Student Organization (SSO), University Housing staff (Hall Directors and other full-time professional staff) can remove officers if their behavior or misconduct harms the council as a whole. Such misconduct may include, but is not limited to, violations of the Community Living at Michigan (CLAM) expectations.

Article XI: Ratification

This constitution must be ratified by two-thirds of all active members to take effect. It will be reviewed and renewed yearly during the fall semester.

Article XII: Statement of Compliance

Baits II Hall Council has read and agrees to fully comply with the University's policies. We understand that the organization's registration is contingent on acceptance of these policies.