



The Constitution of Marian and Speros

P. Martel College

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Article 1: Purpose and Membership

1. Purpose
 - 1.1. The purpose of Marian and Speros P. Martel College (Martel College) is to provide a community that promotes an atmosphere of trust, support, enjoyment, intellectual and social growth, and family for the benefit of all of its members. Members of the college are expected to:
 - 1.1.1. Respect Martel College property. Failure to do so may result in fines imposed by the Martel College Court.
 - 1.1.2. Respect Martel College Members and by extension, all Rice University students, faculty, and staff.
 - 1.1.3. Positively represent Martel College to the rest of the university.
2. Undergraduate Membership
 - 2.1. Undergraduate members will be inducted to Martel College by the authorities of Rice University and Martel College. Once a member of Martel College, students are expected to uphold the tenets of Martel College and abide by the Martel Constitution as well as the Rice University Student Code of Conduct.
 - 2.2. Undergraduate membership in Martel College may not be revoked except with approval of the Magister(s) in accordance with university-wide procedures.
3. Alumni Membership
 - 3.1. Unless revoked, Martel College membership is lifelong. Upon graduation, undergraduate members of the college become alumni members.
4. Associate Membership
 - 4.1. Associate membership consists of faculty, university, and community representatives.
 - 4.1.1. Faculty associate membership includes university faculty members.
 - 4.1.2. University associate membership includes people employed by the university. Resident Associates (RAs) are included in the university associate membership.
 - 4.1.3. Community associate membership includes people representing the greater community.

- 4.2. Associate members of the college are selected by students of Martel College in collaboration with the Magister(s).

Article 2: The Parliament

1. Overview

- 1.1. The Parliament of Martel College will perform the executive and legislative functions of the College. The Parliament consists of four groups; the Executive Council, non-executive voting members, non-voting members, and general members.

- 1.1.1. Attendance at Parliamentary meetings is required by the Executive Council, all voting members, SA Senator, and all SA NSRs. Non-voting and general members are encouraged and welcomed to attend Parliamentary meetings.

2. Executive Council

2.1. President

- 2.1.1. The President is the chief executive of the college, charged with orchestrating public assemblies of the college and Parliament, representing the college at meetings of university leaders, and appointing officials of the college whose roles are not defined herein.
- 2.1.2. When needed, the President will appoint a chair for the search committees for new Magister(s), Resident Associates, or a college coordinator.
- 2.1.3. The President is not eligible for any other Martel Government positions during their tenure.
- 2.1.4. The President must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College will hold the position of President. Additionally, the President must expect to be present in the greater Houston area for their entire tenure as President.
- 2.1.5. The President does not vote, except in the instance of a tie, where they will be awarded one tie-breaking vote.

2.2. Chief Justice

- 2.2.1. The Chief Justice is the head of the Martel College Court and is responsible for overseeing its proceedings and selecting its associate justices, as well as enforcing the Martel College Judicial Code.

- 2.2.1.1. See Article 4: The College Court.
- 2.2.2. The Chief Justice serves as the primary liaison between university police and the College.
 - 2.2.2.1. In the event that the Chief Justice is unable to fulfill this duty, they must appoint an associate justice to temporarily act in their stead.
 - 2.2.2.2. All noise complaints must be sent directly to the Chief Justice and the Chief Justice must be given adequate time to respond before any member of the college may relay noise complaints to RUPD.
- 2.2.3. The Chief Justice is not eligible for any other Martel Government positions during their tenure.
- 2.2.4. The Chief Justice is responsible for being well-versed in the Martel College Judicial Code, Constitution, and Bylaws; it is their responsibility to be the primary enforcer of all such documents.
- 2.2.5. The Chief Justice must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College will hold the position of Chief Justice. Additionally, the Chief Justice must expect to be present in the greater Houston area for their entire tenure as Chief Justice.
- 2.2.6. The Chief Justice must attend Parliament, but does not receive a vote.
- 2.3. Vice President
 - 2.3.1. The Vice President will oversee the operation of the Class Representatives & Floor Lords, manage Martel public spaces, work with the Improvements, Kitchen, and Environmental/EcoReps committees, and serve as the first substitute for the President at all functions outside the College.
 - 2.3.2. The Vice President will oversee the obtainment and spending of Ambiance and Matching Funds.
 - 2.3.3. The Vice President is not eligible for any other voting Martel Government positions during their tenure.
 - 2.3.4. The Vice President is in charge of Eligibility Jack, Room Draw, and Parking Jack.

2.3.5. The Vice President must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College will hold the position of Vice President. Additionally, the Vice President must expect to be present in the greater Houston area for their entire tenure as Vice President.

2.3.6. The Vice President receives one vote.

2.4. Prime Minister

2.4.1. The Prime Minister will serve as the head of the committee system, overseeing the operations of the committees (with the exception of committees laid out in Article 2.3.1) and committee heads. In the absence of the President, the Prime Minister assumes all intra-Martel duties of the President.

2.4.1.1. More detail on duties of the Prime Minister can be found in Article 5: Committees.

2.4.2. The Prime Minister must have completed two full semesters at Rice University to be eligible for the position. Only one member of the College will hold the position of Prime Minister. Additionally, the Prime Minister must expect to be present in the greater Houston area for their entire tenure as Prime Minister.

2.4.3. The Prime Minister is not eligible for any other voting Martel Government positions during their tenure.

2.4.4. The Prime Minister receives one vote.

2.5. Treasurers

2.5.1. The Treasurers will manage the finances of the College. They will prepare, at the beginning of each semester, a comprehensive preliminary budget for the College and keep the working budget on hand at each parliamentary meeting.

2.5.2. The Treasurers will keep records of all past budgets of the College. Two members of the college will hold the position of Treasurer, one senior treasurer and one junior treasurer.

2.5.2.1. The position of treasurer is a two year commitment. When the junior treasurer is elected they also commit to serve as a senior treasurer the following academic year.

- 2.5.2.2. The terms “Junior Treasurer” and “Senior Treasurer” do not necessarily signify a third and fourth year student. They refer to one Treasurer in the first year of service and one in the second year.
 - 2.5.3. The Treasurers are not eligible for any other voting Martel Government positions during their tenure.
 - 2.5.4. The Treasurers each receive one vote. Additionally, both Treasurers must expect to be present in the greater Houston area for their entire tenure as Treasurers.
 - 2.6. Secretaries
 - 2.6.1. The Secretaries will 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, be chiefly responsible for its internal communications, and are responsible for encouraging Parliament attendance.
 - 2.6.2. The Secretaries will be responsible for keeping attendance of all open and closed Parliaments and holding all Parliamentary members accountable for compliance with rules of attendance.
 - 2.6.3. The Secretaries are not eligible for any other voting Martel Government positions during their tenure.
 - 2.6.4. Two members of the College will hold the position of Secretary.
 - 2.6.5. The Secretaries each receive one vote.
3. Non-Executive Voting Members
 - 3.1. Class Representatives
 - 3.1.1. Between one and four Class Representatives are to be elected from each of the New Student, Sophomore, Junior, and Senior classes.
 - 3.1.1.1. Any student who was considered a “new-student” during the most recent Orientation Week, including transfer students of any year, may represent the New Student class.
 - 3.1.1.2. After their first year, transfer students may only run to be representatives of their respective graduating class.

- 3.1.2. Class representatives are expected to hold town hall events as needed, the structure of which they may determine. Over the course of the academic year, class representatives are also expected to host one class bonding event for their class as well as work with all of the other class representatives to host one bonding event across each class, the structure of which they also may determine.
- 3.1.3. The Class Representatives are not eligible for any other voting Martel Government positions during their tenure.
- 3.1.4. Each Class Representative must serve on a committee.
- 3.1.5. Each Class Representative receives one vote.

3.2. Orientation Week Coordinators

- 3.2.1. The Orientation Week Coordinators will perform all duties requested of them by the Dean of Undergraduates' Office and Student Success Initiatives. They will work together to plan and execute all aspects of Martel College Orientation Week.
- 3.2.2. The Orientation Week Coordinators will serve as a resource to all College Committees and affiliated organizations with regard to involving and communicating with new students.
- 3.2.3. The Orientation Week Coordinators will be selected by a committee comprised of the current President, Magister(s), Resident Associates, College Coordinator, and former Orientation Week Coordinators who are current students.
 - 3.2.3.1. The selection process for Orientation Week coordinators should begin in the fall semester and conclude no later than the end of the fall semester.
- 3.2.4. The Coordinators will represent the incoming new students from the time of changeover Parliament until New Student Class Reps are elected. The three coordinators will collectively share one vote, which should be cast in the interest of the incoming new students. If a Coordinator already holds an elected position, they shall not be a part of the collective vote.

4. Non-Voting Members

4.1. Honor Council Representative

- 4.1.1. The Honor Council Representative will represent the College at the Honor Council and report the events and policies of the

Honor Council to the College.

4.2. Student Association Senator

4.2.1. The Student Association (SA) Senator represents the college within the SA, acts as an adviser and partner to the President at all meetings of the SA, and reports the events and policies of the SA to the College.

4.2.2. The SA Senator along with the President will select New Student Representatives (NSRs) as dictated by the SA Senate.

4.2.3. The SA Senator is encouraged to hold at least one town hall per semester for the purposes of updating the college and receiving feedback on campus-wide affairs. The SA Senator may structure the town halls as they see fit, so long as it is in an accessible public space.

4.3. Student Association New Student Representative

4.3.1. The NSRs represent the new students of Martel within the SA, act as advisers and partners to the Senator and President at all meetings of the SA, and help in reporting the events and policies of the SA to the College.

4.3.2. All NSRs are required to attend Parliament.

4.4. University Court Representative

4.4.1. The University Court Representative will represent the College at the University Court, and report the events and policies of the University Court to the College.

4.5. Rice Program Council Representative

4.5.1. The Rice Program Council Representative will represent the College at the Rice Program Council, and report the events and policies of the Rice Program Council to the College.

4.6. Beer Bike Coordinators

4.6.1. Beer Bike Coordinators for the following academic year should be chosen following Beer Bike but no later than the last day of classes of the spring semester.

5. General Members

5.1. Any member of the College not holding one of the positions previously outlined is a general member of the College. Such individuals are encouraged but not required to attend Parliament,

report their desires to the appropriate representatives, participate in referendums and elections, and serve on committees to help better Martel College.

6. Sessions of Parliament

- 6.1. The Parliament will meet in a session open to the entire College at least once every two weeks during the academic year.
- 6.2. The President will preside over open sessions of the Parliament, but in absence of the President, the Prime Minister will preside. All members of the College and any guests thereof may attend open Parliament sessions.
- 6.3. When the President deems it necessary, the Parliament may meet in a closed session in which the President will preside. Only members of the Parliament, voting and non voting, and guests, at the discretion of the President, may attend closed Parliament sessions.
- 6.4. A quorum of the Parliament is constituted by half of all voting members.
- 6.5. Executive and non-executive voting members of the Parliament are all expected to attend all Parliament sessions. If they are unable to attend, they must submit a proxy to the Secretaries at least one hour in advance.

Article 3: Election Procedures

1. As stated in Section 2.3, the College Court is responsible for conducting and publicizing elections, with the outgoing Chief Justice as its overseer.
2. Election Overview
 - 2.1. No later than one week before elections for a given position begin, the outgoing officials must hold a mandatory information session for the succeeding nominees.
 - 2.1.1. The mandatory information session must include but is not limited to: an overview of each position, details of the election procedure, and grounds for impeachment.
 - 2.1.2. Presidential candidates must speak to the current Magisters as well as the incumbent President in person at least one week before declaring their candidacy.
 - 2.1.3. Chief Justice candidates must speak to the current Magisters as well as the incumbent Chief Justice in person at least one week before declaring their candidacy.

- 2.2. Candidacy is declared through both of the following actions:
 - 2.2.1. Attending the mandatory information session relevant to the position of interest.
 - 2.2.2. Submitting a blurb to the Chief Justice at least 48 hours before elections open.
- 2.3. Elections are conducted electronically. The Chief Justice must email candidate blurbs to the College with the link for voting. The voting period lasts for five days.
- 2.4. All candidates are required to give a speech at Parliament (or as specified by the Chief Justice) after they have declared their candidacy and before the voting period has ended.
3. Election Timeline
 - 3.1. The first round of elections includes the President and Chief Justice. Elections should begin after Winter Break and conclude before Spring Break.
 - 3.2. The second round of elections includes the Vice President, Prime Minister, Treasurers, and Secretaries. This round should occur one week after the conclusion of the first round.
 - 3.3. The third round of elections includes Sophomore, Junior, and Senior Class Representatives, Social Committee Heads, the University Court Representative, the Honor Council Representative, the Rice Program Council Representative, and the Student Association Senator. This round should occur one week after the conclusion of the second round.
 - 3.4. New Student Representatives are elected in the fall semester following their Orientation Week. They should be elected between the first and third week of classes.
4. Counting Votes
 - 4.1. A quorum for election is defined as 20% of the general body of the College. If quorum is not reached, elections must be repeated.
 - 4.2. All elected positions are selected by a majority of the popular vote.
 - 4.3. All positions are elected in a preferential instant-runoff voting system.
 - 4.3.1. If there is no majority after counting voters' first choices, a runoff election will follow with the top two candidates.
5. Changeover

- 5.1. With the exception of Beer Bike Coordinators and New Student Representatives, who are changed over instantly upon the end of elections, elected positions should be changed after elections and no later than Beer Bike in a meeting of the Parliament open to the College.
 - 5.2. All previous position holders must pass the torch to the new position holders in a changeover ceremony conducted before the open meeting.
6. Removal and Impeachment
- 6.1. A Parliament member may be removed from office or impeached if they fail to fulfill the duties of office to the satisfaction of the Parliament and/or their constituency.
 - 6.2. Grounds for removal include:
 - 6.2.1. An individual becoming ineligible to hold the office, as defined either in this document or within the Rice University Student Code of Conduct.
 - 6.2.1.1. In such a situation, the individual is immediately removed and the Executive Council will convene to determine the best course of action.
 - 6.2.2. The accumulation of 3 absences without a proxy or 5 total absences over the course of a semester.
 - 6.2.3. Ground for impeachment include:
 - 6.2.3.1. A petition signed by 30% of the official's constituency calling for the officer's impeachment.
 - 6.3. Impeachment process:
 - 6.3.1. If an official of Parliament satisfies one or more of the grounds for impeachment above, the Secretaries must inform the President that the official is pending impeachment.
 - 6.3.2. Within one week of the President being informed, a closed meeting of the Parliament (not including the official) is called to discuss and vote on impeaching the official. A majority vote to impeach the official is sufficient to move impeachment to the next stage.
 - 6.3.3. A referendum is held within five class days of the closed Parliament meeting in which the constituents of the official cast ballots to impeach the official. The constituents consist of those who would be eligible to vote for the position should it

become vacated.

6.3.4. A two-thirds vote of the official's constituency to impeach removes the official from office.

6.4. Replacing an impeached individual:

6.4.1. The official is immediately removed from office following impeachment.

6.4.2. If an official is removed from office, nominations and campaigning for the vacated position are conducted within one week.

6.4.3. The new official is elected by a popular vote of all constituents within two weeks of the previous official's removal.

Article 4: The College Court

1. Court Membership

1.1. The members of the College Court are defined by the College Judicial Code. The College Court ensures that all University and College regulations are maintained and that a spirit of cooperation and coexistence is upheld throughout the college. The College Court handles disputes as outlined in the Judicial Code.

1.2. The Chief Justice must select at least four Associate Justices for the following academic year no later than one week before Beer Bike through an application distributed to the whole College.

1.2.1. Among the four Associate Justices, members of the sophomore, junior, and senior classes should be diversely represented.

1.2.2. An application will be sent to the New Student class to appoint additional New Student Justices during the first quarter of classes. New Student Justices do not count towards the minimum of four Associate Justices.

1.2.3. In the event that not all Associate Justice positions are filled, the Chief Justice may appoint individuals to the remaining positions.

1.2.3.1. When all else fails, the fastest chugger in the college will be appointed as an Associate Justice.

1.3. The Chief Justice is in charge of overseeing the judgment of Baker 13

infractions along with disseminating information about College Defenses.

2. Court Procedures
 - 2.1. The College Court has jurisdiction over any violation by Martel College members as laid out in the Martel College Judicial Code.
 - 2.2. The accused may appeal any decision by the College Court to the Core Team. In such a situation, the decision made by the Core Team overrides the Court's verdict.
 - 2.3. The accused may submit themselves directly to the Core Team instead of the College Court for trial. However, there is no appeal process for a verdict from the Core Team.

Article 5: Committees

1. Martel Committees are divided into three groups: community outreach, events, and facilities. The heads of these different committees report to the Prime Minister.
2. The Prime Minister selects Committee Heads and Members through an application process.
 - 2.1. Each committee is limited to three heads. Committee heads must be Martelians currently enrolled at Rice.
 - 2.2. Any Martelian is eligible for a committee member position.
3. The Prime Minister (with the help of committee heads if needed) selects committee shadows through an application process at least three weeks into fall semester.
 - 3.1. First-year and transfer students are eligible for a committee shadow position.
4. Community Outreach
 - 4.1. The community outreach committees conduct outreach towards the greater Houston and university communities.
5. Events
 - 5.1. The events committees host Martel and university-wide events.
6. Facilities
 - 6.1. The facilities committees improve and maintain Martel's public spaces.

Article 6: Process of Amendment and Revision

1. Amendments
 - 1.1. Amendments to the Bylaws or Constitution may be proposed by any member of the College. The members of Parliament will review proposed changes in Parliament.
 - 1.2. Amendments to the Bylaws are passed by a three-quarters majority of a quorum of voting members of Parliament.
 - 1.3. Amendments to the Judicial Code are passed by a two-thirds vote of Parliament and a five-sevenths vote of the College Court.
 - 1.4. Amendments to the Constitution must first pass a two-thirds vote of a quorum of the Parliament. They must subsequently pass a two-thirds vote of at least one-fifth of the College.
2. Revision
 - 2.1. In order to ensure the maintenance of the Constitution and its alignment with the views of Martelians, the Constitution must be reviewed and revised at least once every five years.
 - 2.1.1. This examination will be conducted through a Constitutional Revision Committee of eight individuals, two from each class. If this requirement is not met, at least one member from each class must be represented. The President will appoint at least one committee head.
 - 2.1.2. This committee should examine the Constitution and propose appropriate constitutional revisions.
 - 2.2. The Bylaws must also be reviewed and revised at least once every five years. The Bylaws revision should happen the year following the Constitution.
 - 2.2.1. This examination will be conducted through a Bylaw Revision Committee of eight individuals, two from each class. If this requirement is not met, at least one member from each class must be represented. The President will appoint at least one committee head.
 - 2.2.2. This committee should examine the Bylaws and propose appropriate bylaw revisions.

Article 7: Referendum

1. Petitions for referenda can be submitted in response to any action of

Parliament.

- 1.1. Petitions for referenda must contain the precise wording of the ballot being demanded and the signatures of at least forty Martel College members.
- 1.2. Petitions must be given to the President or a member of the Executive Council by midnight two days before the next Parliament, with a vote being held within the next nine calendar days.
- 1.3. All members of Martel College are eligible, and encouraged, to vote in the referendum.
- 1.4. One-fifth of Martel College members must vote in the referendum by the end of the voting period. Otherwise, the referendum will be discarded.
- 1.5. A majority of the votes cast in such a referendum will bind the Parliament to carry out its mandate.

Article 8: Bylaws

1. All procedures and positions not outlined in the Constitution can be found in the College Bylaws.
 - 1.1. If they're not there, make up a rule or something.