The Constitution of Marian and Speros P. Martel College

Article I
Name, Purpose, and Membership

The name of the College shall be the Marian and Speros P. Martel College. Marian and Speros P. Martel College shall provide an atmosphere of trust, enjoyment, civility, and intellectual and social growth for the benefit of all its members, as enumerated: Undergraduate students shall be assigned upon enrollment at Rice University by the Committee of Masters. Undergraduate student membership in the College shall not be altered except through the action of the Committee of Masters. Associates of the College shall be selected by the students as defined herein and approved by the Masters.

Article II: The Parliament

The Parliament of Marian and Speros P. Martel College shall perform the executive and legislative functions of the College.

A.) Voting Officials of the Parliament

The President
The President shall be the chief executive of the College, charged with orchestrating public assemblies of the College and Parliament, representing the College at meetings of the University leaders, and appointing officials of the College whose roles are not defined herein. The President shall appoint a chair for the search committees for new Masters, Resident Associates, and the Coordinator. The President is not eligible for any other elected position or the appointed positions of O-Week and Beer Bike Coordinators during his or her tenure. The President must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College shall hold the position of President.

The Vice President
The Vice President shall oversee the operation of the Floor Lords and the elected non-parliamentary positions in the College and serve as the first substitute for the President at all functions outside the College. The Vice President shall oversee Room Draw and Parking Jack. The Vice President must have completed 2 full semesters at Rice
University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College shall hold the position of Vice President.

The Prime Minister
The Prime Minister shall serve as the head of the House of Commons, presiding over committee meetings of the Parliament and overseeing the operation of the various Constitutional Committees and all other appointed positions with the exception of Floor Lords. In the absence of the President, the Prime Minister shall assume all duties of the President as pertain to the internal affairs of the College. The Prime Minister should oversee the spending of Ambiance and Matching Funds. The Prime Minister must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College shall hold the position of Prime Minister.

The Treasurers
The Treasurers shall be charged with managing the finances of the College. They shall prepare, at the beginning of the academic year, a comprehensive preliminary budget for the College and keep the working budget on hand at each parliamentary meeting. The Treasurers shall also keep records of all past budgets of the College. Two members of the College shall hold the position of Treasurer.

The Secretaries
The Secretaries shall document all official meetings of the Parliament and of the Executive Council, keep public records of all meetings open to the College, take roll at all meetings of the College, and be chiefly responsible for its internal communications. Two members of the College shall hold the position of Secretary.

The House of Commons
Four Class Representatives shall be chosen from each of the Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes. Every member of the House of Commons shall serve in a Constitutional Committee. Only one person may hold the position of class representative at one time.

The Executive Council
The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Treasurers, and Secretaries. The Executive Council is responsible for setting the Budget. Members of the Executive Council must reside at the College. In the case that two members of the College split the duties of a position, at least one of them must reside at the College. The residency requirements of Executive Council positions go into effect at the beginning of the semester following the election.
B.) Non-voting Members of the Martel Parliament

The Parliamentarian
The Parliamentarian shall apprise the Parliament when Parliamentary motions do not reflect the mandates of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Parliamentarian shall possess the official copy of the Constitution and By-Laws. The Parliamentarian is appointed by the incoming President with the approval of the incoming Executive Council by changeover. While serving, the Parliamentarian is not eligible for any voting position in Parliament. No person shall serve as Parliamentarian for more than two years.

The Honor Council Representative
Charged to represent the College to the University Honor Council.

The Chief Justice
The Chief Justice shall ensure that the letter and spirit of student conduct is maintained throughout all meetings of the Parliament. The Chief Justice is responsible for heading the College Court as outlined in the College Judicial Code. The Chief Justice is required to live on campus and must have completed two full semesters at Rice University. The Chief Justice must provide each student a copy of the College Judicial Code (in paper or electronic format) once a year. Any incoming transfer students must receive a copy of the College Judicial Code within the first two weeks of their first semester at Rice. Only one person may hold the position of Chief Justice.

The Student Association Senator
Charged to represent the College within the Student Association and act as an advisor and partner to the President at all meetings of the Student Association. The SA Senator along with the President shall select New Student Representatives as dictated by the SA Senate.

The Student Maintenance Representative
The Student Maintenance Representative (SMR) shall function as the College’s official liaison with Housing and Dining. The SMR shall be present at meetings of Parliament to answer questions regarding maintenance of College facilities and report Housing & Dining updates to the College.

Student Computing Consultant
The Student Computing Consultant (SCC) shall function as the College’s official liaison with the Information Technology (IT) department and will fulfill the duties established by that department.

Rice Program Council Representative
Charged to represent the College to the Rice Program Council.

Orientation Week Coordinators
The Orientation Week Coordinators shall perform all duties requested of them by the Dean of Undergraduates' Office and First-Year Programs. Additionally, they shall facilitate integration of new students into the College, by hosting at least two events per academic year to encourage interaction between new students and the upper classes. The Orientation Week Coordinators shall serve as a resource to all College Committees and affiliated organizations with regard to involving and communicating with new students.

The Orientation Week Coordinators shall be selected by a committee comprised of the current President, the Masters, Resident Associates, the College Coordinator, and former Orientation Week Coordinators who are current students. The deadline for their appointment shall be set by the University. At least two of the Orientation Week Coordinators must reside at the College.

The Orientation Week Coordinators shall select Orientation Week Advisors and Co-Advisors.

D.) Sessions of the Parliament

The Parliament shall meet in a session open to the College at least twice a month during months in the academic calendar in which class is in session for at least two weeks, and at any other time deemed necessary by the President. The President shall preside over open sessions of the Parliament, but in absence of the President, the Prime Minister shall preside. All members of the College and any guests thereof may attend its open sessions. The Parliament may meet in closed session in which the President shall preside. Only members of the Parliament, voting and non-voting, and guests, at the discretion of the President, may attend its closed sessions.

E.) Quorum of the Parliament

Nine of the members of the House of Commons and any two of the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Treasurers, and Secretaries, shall constitute a quorum of the Parliament.
Article III: Election Procedures

The chronology of elections at Marian and Speros P. Martel College shall be as follows. Nomination periods for any office shall fall during the week before the election of that office. All election procedures not defined herein shall be enumerated in the Bylaws.

In the fall semester, the four Freshmen Class Representatives will be elected by a popular vote of the Freshman class. Transfer students matriculating with the Freshman class are eligible. Beer Bike Coordinators shall be elected once the campus-wide Beer Bike Coordinators have been selected.

In the spring semester, the President, Vice President, Prime Minister, Treasurers, Secretaries, Honor Council Representative, Rice Program Council Representative, University Court Representative, Student Association Senator, Chief Justice, and Socials shall be elected by a popular vote of the College at large. Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Representatives will be elected by a popular vote of their respective classes.

Article IV: Constitutional Committees

All members of the College are encouraged to serve on the Constitutional Committees. All members of the House of Commons shall serve on at least one committee, but not as chair of more than one. Members of the Constitutional Committees shall signup to be on a committee during the spring. Chairs of the Committees shall be selected by the Prime Minister and President with input from past committee chairs and members. Parliament shall then approve the new committee chairs before the end of the spring semester. New students will be given the opportunity to sign up for committees in the fall. After submitting an itemized budget, each Constitutional Committee shall be allotted a budget by Parliament. The members of each Constitutional Committee shall be responsible for expenditures according to their itemized budget. Constitutional Committees shall be enumerated in the College By-Laws.

Article V: Due Process of Amendment
Amendments may be proposed by any member of the College. The members of Parliament shall review proposed changes in a closed meeting of Parliament. All changes must be made open to public view of all College members at least three days before being brought to an open meeting of the College. Amendments to the By-Laws shall be passed by a three-quarters majority of all voting members of Parliament. Amendments to the Judicial Code shall be passed by a two-thirds vote of Parliament and a five-sevenths vote of the College Court. Amendments to the Constitution shall be passed by a two-thirds majority of all voting members of Parliament in order for the changes to go to the College for ratification. For a Constitutional amendment to be ratified, two-fifths of the members of the College must participate in the vote of ratification, of which two-thirds must approve the amendment.

Article VI: Referendum

Petitions for referenda can be submitted in response to any action of Parliament. Petitions for referenda shall contain the precise wording of the ballot being demanded and the signatures of one hundred College members. Petitions shall be due at midnight the Saturday following a Parliamentary vote, with an election being held within nine calendar days. A strict majority of the votes cast in such a referendum shall bind the Parliament to carry out its mandate. Contest of a referendum shall be referred to the College Court.

Article VII: Impeachment, Removal and Resignation of Elected Officials

Absence from excessive regular meetings of the Parliament, ineligibility to hold the office, or failure to fulfill the duties of his or her office to the satisfaction of the Parliament shall be the primary grounds for impeachment. The Secretaries shall notify the President if an elected official has been absent from an excess of three Parliament meetings without sending a proxy.

Procedures for the removal of elected officials shall be as enumerated below for each office:

All Elected Officials
A vote of no confidence by a quorum of the House of Commons shall impeach any elected official. Within five class days of the impeachment, a referendum shall be held in which the constituents of the official, those who would be eligible to vote for the position
should it become vacated, cast "yay" or "nay" ballots as to the legitimacy of the impeachment. A two-thirds majority sustaining the Parliament's decision to impeach shall remove the official from office. The official shall remain in office pending the election of a replacement. If an official is removed from office, nominations and campaigning for the vacated position shall be conducted within three class days. The new official shall be elected by a popular vote of all constituents within three class days after campaigning is complete.

Resignation of Official
An elected or appointed member of Parliament can resign through a letter to the President stating his or her intent. It will be at the discretion of the President and approved by the Executive Council to determine whether to hold an election or appoint a member to fulfill the vacated position.

All Appointed Officials
A vote of no confidence by two-thirds of the Parliament shall remove any appointed official. The official shall remain in office during the pending selection of a replacement, which shall be made within five class days of the removal.

Article VIII: The College Court
The members of the College Court shall be defined in the Judicial Code. The College Court shall ensure that all University and College regulations are maintained and that a spirit of cooperation and coexistence is upheld throughout the College. The College Court shall adjudicate disputes as outlined in the Judicial Code.

The Justices of the College Court, excluding the Chief Justice, shall be, after establishing candidacy as outlined in the By-Laws Article I, Section B, selected by the Chief Justice and approved by a minimum of two-thirds vote of the Executive Council.