

# **Constitution of the Residents' Council International House at the University of Chicago**

June 2006

**PREAMBLE:** This constitution establishes and regulates a government among the residents of the International House at the Chicago. It is adopted in recognition and furtherance of the principles of International House, in order to promote peace, understanding, and fellowship among the peoples of all nations.

## **ARTICLE I: GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

### **Section A – Name**

1. The name of this organization shall be International House at the University of Chicago Residents' Council.

### **Section B – Purpose and Responsibilities of the Council**

1. The residents of the International House elect from their number a representative body the International House at the University of Chicago Residents' Council ("the Council"). The Council is responsible for:

- i. Bringing the concerns of residents to the attention of the International House and University of Chicago administrations;
- ii. Speaking on behalf of the residents as a whole before the wider community;
- iii. Implementing social, cultural, and educational programs for the residents' benefit.

### **Section C – Calendar**

1. Unless otherwise noted, the main academic calendar of the University of Chicago will be used to determine the time periods and schedules referred to by this Constitution.

### **Section D – Resident Status**

1. A yearly resident is a resident who has contracted to live at International House for the entirety of the academic year.

2. A quarterly resident is a resident who has contracted to live at International House for one or two quarters of the academic year.

3. A summer resident is a resident who has contracted to live at the International House for the summer quarter.

## **ARTICLE II: STRUCTURE OF THE COUNCIL & GENERAL MEETINGS**

### **Section A – Formation of the Council**

1. In order for a Residents' Council to exist, it must have a minimum of 3 members, including the President, Treasurer, and another member.

### **Section B – Council Positions**

1. The Residents' Council consists of six officers and a variable number of nominated and appointed members.
2. The elected officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tribune.
3. The sixth officer is the Representative-at-Large Officer. The nominated members are the Representatives-at-Large (RALs). The appointed members are committee chairs.
4. The officers of the Council constitute the Executive Committee. The President shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet only when there are three or more RALs on the Council.

### **Section C – Council Voting Procedures**

1. A simple majority of the Council members constitutes quorum.
2. Each member of the Council shall have one vote with all votes equally weighted. In the event that a Council member holds more than one position, he or she shall have only one vote.
3. Unless otherwise specified in the Constitution, all decisions of the Council will be by majority vote. The Council may at its discretion use other voting schemes that preserve the majority-vote principle.
4. The number of votes necessary to pass a measure, if not already integral, shall be rounded to the next higher whole number.
5. A Council member who expects to be absent from a meeting may authorize another member, who will be in attendance, to cast a proxy vote on his or her behalf.
6. The Council will recognize absentee votes on behalf of its members who expect to be absent from a meeting. Absentee votes must be delivered to an officer prior to the start of the meeting.
7. In the case of a tie vote, final determination will be made by flipping a fair coin.

### **Section D – General Meetings**

1. Meetings of the Council are open to all residents. Regular Council meetings must be held at least once every two weeks during the Autumn, Winter, and Spring quarters, following the election and announcement of the Council.
2. The time, date, location, and agenda for each Council meeting will be prominently posted at least one day in advance.

3. The Council will make all reasonable efforts to advertise any emergency Council meetings.
4. General meetings are the sole decision-making forum for the Council, unless such authority is delegated to a committee by the Council.
5. The line of succession, as outlined in Article VI Section B, will determine who is responsible for chairing the meeting in the absence of the President.

#### **Section E – Committee Meetings**

1. All committees meet at the discretion of the committee chair.
2. All committee recommendations, including those of the Executive Committee, must be ratified in a general meeting in order for the Council to take action.
3. Each committee chair must present a committee report at each general Council meeting.

#### **Section F – Attendance**

1. The attendance of all members will be recorded.
2. An absence will be considered excused if the member submits an absence notification 24 hours in advance to the Council or to one of the officers, and the Council agrees to excuse the absence.
3. The Council may vote to retroactively excuse a previously unexcused absence.
4. An excessive number of unexcused absences may be considered grounds for impeachment. The number of unexcused absences that a single member may have is as follows:
  - i. The President may have one unexcused absence per quarter;
  - ii. All other officers may have two unexcused absences per quarter;
  - iii. Representatives-at-Large may have two unexcused absences per quarter.

#### **Section G – Minutes**

1. The minutes of each Council meeting will be prominently posted within one week, for a period of time not less than one week.

#### **Section H – Records**

1. Residents shall be entitled to examine any Council records upon request to an officer.

#### **Section I – Funds & Expenditures**

1. The primary source of the Council's funds shall be the money given to the Council each quarter by the Administration, based on the official count of residents for that quarter.
2. The Council may, at its discretion, charge residents and/or non-residents an event participation or admission fee as an additional source of funds.
3. The Council or President may not authorize any expenditure which:
  - i. Funds an activity not open to all International House residents;

- ii. Purchases items not for the use of all International House residents or the support of Council operations;
- iii. Is greater than the amount in the Council treasury at the time the expenditure was authorized.

4. All requests for reimbursements must be submitted by the end of the Councils' term. Receipts not submitted during the appropriate Council term will not be reimbursed.

**Section J – By-laws:**

1. The Council may make by-laws regarding its meetings or other procedures as long as they are in conformance with the Constitution.

**ARTICLE III: ELECTION, NOMINATION, APPOINTMENTS, & TERMS OF OFFICE**

**Section A – Election Procedures**

1. Each Autumn, residents of the International House will elect five residents to officer positions.
2. Residents must be nominated to these elected positions by other residents of the International House.
3. These positions are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Tribune.
4. Residents nominate from their numbers Representatives at Large (RALs) following the procedures outlined below.

**Section B – Eligibility for Election or Nomination**

1. Any yearly or quarterly resident, as defined in Article I, Section D, is eligible for election or nomination to the Residents Council except as noted below:
  - i. Quarterly residents are not eligible for election to an officer position;
  - ii. Members of the International House staff, excepting Resident Assistants, are ineligible for Council Membership;
  - iii. A resident is considered ineligible to run for a Residents' Council officer position if the resident in question has been a Council member in the past and has been impeached and removed from the Council.

**Section C – Eligibility for Voting**

1. All yearly, quarterly and summer residents are eligible to vote in any election or referendum held during their time in International House.

**Section D – Conduct of Autumn Election and Nominations**

**1. Appointment of an Election Coordinator**

- a. An Election Coordinator, appointed by the previous Academic Year Council, the Summer Council, the Summer Custodian, or the Senior Coordinator for Alumni Relations (in that order), will organize the elections.
- b. This person must be a yearly or quarterly resident of International House during the Autumn Quarter and is not eligible to run for an elected

officer position. The Summer Custodian may choose himself or herself as the Election Coordinator.

c. The Election Coordinator may form a committee to assist in organizing the election and nomination process.

**2. Counting of Votes:**

a. The votes cast in the election shall be collected, tabulated, and declared by the Election Coordinator with the officer candidates and other interested residents as witnesses.

**3. Publication of Results:**

a. The results of the election and RAL nominations will be prominently posted within 24 hours of the vote counting. A copy of the results will be provided to the Administration of International House, including the Director and all direct reports, by close of the next business day.

**Section E – Elections of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tribune for the Academic Year**

1. Elections for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tribune shall be held no later than the fourth week of the Autumn Quarter.

2. The Election Coordinator shall determine impartial and constitutional procedures by which the elections will take place.

3. The terms of office of the President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tribune shall run from the day after their election through the end of the academic year.

**Section F – Nominations of the Representatives-at-Large and Selection of the RAL Officer**

1. Representatives-at-Large take office upon the submission to the President of the signatures of twenty yearly or quarterly residents. Each signature must be dated and accompanied by the printed name and room number of the signatory. These signatures must be submitted within one month of obtaining the first signature.

2. The Election Coordinator shall determine impartial and constitutional procedures by which this submission of signatures is to take place.

3. A resident may sign nomination forms for a maximum of three RAL candidates. He/she may not sign for more than this unless:

i. A candidate for whom the resident first signed takes office and then resigns or otherwise vacates the position;

ii. A candidate fails to gather enough signatures within the specified time limit.

4. The term of office of a RAL shall run from the day after he or she submits the requisite number of signatures to the last day of the academic year.

5. These procedures shall be followed both by residents seeking nomination during the Autumn Election Period and subsequently during the academic year.

6. The RALs nominated by the end of the Autumn Elections shall choose from among their number one RAL to be the RAL Officer.
7. The election procedures for the nomination of a RAL Officer are as follows:
  - i. During the first meeting of the Autumn Quarter, if there are three or more RALS on the Council, the President shall inform the RALs that they need to elect from among their number one person to serve as RAL Officer;
  - ii. RALs must elect a RAL Officer before the second general meeting of the Autumn Quarter;
  - iii. If the number of RALs on the Council after the conclusion of the Autumn elections is less than three and later in the year becomes three or more, the President shall inform the RALs at the general meeting immediately after the receipt of the third nomination form that they need to elect from among their number one person to serve as RAL Officer;
  - iv. The RAL officer position will be rendered by a simple majority vote and can only be voted on by RALs;
  - v. If more than one RAL wants to be the RAL Officer, than each candidate must deliver a speech that is no longer than 3 minutes that describes their qualifications to be the RAL Officer. After all the candidates have delivered their speeches, the RALs will vote for the RAL Officer;
  - vi. In the case of a tie, the decision will be determined by the flip of a fair coin.

#### **Section G – Term Limits**

1. The term limits for officers shall be as follows:
  - i. A resident cannot occupy the same officer position for more than two full consecutive years; unless no other resident is willing to serve in that position.

#### **Section H – Formation and Functioning of Committees**

1. The Council may, by a three-fourths vote, create and fund a committee and appoint any resident to chair it.
2. The Council will specify beforehand the lifetime and budget of the committee.
3. During the time the committee is extant, the chair may be considered a voting member of the Council at its discretion.
4. The Council may adjust a committee's funding by a majority vote. It may adjust a committee's lifetime by a three-fourths vote.

### **ARTICLE IV: SUMMER RESIDENTS' COUNCIL**

#### **Section A – Definition of the Summer Council**

1. The Summer Council refers to the Residents' Council between the end of Spring Quarter and the elections for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and Tribune in the Autumn Quarter.

#### **Section B – Formation of the Summer Residents' Council**

1. During the Spring Quarter the Council must vote by 2/3 super majority, whether to have an active Council for Summer Quarter, to appoint a Summer Custodian for the Council, or to discontinue all operations of the Council until Elections have been held in the Autumn Quarter.

### **Section C – Membership of the Summer Residents’ Council**

#### **1. Membership of the Council:**

a. The Summer Council must consist of a minimum of 3 members, including the President, Treasurer, and another member. If these positions will be vacant due to resignation or loss of permanent resident status, they shall be filled by Succession, Appointment or Special Election by the end of the Second Week of Summer Quarter as the Spring Quarter Council determined by majority vote.

b. All other officer positions on the Council may be filled, if vacant or vacated by succession, as the Summer Council sees fit.

c. At least one member of the Council must have been on the Council during the previous academic year.

d. New RALs may be nominated for the Summer Quarter.

#### **2. Extension of Terms of Office:**

a. If an active Council is chosen, any member of the Council at the end of the Spring Term, who will also be a Summer Resident of International House, may, but is not obligated to, continue on the Council in his or her current position during the Summer Quarter.

### **Section D – Conduct of the Summer Council**

1. The Summer Council shall conduct itself in accordance with this constitution, with the addition of the following restrictions:

i. The amount of money in the Council treasury at the beginning of the Autumn Quarter must not be substantially less than it was at the end of the Spring Quarter;

ii. The Summer Council may not ratify any constitutional amendments.

### **Section E – Operation of the Council Under a Summer Custodian**

#### **1. Conditions for Appointing a Summer Custodian:**

a. The Council shall appoint a Summer Custodian if:

i. This option is selected as set forth in Article IV, Section B;

ii. An active Council is selected, but a Summer Council cannot be formed according to the requirements of Article IV, Section C1.

#### **2. Procedures for Appointing a Summer Custodian; Term of Office:**

a. If the Spring Quarter Council chooses to appoint a Custodian for the Council this person must be appointed by the Council, by a 2/3 super-majority vote, from among the anticipated Permanent Residents for the Summer Quarter and the following Autumn Quarter. If the chosen Custodian becomes ineligible before the end of the Spring Quarter, a new custodian will be chosen by the same process.

**b.** If an active Council is selected, but a Summer Council cannot be formed, the member of the Spring Council who was willing to continue on the Summer Council shall be the default Summer Custodian. If two members of the Spring Council are continuing, they may serve as Joint Custodians or mutually agree which of the two shall be the Summer Custodian.

**c.** The Term of Office of the Summer Custodian shall run from the day following the end of Spring Quarter or the day after his/her appointment, whichever is later, until the day before the new Council takes office in Autumn Quarter.

**3. Replacement of Summer Custodian During Term of Office:**

**a.** If the Custodian resigns or leaves International House before the election of a new Council in Autumn Quarter he or she shall appoint a successor from among the current Residents.

**4. Responsibilities of the Summer Custodian:**

**a.** The Summer Custodian for the Council shall be responsible for:

- i.** Representing the residents to the Administration and the public;
- ii.** The care of all Council funds and assets, as set forth for the Treasure;
- iii.** Appointment of an Election Coordinator, if this was not done by the previous Council, or the appointed Coordinator has left International House.

**5. Access to Council Spaces:**

**a.** The Summer Custodian shall be the sole person issued keys to the Council Office, mailbox, and kitchen resources and shall be responsible for these spaces. All other keys must be returned to the appropriate person at the end of their holder's term of office.

**6. Expenditure of Funds:**

**a.** It is recognized that the funds received by the Council during a particular quarter are intended to be spent for the benefit of the residents during that quarter

**b.** It is recognized that one person should not have sole control of the Council's spending decisions

**c.** Senior Coordinator for Admissions must co-sign, with the Summer Custodian, all receipts submitted for payment as verification that funds are available and the expense is for the residents.

**d.** If two individuals are serving jointly as the Summer Custodian, then both parties must sign all receipts submitted for payment and are not required to seek the signature of the Senior Coordinator for Admissions.

**e.** The expenditures approved through this process may not be more than the amount of funds received during Summer Quarter.

**f.** All expenditures must be to the benefit of the Summer Residents.

## **Section F – Temporary Summer Shut-Down of the Council**

### **1. Definition of Temporary Summer Shut-Down:**

- a.** A Temporary Summer Shut-Down (TSS) of the Council is when all activities, operations, and functions of the Council are suspended between the end of Spring Quarter and the formation of a new Council for following Autumn Quarter.
- b.** This is the least desirable of the three available Summer Quarter options and every effort should be made to form a Summer Council or appoint a Summer Custodian.

### **2. Conditions Requiring Temporary Summer Shut-Down.**

- a.** Temporary Summer Shut-Down will be required if:
  - i.** This option is selected as set forth in Article IV, Section B;
  - ii.** A Summer Custodian is selected, but no one willing to serve in this capacity can be found;
  - iii.** The appointed Summer Custodian resigns or leaves International House without appointing a successor.

### **3. Procedures for Temporary Summer Shut-Down**

- a.** When a Temporary Summer Shut-Down is implemented the following procedures shall be followed:
  - i.** The Administration of International House shall be notified as soon as possible that TSS will be taking place;
  - ii.** All Council property and non-monetary assets shall be stored in the Council Office or other secure location;
  - iii.** All keys issued by International House to the Council shall be returned to the appropriate person;
  - iv.** No access to the Council Office or storage space shall be granted, save to the Facilities Manager or Engineer for necessary or emergency building maintenance;
  - v.** No expenditures of Council funds may be authorized.

### **4. Ending Temporary Summer Shut-Down**

- a.** Temporary Summer Shut-Down will end with the election of a new Council in Autumn Quarter. Upon notification of the Administration, keys to the office and kitchen resources will be issued to the appropriate officers and expenses may be submitted for payment as usual.

## **ARTICLE V. DUTIES**

### **Section A – General Duties**

- 1.** All members of the Residents' Council must read and abide by all University of Chicago policies as set forth in *The Student Manual of University Policies and Regulations*.
- 2.** All members must read and abide by the *Constitution of the Residents' Council* and the *International House at the University of Chicago Resident Handbook*.
- 3.** Members of the Council who are assigned a key or keys to a Council space are

personally liable for the loss of the key(s).

### **Section B – Duties of the President**

1. The President calls, sets the agenda for, and facilitates Council meetings. He or she must distribute an agenda at least 24 hours before each general meeting.
2. The President acts as the representative of the Council before the Director, the administration, the media, and the community.
3. The President must work cooperatively with the Council and make a concerted effort to ensure the cohesiveness and smooth functioning of the Council.
4. The President is ultimately responsible for ensuring the execution of the Council's decisions.
5. The President may authorize each quarter, without Council approval, expenses worth up to 15% of the funds received for that quarter. He/she shall inform the Council as soon as possible of every such expense.
6. During the first meeting of the Autumn Quarter, the President shall inform the RALs that they need to elect from among their number one person to serve as RAL Officer.
7. The President must ensure that the Residents' Council abides by all University of Chicago policies as set forth in *The Student Manual of University Policies and Regulations*.
8. If the Secretary is absent for a Council meeting, the President will appoint someone to take minutes in his/her place.
9. The President shall obtain a key to the Council office from the International House staff after the Treasurer has communicated key assignments.

### **Section C – Duties of the Vice President**

1. The Vice President is the Council member primarily responsible for implementing Council sponsored social, educational, and cultural events. He or she may delegate these tasks as necessary.
2. The Vice President will observe all established Program Office procedures for events, including notifying them of planned events as soon as possible following ratification of the event by the Council.
3. The Vice President shall chair Council meetings in the absence of the President.
4. The Vice President shall obtain a key to the Council office from the International House staff after the Treasurer has communicated key assignments.

### **Section D – Duties of the Secretary**

1. The Secretary is responsible for taking the minutes of Council meetings; for maintaining the Council's records; for the Council bulletin board; for recording the attendance of all members and visitors at meetings; and for publicizing announcements of meetings and other Council functions.
2. The Secretary shall be the primary contact for all Council correspondents, both

paper and electronic.

3. The Secretary shall call for a determination as to whether a Council Member's absence is excused or unexcused and record this in the minutes.
4. The Secretary shall obtain a key to the Council mailbox from the International House staff after the Treasurer has communicated key assignments.
5. The Secretary will be responsible for mail collection from the assigned Council mailbox and maintenance of email.

#### **Section E – Duties of the Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer is responsible for the Council's property and funds and signs for withdrawals from the Council account.
2. The Treasurer will communicate all key assignments to the Administration.
3. The Treasurer will obtain keys to the Council office and kitchen resources from the International House staff.
4. The Treasurer shall:
  - i. Maintain the financial accounts of the Council in good order;
  - ii. Provide to the Council written financial reports at each meeting (including current balance of available funds and any unrecorded expenses), following new financial activity, and summary financial reports at the end of each academic quarter;
  - iii. Ensure that the Council follows all appropriate policies and procedures regarding payments, funds, and contracts;
  - iv. Maintain the Council Office in good order;
  - v. Keep an inventory of Council property and know the whereabouts of all items.

#### **Section F – Duties of the Tribune**

1. The Tribune is responsible for systematically compiling the grievances and concerns of International House residents and submitting them to the Council.
2. The Tribune should ensure that the operations and procedures of the Council adhere to the Constitution.

#### **Section G – Duties of the Representative-At-Large Officer:**

1. The RAL Officer shall represent the Representatives-At-Large in all Executive Committee meetings.

#### **Section H – Duties of the Representatives-at-Large:**

1. The RALs shall:
  - i. Assist in the execution of Council activities;
  - ii. Support implementation of Council sponsored events and activities;
  - iii. Chair special committees.
  - iv. Elect a RAL Officer when there are three or more RALs.

## **ARTICLE VI. VACANCIES, SUCCESSION, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

### **Section A – Vacancies**

1. Any member of the Council may resign for any reason by submitting a written letter of resignation to the Council. The Council may not refuse to accept a member's resignation. The member's office will be considered vacant upon receipt by the Council of the letter of resignation. If a resignation is sent via email, the email must be distributed to all Council members. Verbal resignations will not be accepted.
2. The office or position of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tribune, or RAL shall be considered vacant upon the removal of the officer or Council member as described in Section D of this Article.
3. An office will be considered vacant, or a position terminated, if its holder ceases to live at the International House.

### **Section B – Succession of Offices**

#### **1. Order of Succession – Vacancy of the President**

- a. In the event that the office of President becomes vacant after the Autumn Quarter election, the officers shall succeed him/her in the following order: Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Tribune, RAL Officer. An officer will become Acting President only if all the offices before his or hers in this order are also vacant. The Acting President will assume all the duties and powers of the President, and his/her previous office will then be considered vacant.
- b. In the event that the office of the President becomes vacant after the Autumn Quarter election, and the officers that would succeed him/her do not want to assume the position of President, any member who is not within the proper succession order may request to fill the President's position, upon a two-thirds by the entire Residents' Council and a written letter of resignation from the previously held position.

#### **2. Vacancy of Other Offices and Committee Chairs**

- a. Upon vacancy of an office other than that of President (including by succession), the Council will as soon as possible appoint, by two-thirds super-majority, a person to fill that position for the remainder of the academic year. This person may be a quarterly or yearly resident if the vacancy occurs during the Spring Quarter, and must be yearly otherwise. He/she may be a Representative-at-Large or a non-Council member.
- b. If the position of a Committee Chair should become vacant before his/her committee has expired, the Council shall appoint, by majority vote, a replacement from among all full-term residents.

### **Section C – Vote of No Confidence**

1. In the event that any Council member feels that another Officer or RAL is not fulfilling his/her stated duties, any Council Member may call for a "Vote of No Confidence" regarding the Officer or RAL in question
2. A vote of no confidence will be rendered by a simple majority vote.

3. An officer or RAL who receives a vote of no confidence shall be given recommendations for improvement from the Council as a whole and be allowed four weeks to improve his/her performance.

4. In the event two Votes of No Confidence are called for and passed regarding the same officer or RAL, this will be considered an automatic vote of impeachment and the procedures for Removal from Office, according to Section D of this Article, will be followed.

## **Section D – Removal from Office**

### **1. Grounds for Impeachment**

a. A motion for impeachment against any elected officer or RAL can be made for the following reasons:

i. Violation of the rules of the Resident Handbook;

ii. Intentional damage or vandalization of property belonging to the Residents' Council, including, but not limited to, sports equipment, flyers and posters, website, and office;

iii. Failure to meet stated duties;

iv. Excessive absenteeism as defined in Article II, Section E.

### **2. Process of Impeachment:**

a. Impeachment proceedings against an elected officer or RAL shall proceed if:

i. A petition signed by at least one-third of the permanent residents in the International House urges his/her removal;

ii. Two Votes of No Confidence are passed against an Officer or RAL;

iii. A motion to impeach is submitted to the Council by another Officer or RAL and passed by a simple majority.

### **3. Conduct of Impeachment Hearings:**

a. Upon the impeachment of a Council member, as described in Section D2 above, he/she will be suspended from office until the impeachment proceedings are resolved.

b. In the event of the President being impeached, the Vice-President will become Acting President for this period.

c. Any Representative-at-Large Candidates that submit their signatures during this period will not be seated on the Council until the conclusion of impeachment proceedings.

d. An impeachment should be done quickly, within a two weeks, to lessen the disturbances an impeachment process may inflict on the normal functioning of Resident Council proceedings.

e. The impeachment hearing shall be publicly announced not less than a week in advance and open to all residents.

f. The impeachment hearing will be chaired by the President or Acting President. The impeached Council member may request, subject to

approval by the Council, that a permanent resident, who is not a Council member, chair the meeting.

**g.** The Council will decide beforehand on the procedures used in the hearing.

**h.** The impeached officer or member will be given the chance to speak in his/her own defense and to call and question witnesses.

**i.** A two-thirds vote of the entire Council to convict is required to remove an officer or RAL.

**4. Removal from Office:**

**a.** An officer or RAL will be removed from office and his/her position considered vacant if:

**i.** He or she is convicted of the charges in the Impeachment Motion or Petition, following the process in Section D3;

**ii.** He or she submits in writing to the Council a statement that he/she does not contest the charges. This shall be considered an involuntary resignation.

**ARTICLE VII: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION**

**Section A –Initiation of Amendments**

**1. Proposal of Amendments by Council Members:**

**a.** Any member of the Council may propose by written and signed request such amendment(s) to this Constitution as he/she deems necessary or desirable.

**b.** A committee, created by the Council for that purpose, may propose a substantially revised Constitution, to be presented for ratification as a whole rather than as numerous individual amendments

**c.** Each such amendment shall be read and discussed at the next regular Council meeting and shall be voted upon no sooner than in the first, no later than in the second regular Council meeting after receipt of the request by the Council.

**d.** A two-thirds vote of the entire Council in favor of the amendment(s) is required to proceed with the amendment process.

**2. Proposal of Amendments by Residents:**

**a.** Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by residents during the Academic Year by means of a petition signed by at least twenty (20) percent of the residents and submitted to the Residents' Council.

**b.** All signatures on such a petition shall be counted and verified by the Council.

**3. Posting of Proposed Amendments or Constitution:**

- a. If approved by the Council or submitted by valid petition, the amendment(s), or proposed Constitution, shall be posted immediately on at least two bulletin boards in the public areas of the International House.
- b. Within seventy-two (72) hours of such posting, a copy of the proposed amendment(s) shall be distributed to every resident via either paper or electronic means.

**4. Ratification of Amendments:**

- a. Amendments shall be ratified by gathering the dated signatures of at least two thirds of the residents within three weeks of the initial signature.
- b. If sufficient signatures are gathered, the amendment(s) shall be deemed a valid part of this Constitution and shall supersede any part hereof which is not in conformity with the amendment(s).

**5. Ratification of a New Constitution:**

- a. A revised Constitution shall be ratified by gathering the dated signatures of at least three quarters of the residents within three weeks of the initial signature.
- b. If sufficient signatures are gathered, the new Constitution shall be deemed valid and shall supersede any previous Constitution.

**Section B – Restriction of Amending Power**

1. The other sections of this Article notwithstanding, no amendment, nor any part of a revised Constitution, shall be deemed valid which:
  - i. Disenfranchises, relatively or absolutely, any subset of the permanent residents, by denying or limiting their right of petition, of vote, of speaking before the Council or its committees, or of organizing in groups in conformity with the principles of International House;
  - ii. Creates offices with terms longer than one year;
  - iii. Creates salaries or other forms of monetary compensation for Council members;
  - iv. Is impossible to repeal;
  - v. Repeals any portion of this Section of this Article.
2. Any amendment that abolishes an existing office or position on the Council shall not take effect until that person's term has expired, unless the holder of the office or position agrees to resign.
3. Any amendment that creates a new office or position on the Council shall not take effect until the Summer Quarter following ratification.

**Section C – Deadline for Petition to Amend Constitution**

1. A petition to amend the Constitution must be submitted to the Council no later than four (4) weeks before the end of the Spring Quarter and no earlier than the beginning of the Autumn Quarter.

## **ARTICLE VIII: ENABLING CLAUSE**

1. This Constitution shall be deemed established among the residents and shall go into effect when it has been approved in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article IX, Section 2 of the April 1996 Constitution of the Residents' Council (as quoted below).

## ***ARTICLE IX: BYLAWS, AMENDMENTS AND MISCELLANEOUS***

*This Constitution may be amended only during academic quarters, by either:*

*a. Communication of the proposed amendment to the entire Council, and approval by at least a two-thirds vote at a meeting previously called for that purpose, immediately followed by a ratification by at least a strict majority of all residents, or;*

*b. ratification of a specific amendment by at least two thirds of all residents.*

*Ratification shall be by gathering the dated signatures of at least the requires number of residents within two weeks of the initial signature. Amendments shall take effect immediately upon ratification. Within one week after ratification, the Constitution of the Residents shall be updated, including the date of ratification.*

*(Article IX, Section 2 of the April 1996 Constitution of the Residents' Council)*