**Hendrix College**

**Student Senate Constitution**

**Preamble**

We, the students of Hendrix College, in order to participate in the governance of the college community, to give direction and voice to student concerns, and to provide a framework for a number of activities and services for students, do ordain and establish this Constitution of the Hendrix College Student Association, provided that no part of this Constitution nor any action taken under its authority shall conflict with the policy of the College.

**Article I**

**Section 1.** All regularly enrolled students at Hendrix College, as certified by the Registrar of the College, shall be members of the Hendrix College Student Association.

**Section 2.** All executive and legislative authority of the Student Association shall be vested in a Student Senate. The Student Association shall elect a President and a Vice-President who shall serve as President and Vice-President of the Senate. Each living unit, as defined by the Senate, shall be represented on the Senate by a representative who must reside in that living unit during his/her tenure in office. The Senate may also add additional elected representatives in its Bylaws as it deems necessary. The President shall nominate, subject to the approval of the Senate, non-voting Officers, and non-­voting advisors which the Senate shall deem necessary.

**Section 3.** The Senate shall meet regularly, and special meetings may be called by the President or upon petition of a majority of the elected members of the Senate. The Senate may adopt its own rules and/or procedures.

**Section 4.** All regular and special Senate meetings shall be open to all members of the Student Association and members of the Hendrix faculty and staff unless, by majority vote, the Senate shall go into executive session.

**Section 5.** All acts, resolutions, and allocations passed by the Senate must be approved by a majority vote unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution. All votes must be cast in person or by an appointed proxy.

**Article II**

**Section 1.** The Senate shall have the authority to appoint student members to the various Standing Committees of the College on which there are student members. The Senate may request reports from these committees.

**Section 2.** The Senate shall have the authority to establish permanent and temporary student committees, agencies, and offices as it deems necessary and appropriate. The Senate shall designate the powers and responsibilities of these committees, agencies, and offices, and shall have the authority to appoint and remove the Officers and members of such groups.

**Section 3.** The Senate shall have the authority to allocate the Student Activity Fund. The Student Activity Fund shall consist of: (1) Student Activity Fees paid to the College by each student at the beginning of each term, and (2) any other income not specifically designated by authority of the Student Association to other purposes.

Changes in the amount of the Student Activity Fee shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate. Such changes must be approved by the Board of Trustees of the College.

The Business Office of the College shall be the depository of the Student Activity Fund.

Monies shall be withdrawn from the Student Activity Fund only on the signed warrant of the Treasurer of the Student Association.

The Senate may request that the College audit the records of the Student Association.

**Section 4.** The Senate shall have the authority to require its agencies, committees, and offices created under authority of Article II, Section 2, to submit written requests for funds.

**Article III**

**Section 1.** The President of the Student Association shall:

preside over all meetings of the Association and the Student Senate, unless otherwise provided for in this Constitution;

serve on Standing Committees of the College as designated by the College faculty;

assure that an annual Student Association Budget is submitted for consideration and approval by a majority of the Senate; and

enforce, along with the Senate, this Constitution and all regulations passed under its authority.

**Section 2.** The Vice-President of the Student Association shall discharge the duties of the President when, for any reason, the President is unable to serve. At other times, he/she shall serve in the Senate as a representative-at-large.

**Section 3.** The Treasurer of the Student Association shall be a non-voting member of the Senate. Acting under the allocation authority of the Student Senate, he/she shall sign all warrants for allocations of the Student Activity Fund.

**Section 4.** All members of the Senate shall discharge any duties delegated to him/her by this Constitution or by the Senate.

**Article IV**

**Section1.** If, for any reason, the office of President of the Student Association becomes vacant, the Vice-President shall assume the Presidency. If, for any reason, the office of Vice-President of the Student Association becomes vacant, the Senate shall make provisions for a special election in accordance with the appropriate provisions of this Constitution and the Election Code.

**Article V**

**Section1.** The Senate shall establish an Election Code governing the campaigns and elections for Senate offices in accordance with appropriate provisions of this Constitution, and shall supervise the elections, tabulation, and creation of ballots. The Election Code shall be made available at all times on the Hendrix Student Senate website.

**Article VI**

**Section 1.** Any question involving the constitutionality of actions of the Senate, members of the Senate, or agencies of the Senate operating under this Constitution shall be answered by a Council of Review. This Council shall consist of:

the Dean of the College, who shall serve as chairman;

the faculty advisor(s) to the Senate;

one other faculty member selected by the Student Senate; and

student members of the College Conduct Council.

**Section 2.** Any individual who questions the constitutionality of any action of the Senate, members of the Senate, or agencies of the Senate operating under this Constitution shall submit his/her contention in writing to the Chairman of the Council. The Council shall conduct open hearings.

**Article VII**

**Section 1.** Amendments that change the substantive content of this Constitution shall be initiated by at least a two-thirds vote of the Senate or by a petition submitted by any member of the Student Association. Each petition for such an amendment shall contain the full text of the proposed amendment and shall be signed by at least thirty percent of the members of the Student Association. Petitions for amendments shall be filed with the Senate.

**Section 2.** The Senate shall have proposed amendments posted at least three days before the Student Association is to vote on the proposal.

**Section 3.** The Senate shall make provisions for a special election for any duly initiated constitutional amendment; provided that such an election shall be held no later than three weeks following the initiation of the amendment; provided further that no such election shall be held during the final two weeks of a term. An amendment shall become effective as a part of this Constitution only if approved by a majority of the votes cast on the amendment.

**Section 4.** A new Constitution to replace this Constitution shall be initiated and adopted in the same manner that amendments to this Constitution are to be initiated and adopted.

*Last revised 03/27/12 in order to bring this document up-to-date*