HAMLINE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT CONGRESS CONSTITUTION

As amended at the 2008 General Election

PREAMBLE:

We, the undergraduate student body of Hamline University, operating within the authority granted us by the Board of Trustees, in order to govern ourselves, to broaden the representative character of the student body, to foster high ideals of conduct, to foster traditions, and to promote unity and cooperation among the students, do ordain and establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this governing body shall be the Hamline Undergraduate Student Congress, hereinafter referred to as HUSC.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

It shall be the purpose of HUSC to:

A. Promote a sense of community at Hamline University.
B. Act as the representative of the student body in the conduct of all University affairs.
C. Act as the body to which students, faculty, staff, administration, the Board of Trustees, as well as the surrounding community, may refer any problems of University concern.
D. Maintain functional cooperation between the student body and the faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees.
E. Supervise elections and appointments of students to Student/Faculty Committees, the Student Congress Council, and any other structures requiring student input that are outside the HUSC structure.
F. Perform all functions and requirements delegated to it by this Constitution.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Definition.

A. Student Congress shall not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability, sexual orientation or veteran status.
B. All undergraduate students who pay the full student activities fee are members of Hamline Undergraduate Student Congress and are eligible to campaign for and hold elective office.
C. All students not on scholastic or disciplinary probation, as so recorded by the Office of the Registrar of Hamline University, shall be eligible to campaign for and hold elective and appointive office within Student Congress, with the exception of the President, Vice President, and all presidential candidate teams, who must have an overall grade point average above 2.5 and not be on disciplinary probation to be eligible.

Section 2. The Student Congress Council shall consist of:

A. The HUSC Executive Board, with the following members:
    1. The HUSC Officers:
        a. President
        b. Vice-President
        c. Treasurer
        d. Secretary
        e. Technology Coordinator
    2. The HUSC Cabinet, consisting of the Chairpersons of the five HUSC standing committees:
        a. Economic Affairs Committee

        b. Political Affairs Committee
        c. Student Organization Committee
        d. Public Relations Committee
        e. Coalition for Social Change
    3. The HUSC Special Organization/Committee Representatives:
        a. Hamline Inter-Residence Council Chairperson
        b. Student Athletic Advisory Council Delegate
        c. Board of Elected Representatives Chair
        d. The Chairpersons of any other special committees formed according to this Constitution as provided in Article VI
        e. Any other special student organizations as provided for by HUSC.

B. The HUSC Representatives shall consist of:
    1. Elected Student Representatives:
        a. sixteen Class Representatives, four representing each class
        b. two Student of Color Representatives
        c. two International Student Representatives
        d. two Non-Traditional Student Representatives, “non-traditional” shall be defined by the bylaws
    2. Chartered Student Organization Representatives:
        a. eight “at-large” chartered organization representatives chosen per year by caucus through the Student Organization Committee
    3. Special Representatives, as defined by the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, from:
        a. Hamline University Board of Trustees
        b. Hamline University Faculty

ARTICLE IV: DUTIES

A. It shall be the duty of the HUSC Council members to:
    1. Conscientiously represent the interests of the Hamline University student community in their role as duly elected representatives.
    2. Attend meetings in accordance with the requirements of the Bylaws.

B. It shall be the duty of all elected representatives to serve on at least one (1) HUSC Standing Committee or Student/Faculty committee per semester.

C. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to maintain and coordinate cooperation and unity with all activities under the jurisdiction of HUSC including all the responsibilities of the HUSC Committees.

ARTICLE V: VOTING POWERS

A. All members of the HUSC Council shall hold two (2) votes at HUSC meetings. The Chair shall not vote on any issue except in the case of a tie.

B. All other student body members shall hold one (1) vote at all HUSC meetings.

C. At any HUSC meeting, a HUSC Council member may call for a limitation of the House. This motion shall be voted on by the HUSC Council members only. If the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote is in the affirmative, voting on the main motion will be limited to the HUSC Council members only. If the vote is negative, voting will proceed as usual.

ARTICLE VI: THE HUSC COMMITTEES

A. There are two types of HUSC Committees which are both administratively responsible to the HUSC Executive Board:
    1. Standing Committees (one under each of the five Cabinet members).
    2. Special Committees (task forces and/or ad hoc committees) that HUSC creates. These committees shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the HUSC Council

and shall have all the rights and responsibilities as deemed necessary by HUSC (see Bylaws).

B. Names of potential Standing Committee members shall be submitted for approval to HUSC through the Political Affairs Committee by the third (3rd) meeting in the Fall semester.
C. The Economic Affairs Committee (EAC) shall consist of the Economic Affairs Chairperson, the Treasurer of HUSC, and a minimum of six appointed members.
D. The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) shall consist of the Political Affairs Chairperson and a minimum of six appointed members.
E. The Public Relations Committee (PRC) shall consist of the Public Relations Chairperson and a minimum of six appointed members.
F. The Student Organization Committee (SOC) shall consist of the Student Organization Committee Chairperson and a minimum of six appointed members.
G. The Coalition for Social Change (CSC) shall consist of the Coalition for Social Change Chairperson and a minimum of six appointed members. Additional membership requirements may be defined in the Bylaws.
H. The Student Congress President is considered a member of all aforementioned committees.
I. Each respective Standing Committee and Committee Chairperson shall deal with the responsibilities as delegated to them by the Bylaws of this Constitution, HUSC, and the Executive Board.

ARTICLE VII: HAMLINE UNIVERSITY STUDENT/FACULTY COMMITTEES

A. All committees, sub-committees, other groups, or bodies comprised of undergraduates and other members of the Hamline community are joint structures of HUSC. The creation of such a structure must be approved by HUSC; any structure established that is not approved by HUSC will not be considered representative of the entire undergraduate student body.
B. HUSC shall appoint representatives to all such “joint” committees. The selection shall be through PAC and the representatives shall be held directly accountable to HUSC, although they are administratively accountable to the Executive Board. If the “joint” committee receives funds from HUSC, the Executive Board shall arrange for some method of accountability for those funds to HUSC.

ARTICLE VIII: SPECIAL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Section 1. The Hamline Inter Residence Council (HIRC) will be the sole governing body of the hall councils, which are not chartered directly under HUSC or indirectly through HIRC (see Article II, Sections 2 and 3 and other relevant Sections of the HIRC Constitution). The hall councils shall report to HIRC regarding any questions or changes in their constitutions; hall councils shall continue to be funded through HIRC. If needs arise, special requests for further funding of the hall councils with HUSC moneys shall be directed through HIRC prior to HIRC’s spring budgeting process.

Section 2. Other Special Student Organizations (i.e. MAPCS) may be approved by HUSC as explained in the Bylaws. They shall be responsible to the HUSC Executive Board as deemed necessary by HUSC.

ARTICLE IX: STUDENT CONGRESS FEE; APPORTIONMENT

Section 1. Student activity fee; apportionment. The Hamline Undergraduate Student Congress shall have the authority to set and collect activity fees from the student community. The chair of the Economic Affairs Committee shall introduce a bill to the HUSC Council by April 30 which contains a proposed student activity fee for the following fiscal year. The bill shall require a majority vote of the HUSC Council for passage. “Fiscal year” shall be defined in the bylaws. The net proceeds of the fee shall be apportioned by the Economic Affairs Committee to the Challenge Grant Fund, the Conference Fund, the Contingency Fund, the Challenge Grant Fund, the Student Organization Fund, and any fund created pursuant to section 8 of this article. A majority vote of the entire membership of the Economic Affairs Committee shall be required to apportion the funds.

Section 2. Capital improvement fund. The Capital Improvement Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be accessible only by the Board of Elected Representatives to implement capital improve projects. “Capital improvement project” shall be defined in the bylaws. All bills appropriating funds from the Capital Improvement Fund shall be written and introduced by a member of the Board of Elected Representatives to the board. All bills appropriating funds from the Capital Improvement Fund require a two-thirds vote of the entire membership of the board to be recommended for passage by the HUSC Council. The bills shall require a majority vote of the members of the Economic Affairs Committee present at the time of voting to be recommended for passage by the HUSC Council. Recommendation for passage by the Board of Elected Representatives is required for the bills to be heard and voted upon by the HUSC Council. The bills must be heard by the Economic Affairs Committee to be heard and voted upon by the HUSC Council, but need not receive a recommendation for passage. The bills shall require a majority vote of the HUSC Council for passage.

Section 3. Conference fund. The Conference Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be accessible by individuals and groups to attend conferences. “Conference” shall be defined in the bylaws. All bills appropriating funds from the Conference Fund require a majority vote of the members of the Economic Affairs Committee present at the time of voting for passage. The author of the bill or any member of the HUSC Council may appeal any decision of the committee to the HUSC Council. A two-thirds vote of the HUSC Council shall be required to overturn the decision of the committee.

Section 4. Contingency fund. The Contingency Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be accessible by individuals and groups to fund expenditures not anticipated for in any HUSC budget. All bills appropriating funds from the Contingency Fund require a majority vote of the members of the Economic Affairs Committee present at the time of voting for passage. The author of the bill or any member of the HUSC Council may appeal any decision of the committee to the HUSC Council. A two-thirds vote of the HUSC Council shall be required to overturn the decision of the committee.

Section 5. Challenge grant fund. The Challenge Grant Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be accessible by individuals and groups to supplement fundraising efforts. The funds raised through fundraising and the funds appropriated from the Challenge Grant Fund must be used so that every Hamline undergraduate student, within reason, has the opportunity to benefit from the use of the moneys. All bills appropriating funds from the Challenge Grant Fund require a majority vote of the members of the Economic Affairs Committee present at the time of voting for passage. The author of the bill or any member of the HUSC Council may appeal any decision of the committee to the HUSC Council. A two-thirds vote of the HUSC Council shall be required to overturn the decision of the committee.

Section 6. Student organization fund. The Student Organization Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be used to finance the activities of chartered student organizations. “Chartered student organization” shall be defined in the bylaws. The Economic Affairs Committee shall apportion all funds expected to be apportioned to the Student Organization Fund in the following fiscal year to chartered student organizations and the HUSC Executive Board for the following fiscal year during a budgeting process during the spring. A process for organizations to appeal the apportionment to their organization shall be defined in the Bylaws. Upon completion of the apportionment, the chair of the Economic Affairs Committee shall introduce a bill to the HUSC Council by April 30 which contains the apportionment. The bill shall require a majority vote of the HUSC Council for passage.

Section 7. Reserve fund. The Reserve Fund is created in the HUSC treasury. The fund shall be accessible by members of the HUSC Council to remedy extreme and unforeseen circumstances that threaten the well-being and long-term stability of HUSC. All bills appropriating funds from the Reserve Fund shall require a four-fifths vote of the HUSC Council for passage.

Section 8. Additional funds. Additional funds may be created in the Bylaws. Any funds appropriated to these funds must be used in a manner which has the ability to benefit a substantial portion of the undergraduate students.

Section 9. End of fiscal year rollover. At the end of every fiscal year, all funds remaining in the Capital

Improvement Fund, Conference Fund, Contingency Fund, Challenge Grant Fund, Student Organization Fund, and any fund created pursuant to section 8 of this article, including all interest that has accrued during the fiscal year, shall be apportioned for the next fiscal year: 60 percent to the Capital Improvement Fund; 20 percent to the Reserve Fund; 20 percent to the Contingency Fund. At the end of every fiscal year, all funds remaining in the Reserve Fund, including all interest that has accrued during the fiscal year, shall be apportioned for the next fiscal year in full to the Reserve Fund.

Section 10. Surpluses and deficits. The Bylaws shall contain a procedure for remedying all surpluses and deficits.

ARTICLE X: INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1. The student body may require HUSC to consider new projects and implement new ideas and policies or to reconsider previous Congressional action by presenting to HUSC a petition signed by at least fifteen percent (15%) of the student body.

Section 2. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the student body with at least one-fourth (1/4) voting shall be required to alter any Congressional decision or policy.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENTS AND REPEAL

Section 1. Proposed amendments must be submitted to HUSC in written form during a regular HUSC meeting, at which time the author(s), upon being recognized by the Chair, shall present the rationale supporting the proposed amendment.

Section 2. The proposed amendment shall be debated and voted upon during the HUSC meeting which immediately follows the meeting of initial introduction. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the HUSC Council shall be required to send the amendment to the student body for ratification.

Section 3. This Constitution may be altered, amended, or repealed by not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the student body. The proposed legislation must have been published in the Oracle at least once before voting takes place.

Section 4. The Bylaws of HUSC may be amended at the HUSC meeting immediately following the initial proposal. To amend the Bylaws, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the HUSC Council shall be required.

ARTICLE XII: PRESIDENTIAL VACANCIES AND SUCCESSION

Section 1. In the event the Presidency is vacated for whatever reason, the line of succession shall be as follows:

1. Vice-President
2. Political Affairs Chairperson
3. Economic Affairs Chairperson
4. Treasurer of HUSC

Section 2. In the event the Presidency is vacated and the Vice-President assumes the Presidency, he/she shall then appoint a new Vice-President within two weeks of his/her succession. The appointed Vice President shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the HUSC Council.

Section 3. In the event the President and the Vice-President are both unable to fulfill their duties, the line of succession shall follow as stated in Section I above, with the successively named Cabinet officer becoming the Acting-President. The Acting-President must call for a special HUSC Presidential/Vice-Presidential election to be held no later than three weeks after the vacancies are announced when school is in session.

Section 4. In the event the Vice-President leaves office for whatever reason, the President shall appoint a new Vice-President subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval from the HUSC Council.

ARTICLE XIII: IMPEACHMENT

All HUSC Council members shall be subject to removal by impeachment. A written petition signed by twenty percent (20%) of the student body shall constitute a request for impeachment. There shall be a general meeting of the student body, with the Executive Board presiding, to discuss the charges before the impeachment proceedings are put to a vote of the student body. In the event that the Council member of question is a member of the Executive Board, then the one faculty representatives of HUSC shall preside over the meeting. Two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast by the student body, with at least one-fourth (1/4) voting, shall be required to remove a Council member.

ARTICLE XIV: RULES CONCERNING MEETINGS

Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with this Constitution, the Bylaws, and Robert's Rules of Order, in that order.

ARTICLE XV: RATIFICATION

This Constitution shall become effective when passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of one-fourth (1/4) of the student body voting on the measure. With its passage, it will become effective immediately and will replace any and all HUSC Constitutional documents in existence prior to its passage.