

**The Student Congress**  
OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND 02918

**The Constitution**

**PREAMBLE**

WE THE STUDENTS OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE A MORE RESPONSIBLE STUDENT BODY; AND TO REPRESENT ALL STUDENTS IN ORDER TO SERVE, PROTECT, AND UPHOLD THE VALUES AND COMMITMENTS TO OUR BELOVED COMMUNITY, DO ORDAIN AND ESTABLISH THIS CONSTITUTION OF THE STUDENT CONGRESS OF PROVIDENCE COLLEGE. (SCA 73-08)

**ARTICLE ONE**

[Naming the Body Constituted by this Document]

This organization shall be known as the Student Congress of Providence College.

**ARTICLE TWO**

[Naming commitments to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion]

The Student Congress of Providence College is bounded and obligated to represent the interests of all students regardless of race, color, national and ethnic origin, sex, religion, disability, age, veteran status, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

**ARTICLE THREE**

[Describing the Object, Powers, and Duties of Congress]

- Section 1. The object of the Student Congress shall be to:
- A. act as the official representative of the student body in order to promote meaningful student participation in the goals of Providence College consistent with the mission statement of Providence College;
  - B. regulate the extracurricular activities of student organizations and the student body falling under jurisdiction of Student Congress as defined by the Student Handbook;
  - C. promote unity of purpose and action among the students while protecting individual student rights;
  - D. promote, consistent with the Board of Trustees, the administration and the faculty, the best interests of the students of Providence College.
- Section 2. The Congress shall:
- A. act as the coordinating body between the administration and the faculty and the student body concerning itself with all the activities of the general student organizations;
  - B. present all justified requests, opinions, complaints, and grievances to the appropriate official, board, or committee;
  - C. give due consideration to any proposal that any student or group of students may lay before it in writing; it may hold referenda or polls on any proposal when requested to do so by the President of Providence college and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs Administration or by written petition of twenty percent of the student body, or by majority vote of the Student Congress;
  - D. conduct and supervise the nominations and elections of class officers, Student Congress members, the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Student Congress, and other such positions as Congress may from time to time appoint;
  - E. voice all official expressions of student loyalty or sympathy;

- F. regulate all student organizations, clubs, honor societies, groups, and independent meetings falling under the jurisdiction of Student Congress; however, the responsibilities of club sports shall fall under The Office of Student Affairs;
- G. have the right to deny any Congress member voice and vote for violation of any of its rules, regulations, standards of conduct or requirements of Providence College;
- H. summon to hearing and impose sanctions upon any officer or member of a student organization falling under the jurisdiction of Student Congress for violation of any rule, regulation, standards of conduct or goals of the respective organization, Student Congress, or Providence College;
- I. make regulations and policies and set standards of conduct which shall be necessary for the execution of the foregoing powers and all other powers vested in the Student Congress or any of the various Subordinate Committees and Boards it shall from time to time create;
- J. may raise money for such purposes as it deems necessary for carrying out any of its functions with the express permission of the Vice President for Student Affairs Administration;
- K. have the power to appropriate funds of the Student Congress for such purposes and objectives as are in accordance with its Constitution and regulations;
- L. promote the rights and responsibilities set out by the Student Handbook;
- M. may require a roll call vote by all members of Congress concerning a bill, resolution, or amendment. The President of Student Congress may ask for a unanimous vote before matters which they feel do not require a formal roll call vote.

#### **ARTICLE FOUR**

[Outlining Membership, Vacancies, and Basic Qualifications]

- Section 1. Membership of the Student Congress shall consist of active members having voice, vote, and power to introduce legislation; semi-active members having both voice and the power to introduce legislation; and passive members having voice and ability to act as a point-person on legislation introduced by active and semi-active members.
- A. The passive member acting as point-person on a piece of legislation will be allocated the same speaking privileges as the active or semi active member. (SCA-66- 03)
- Section 2. Active members of Congress are:
- A. the President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Student Congress;
  - B. the Presidents, Vice President, Treasurers, and Secretaries of the four undergraduate classes
  - C. five Representatives from each of the four undergraduate classes
  - D. The Presidents of the various Congressional Boards and the Vice Presidents of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs.
    - a. In the event the Vice President the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs is unable to attend a meeting of the general Student Congress, another member of the organization's executive board (President, Treasurer, or Secretary) may vote on any legislation. However, only the Vice Presidents may present legislation.( SCA-63-04)
- Section 3. Semi-active members of Congress are:
- A. The Appointed Committee Chairs
  - B. Parliamentarian
- Section 4. Passive members of Congress are (SCA 65-02)
- A. all other non-elected members of the Student Congress of Providence College not mentioned in Section 2 & 3;
  - B. the Representative of the Board of Programmers;
  - C. the Campus Ministry liaison.
  - D. the Student-Athlete Advisory Council liaison;
  - E. the Stopping Homophobia, Eliminating Prejudice and Restoring Dignity (SHEPARD) liaison (SCA-72-01)
- Section 5. Vacancies in any elective office of the Student Congress shall be filled as provided herein.

- A. Whenever the office of President is vacated, the Vice President shall become the President of Student Congress
- B. Whenever any of the other Executive Offices of the Student Congress, with exception of the Presidency, is vacated, all active members of Student Congress elect from their number to the office, observing all of the constitutional requirements for the office.
- C. “Whenever the offices of Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, or any of the five Representatives in a class delegation become vacant a special election will be held under the conditions detailed below.
  - a. Notification will be given to the entire class via email or any communication network deemed appropriate by the Committee on Elections;
  - b. The same nomination procedure outlined by Chapter One, Section One of the Standing Legislation of the Student Congress of Providence College shall be instituted;
  - c. The candidates will be obliged by the restrictions, procedures, and enforcements illustrated in Chapter One, Sections Two and Four of the Standing Legislation of the Student Congress of Providence College;
  - d. A date designated at the discretion of the Committee on Elections will be set to conduct the new election in accordance to the procedures established in Chapter One, Section Three of the Standing Legislation of the Student Congress of Providence College;
  - e. The date of said special elections will be outlined in the “Elections Calendar” created by the Chair of the Subcommittee on Elections within the first two weeks of the academic year. This calendar is outlined in Chapter Six, Section 5, Paragraph F of the Standing Legislation;
  - f. Any appeal to this process is limited to the Vice President for Student Affairs.”
- D. When the office of President in a class delegation becomes vacant at anytime:
  - 1. The Vice President becomes president of that class.
  - 2. The office of Vice President shall be assumed by procedures outlined in C. above.
- E. “The duties of a vacant class officer to their designated class and committee shall be redistributed as follows:
  - a. The duties and responsibilities of a class officer to their class cabinet shall be redistributed among the other class officers according to the discretion of the class president, until the position is filled through a subsequent special or regular election;
  - b. The duties and responsibilities of a class officer to their committee shall be redistributed among the other members of Congress according to the discretion of the executive board with the consultation of the appropriate class president, until the position is filled through a subsequent special or regular election.”
- F. All candidates for every office must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

## **ARTICLE FIVE**

### [Outlining Membership, Vacancies, and Basic Qualifications]

- Section 1. Membership of the Student Congress shall consist of active members having voice, vote, and power to introduce legislation; and passive members having voice only.
- Section 2. The officers of the Student Congress shall be members in good standing of either the Junior or Sophomore class on the date of the election and also have been a member of Congress for one term. The occupants of these offices must be members of either the Junior or Senior class during the academic year for which they are elected.
- Section 3. The Dean of Students and Associate Vice President for Student Affairs is an ex officio member of Student Congress and shall act as its moderator. In the absence of the Dean of Students, the Assistant Dean of Students shall serve in the same capacity. (SCA 65-04)
- Section 4. Each academic year, a member of the Campus Ministry Council shall be appointed as a liaison to Student Congress. This person shall serve as a passive member of Congress for the year of their appointment. (SCA-64-04)

- Section 5. All members of the Student Congress must fulfill the following service requirements:
- A. Mandatory Congress, class, and committee events (such as Late Night Madness, Pumpkin Fest, and class dances), and any other events that are deemed mandatory by the executive board. Excuse forms can be submitted if members have a conflict and will be reviewed by the Ethics Committee.
  - B. Class Presidents are responsible for recording attendance at class events. Committee Chairs are responsible for recording attendance at committee events. Class Secretaries are responsible for recording attendance at mandatory Congress events. Class Presidents, Committee Chairs, and Class Secretaries will then forward attendance to the Executive Secretary who will maintain a master record of attendance and excuse forms from all members.
  - C. Two events, per semester, that embrace and appreciate diversity (such as events hosted by the Committee on Advocacy, the Stopping Homophobia, Eliminating Prejudice and Restoring Dignity (SHEPARD), and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA)). Events which fulfill the requirement will be at the discretion of the Executive Secretary and the chairperson of the Committee on Advocacy. This requirement may not fulfill any other service requirements stated within The Constitution of the Student Congress. Members have one week from the event to inform the Executive Secretary of their attendance. If Members are also active in another club and are required to attend the event on the behalf of the hosting (or co-sponsoring) club or organization, the event will not fulfill the service requirement.

Section 6. Each academic year, a member of the Student-Athlete Advisory Council shall be appointed as a liaison to Student Congress. This person shall serve as a passive member of Congress for the year of their appointment.

Section 7. Section 7. Any member of Student Congress who wishes to resign from the organization must alert the Executive Board through the excusal form system (SCA 73-06).

Section 8. Each academic year, a member of Stopping Homophobia, Eliminating Prejudice and Restoring Dignity (SHEPARD) shall be appointed as a liaison to Student Congress. This person shall serve as a passive member of Congress for the year of their appointment (SCA-72-01).

## **ARTICLE SIX**

[Naming the Officers of Congress and Their Qualifications]

Section 1. The officers of the Student Congress shall be that of President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary, each of whom shall hold office for one Congressional term or until their successors are elected.

Section 2. The President and Vice President shall be members in good standing of either the Junior or Sophomore class on the date of the election, and also have been a member of Congress for one term. The occupants of these offices must be either members of the Junior or Senior class during the academic year for which they were elected.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall be a member in good standing of either the Junior or Sophomore class on the date of the election and have served as Treasurer of a class for at least one year, or served on Congress for one year as an inactive or active member in addition to having accounting experience. During the nomination period, fulfillment of the requirement concerning accounting experience shall be determined by the Executive Board of the Student Congress and the Elections Chairperson, each holding an equal vote. The occupant of this office must be a member of the Junior or Senior class during the academic year for which they were elected. (SCA 47-07)

Section 4. The Secretary shall be either a member in good standing of the Junior or Sophomore class on the date of the election and have been a member of Student Congress for one term. The occupant of this office shall either be a member of the Junior or Senior class during the academic year for which they were elected.

Section 5. No member may simultaneously hold more than one office having a vote in Student Congress.

#### **ARTICLE SEVEN**

[Describing Conditions and Provisions for Meetings of Congress]

Section 1. Regular meetings of the Student Congress shall usually be held at least once a week on campus from September to May, inclusive and are to be determined by the President of Student Congress in regard to date, time, and place.

Section 2. Special sessions may be called under the conditions detailed below.

- A. Special sessions may be called by the President of Student Congress, by written request of two-thirds of the active members of the Student Congress, or by petition of at least twenty percent of the student body.
- B. Special sessions of Student Congress shall be convened for a particular purpose. The agenda of said session must be submitted to the Secretary of Congress no less than one day prior to the special session. Action will be limited to the request of the special session, unless Congress by a two-thirds vote elects to take up other business.

Section 3. All new members are required to attend one meeting of the Congress as observers in order to aid the transition of these members into Congress. They are required to attend a brief meeting in order to become familiar with parliamentary procedure prior to their first meeting and will be sworn in at the next meeting following their observation and familiarization with Congressional procedure.

Section 4. A quorum of the active members of Congress shall consist of two thirds of the membership and is necessary to conduct business at regular or special sessions.

Section 5. All meetings of the Student Congress shall be open to the student body and any member of the college community, except when by two-thirds vote of those present and voting the Congress determines a closed session to conduct extraordinary business.

Section 6. Any active member will be considered absent from a meeting if they are not present within fifteen minutes after the designated time for the commencement of any meeting, or if said member is not present for the final roll call.

#### **ARTICLE EIGHT**

[Describing the Duties of the Executive Officers]

Section 1. The President shall:

- A. preside at all meetings of the Congress, direct its activities, perform all other parliamentary duties that the office implies and shall represent the student body officially when the occasion demands;
- B. upon delivering justification of their reason orally and/or in writing to the Congress, to veto any piece of the legislation which the Congress has passed. Once a bill has been vetoed, the Student Congress shall have the option to reconsider the legislation and overrule the veto by a two-thirds majority vote. The President can withdraw their veto at any time;
- C. have the right to exercise such powers in extenuating circumstances as may be deemed necessary and proper for the performance of their duties; during any College recess the President shall become the Congress in any decision that affects the needs or concerns of the students and they shall be responsible to the Congress and the student body for said decisions.
- D. shall be ex officio member of all Committees and Subordinate Boards of Congress.

Section 2. The Vice President shall:

- A. perform all duties of the President in the latter's absence;

- B. succeed the Presidency if it is vacant;
- C. act as President of the Freshman class until the Freshman elections are held;
- D. serve as a representative member of the Board of Programmers and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs. (SCA-63-04)

Section 3.

The Treasurer shall:

- A. perform all financial transactions of the Congress;
- B. serve as the chairperson of the Committee on Finance;
- C. give the monetary status of the Student Congress Budget; including original balance, individual expenditures, individual incomes and current at the end of each month;
- D. provide the report to the Vice President for Student Affairs and Assistant Dean of Student Engagement & Leadership Development;
- E. serve on the Spring Concert(s) Advisory Committee. (SCA 65- 06)

Section 4.

The Secretary shall:

- A. keep minutes of all meetings and provide all Congress members with copies of said minutes at least one day prior to the next scheduled meeting;
- B. post the agenda of all meetings and provide copies of the agenda to all active and passive members before each meeting;
- C. undertake the correspondences on behalf of the Student Congress and keep all records of the Congress and notify members of forthcoming meetings;
- D. serve as the Chairperson of the Committee on Ethics.

Section 5.

The Executive Officers shall:

- A. appoint chairpersons and members and establish such positions that the Congress shall from time to time deem necessary and proper;
- B. fill said positions, subject to a majority vote of Congress; [originally Art. 6, Sec. 1(B)]
- C. make initial distribution of the student activity money to the Committee on Finance for allocation to the student organizations, to the Board of Programmers, to the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs, and to the classes. These distributions will be made as the Executive Officers see fit. (SCA-63-04)

## ARTICLE NINE

[Describing the Duties of Class Officials]

Section 1.

The President shall:

- A. call and preside over all class meetings;
- B. appoint class committee chairpersons and members and to establish such positions that the class officers deem necessary, and to fill said positions, subject to a majority vote of the elected class officers;
- C. act as facilitator and organizer of the class officers and collective goals of the class
- D. Serve as the coordinator for events that are sponsored by the class officers including but not limited to: Freshman Snowball, Sophomore Ball, Junior Nights, Senior Nights, and Senior Countdown to Graduation Nights
- E. Serve as the co-chair of class committees and assist in the selection process of said committees (i.e.: Senior Ring Weekend and Commencement Core Committees)
  - a. The President of the sophomore class will aid the Office of Student Activities and Cultural Programming to choose two co-chairs for Senior Ring Weekend. The President of the sophomore class will act as a liaison between the SRW core and their respective class; if they lose the election going into junior year or chooses to not run the new President of the junior class will act as the liaison (SCA-70-01).
  - b. If the President of the junior class is not reelected for senior year they will not serve on Commencement Core; the elected senior class president will serve as Commencement Core co-chair (SCA-66-04).

- Section 2. The Vice President shall:
- A. perform all duties of the President in the latter's absence;
  - B. succeed the Presidency if it is vacant;
  - C. serve as a representative member of the Board of Programmers and the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs and Campus Ministry. (SCA-63-04)
  - D. serve as the Chairperson of the Vice President Cabinet as deemed necessary (SCA-70-02).

- Section 3. The Treasurer shall:
- A. sit as a member of the Committee on Finance;
  - B. give monetary status of each treasury, including original balance, total expenditure, total income, and current balance at the beginning and the conclusion of each semester and by request of the Student Congress and/or the Vice President for Student Affairs Administration .
  - C. Serve as the treasurer of class committees (i.e.: Senior Ring Weekend and Commencement Core Committees)
    - c. The Treasurer of the sophomore class will not remain on Senior Ring Weekend Core if not reelected for junior year.
    - d. The Treasurer of the junior class must remain on Senior Ring Weekend Core until the event senior year; if they lose the election going into senior year or chooses to not run they will remain on the Core.
    - e. If the Treasurer of the junior class is not reelected for senior year they will not serve on Commencement Core; the elected senior class Treasurer will serve as Commencement Core Treasurer. (SCA-66-05).

- Section 4. The Secretary shall:
- A. correspond on behalf and keep all records of the class with the exception of financial records;
  - B. notify all class officials of forthcoming meetings.
  - C. sit on the Committee on Ethics.
  - D. submit minutes to executive secretary.

- Section 5. There shall be five Class Representatives who will assume positions according to the discretion of the class officers.

## **ARTICLE TEN**

[Class Appointed Committees]

- Section 1. The Class Officers and Representatives may create class committees as deemed necessary (i.e.: JRW and Commencement Core Committees). Once a class committee is formed, if there is a change in President and/or Treasurer, the newly elected officer will replace the previous officer on the committee.

- Section 2. The relationship that exists between the Class Officials and said committees shall be as follows:
- A. All actions taken by the committee(s) are subject to approval by the class officials. The Class President and the Class Treasurer shall sit on the class committee(s) and serve as voting members of the committee. These persons shall serve as liaisons between the class officers and representatives and the committee members.
  - B. The Class President shall appoint one of the elected officials to sit on the class committee(s), who will be a voting member of the committee. This person shall serve as a liaison between the class officers and representatives and the committee members.

## **ARTICLE ELEVEN**

[Describing Executive Appointments]

The Executive Appointments regarding the Rhode Island Collegiate Assembly (RICA) formerly described under this article are hereby repealed from this Constitution by the 58<sup>th</sup> Student Congress of Providence College in accordance with the process for Constitutional Amendments outlined in Article Thirteen. (SCA 58-02)

## **ARTICLE TWELVE**

### Committees of Congress

- Section 1. The power of appointment of all Congressional Committee Chairperson and the power of recommendation of student members on all Standing Committees of the College shall reside with the Executive Board of Student Congress.
- Section 2. All Chairpersons of Congressional Committees must be confirmed by a favorable report of the Executive Board of Student Congress and by simply majority of the full Congress.
- Section 3. The Chairpersons of each Committee will create electronic records to be passed down to future Chairpersons for the purposes of understanding events and regulating contacts. The Chairpersons of each committee are also to assist and oversee the passing down of Subcommittee records to future Subcommittee members
- Section 4. The Chairpersons of each Committee will determine a tentative time and date for each meeting of their Committee, which will be consistent and posted.
- Section 5. There shall exist a Committee on Ethics which shall be chaired by the secretary of Student Congress to monitor the Standards of official conduct of the members of the Congress and other such activities that Congress shall by law appoint.
- A. The Committee on Ethics shall consist of the following members: The elected secretary of the Freshman class, the elected Secretary of the Sophomore class, the elected Secretary of the Junior class, the elected secretary of the Senior class and the Executive Secretary of the Student Congress. The executive secretary shall act as the Chair of the Committee on Ethics.
  - B. None other than active members of Congress may serve on the Committee on Ethics.
  - C. The Committee on Ethics will have the power to suspend those members of Congress and any other Subordinate Board or Committee who it deems is in violation of the Standards of Official Conduct prescribed for students holding some public trust by the College, the Congress or reasonable ethical standards.
  - D. The Committee on Ethics will have the power to remove from office those members of Congress who have seriously violated the rules and regulations stated in the Student Handbook or who have brought disrespect to the name of the College or the Congress by some action on or off campus or for some negligence in carrying out the office entrusted to them by the students of Providence College.
  - E. The Committee on Ethics will have the power to disqualify from future occupation of any office or trust such persons found unsuitable to execute the responsibility of said office or trust, by having been convicted under any of the preceding sections.
  - F. The Committee on ethics will have the power to take the above enumerated actions, subject to appeal by the effected person to the full Congress, except in those cases in which Congress has by law excluded appeal.
- Section 6. There shall exist a committee on Legislative Affairs which will exercise the judicial power of Student Congress and function as the Rules Committee, in addition to other such powers as Congress may from time to time appoint.
- A. The Committee on Legislative Affairs will function as the General Court of Student Congress in all cases arising from any of the laws or regulations of the Congress or any of its Subordinate Boards or Committees, the Constitution of the Student Congress or any other pronouncement of said Congress or any of its Subordinate Boards or Committees.
  - B. The Committee on Legislative Affairs shall approve all legislation to be considered by the Congress, with the exception of the reports of the Committee on Executive and Legislative Appointments.



- C. The Committee on Legislative Affairs is vested with the power of the Congress to create new subsidiary organizations (e.g. clubs, honor societies, organizations exclusive of Congressional Subordinate Boards and Committees, and other independent meetings) approve and amend their charters, and regulate them as the Committee sees fit. The Committee is also vested with the power to unilaterally revoke or amend the charters of any existing subsidiary organization. The committee also possesses the power of Congress to dissolve those groups it finds in violation of any law, policy, regulation, or pronouncement of the Student Congress.
- D. The Committee on Legislative Affairs is vested with the power of enforcement of all laws and regulations of the Congress and its various Subordinate Boards and Committees.
- E. The Committee on Legislative Affairs will maintain a Subcommittee on Elections which will administer the provisions of the Congress election laws. It will be responsible for the enforcement of these laws. The chairperson and members of the Subcommittee on Elections will be chosen in the same manner as other Committee members and Chairpersons. The role of the Chairperson of the Subcommittee on Elections is outlined as follows:
  - A. Facilitate and help publicize all executive, class, and special elections;
  - B. Serve as the authority on all matters of election rules and standards;
  - C. Propose an "Elections Calendar" for the upcoming academic year as a piece of legislation within the first two weeks of the academic year. This calendar shall include:
    - D. The dates of the freshman class nomination period and elections, which may also serve as a special election if it is deemed necessary;
    - E. The dates of a potential special election around the midway point of each semester;
    - F. The dates of an ethics committee evaluation meeting prior to the nomination period of each election;
    - G. The dates of the regular executive board nomination period and elections;
    - H. The dates of the regular class nomination period and elections."
- F. The Committee on Legislative Affairs shall serve as the investigative arm of the Student Congress whenever called upon to do so by the Congress or any of its Subordinate Boards and Committees or when a Student Congress Complaint Form A is submitted.
- G. Any student, Congress member, Committee of Congress, Subordinate Board or Committee, or other organization may bring cases or suits in the Committee on Legislative Affairs sitting as the General Court of Student Congress.
- H. The Committee on Legislative Affairs is empowered to regulate all raffles run by those clubs, organizations, and Subordinate Boards under the jurisdiction of the Student Congress after said raffles have been approved by the Vice President for Student Affairs.

#### Section 7.

- There shall exist a Committee on Clubs and Organizations that will possess the regulatory power over all subsidiary organizations (e.g. all clubs honor societies, organizations, groups, or independent meetings, exclusive of the Subordinate Boards and committees of the Congress) and will act as the liaison between the Congress and said subsidiary organizations.
- A. The Committee on Clubs and Organizations shall exercise initial jurisdiction over the by-laws and charters of existing subsidiary organizations, resolve disputes, investigate activities, and bring cases of violations before the Committee on Legislative Affairs sitting as the General Court of Student Congress.
  - B. The Committee on clubs and Organizations will compile and submit to the Committee on Finance a list of those organizations that are active and eligible for funding by the Student Congress.
  - C. The Committee on Clubs and Organizations will ensure that honesty and fairness exist in all club and organization elections, exclusive of those conducted by the Committee on Legislative Affairs Subcommittee on Elections.
  - D. The Committee on Clubs and Organizations will ensure that those groups receiving funding from the Congress comply with the requirements stated in Chapter Five of this Standing Legislation and the requirement that said groups remain open to all students at Providence College without discrimination.
  - E. The Committee on Clubs and Organizations will supervise the elections of clubs and organizations officers in April.

- Section 8. There shall exist a Committee on Finance, which shall be chaired by the Treasurer of Student Congress and will have charge of allocating such funds as may be authorized by the Student Congress in accordance with the Constitution.
- A. The Committee on Finance will monitor the financial affairs of all classes, Subordinate Boards, and those clubs and organizations under the jurisdiction of Student Congress.
  - B. The Committee on Finance will allocate funds to the classes, Subordinate Boards, and those clubs and organizations under the jurisdiction of Student Congress, subject to a vote of the full Congress.
  - C. Membership of the Finance Committee is, but not limited to, all Class Treasurers of Student Congress, the chairperson of the Committee on Clubs and Organizations and the Executive Treasurer of the Board of Multicultural Student Affairs (BMSA), who will be tasked with providing recommendations to the clubs and organizations under their direct jurisdiction.
  - D. The Committee on Finance will, from time to time, examine the adequacy of the Student Activity Fee and make recommendations to the Vice President for Student Affairs.
  - E. The Committee on Finance will assist the Treasurer of the Student congress as they determine the execution of such responsibilities attached to the position.
  - F. The Committee on Finance will adhere to the procedures outlined in Chapter Four of this Standing Legislation.

- Section 9. There shall exist a Committee on Academic Affairs, which will function as the liaison to the Faculty Senate and investigate new and existing areas of academic life at Providence College.
- A. The Committee on Academic Affairs will recommend academic policies to the appropriate Administration officials.
  - B. The Committee on Academic Affairs will recommend credit and non-credit courses as may be suitable, in the opinion of Congress, to the development and enrichment of the students of Providence College.
  - C. The Committee on Academic Affairs will be consulted in the case of any student-faculty committees.
  - D. The Chairperson of the Committee on Academic Affairs, or a member of said Committee, must attend meetings of the Faculty Senate.

- Section 10. There shall exist a Committee on Student Life which may investigate and study any existing problems on campus outside the realm of student clubs and organizations. This committee is empowered to oversee the operations of those Subordinate Boards and Committees of the Congress that have some effect on the quality of life on and off campus and to make recommendations to the Subordinate Boards, Committees, and Congress.

The Committee on Student Life is empowered to take action to improve student lifestyles, convenience, or other such situations as far as Congress is capable of exercising jurisdiction.

The Committee on Student Life will maintain a Subcommittee on Food which will review the quality of food and monitor student reaction to all food service at Providence College.

The Committee on Student Life will maintain a Subcommittee on Residence Life which will work to improve the quality of on-campus living at Providence College.

The chairpersons of the Subcommittee on Food and the Subcommittee on Residence Life will be chosen in the same manner as other Chairpersons.

The Chairperson for the Committee on Student Life will keep a running list of capital projects informed by the needs of the student body. The Chairperson will meet with the Dean of Students Office on a monthly basis to discuss such projects, and determine a ranking of urgency for each item. In March of each academic year, the Chairperson, as a representative of the Student Life Committee, and the Dean of Students Office will determine which capital projects will be purchased and/or worked on for that respective year.

- Section 11. There shall exist a Committee on Public Affairs, which will publicize events for groups in a format agreed upon by the Student Congress.
- A. The Committee on Public Affairs is responsible for maintaining the Student Congress web page.
  - B. The Committee on Public Affairs will represent any events:
    1. that pertains to Student Congress as a whole;
    2. that is sponsored by the Executive Board of Student Congress;
    3. that is sponsored by any Standing or Special Committee on Student Congress.
    4. that is sponsored by any class currently serving on the Student Congress.
  - C. The Committee on Public Affairs will act as a liaison between the Committee on Clubs and Organizations and *The Coml* for weekly notes pertaining to these organizations necessary for the student body and will be responsible for monitoring student events. The committee will publicize said events on a page designated by *The Coml* for Student Congress News.
  - D. The Committee on Public Affairs will use the following methods for publicity including but not limited to: posters, table tents, Slavin computerized message boards and televisions, *The Coml*, social media, local public media, or any other necessary and appropriate means of advertising.
- Section 12. There shall exist a Committee on Outreach that will facilitate interaction between the Providence College campus and members of the Providence community through events and service opportunities.
- A. The Chair of the Committee on Outreach will act as an advisor for all other Student Congress committee or class events that involve service to the community.
  - B. The Chair of the Committee on Outreach can recommend to the Executive Board of Student Congress that events that the Committee on Outreach organizes be considered mandatory for the entire Congress to attend, with the Executive Board having the final ruling.
  - C. The Committee on Outreach will coordinate community wide events such as Pumpkinfest, Junior Leadership Conference (JLC), and Fusion.
  - D. The Chair of the Committee on Outreach will be responsible for monitoring the community service requirement of each individual Student Congress member.
- Section 13. There shall exist a Committee on Advocacy, which will be committed to addressing significant issues on campus, in the greater Providence community, and worldwide as well as supporting marginalized communities. The Committee on Advocacy will operate based upon the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and it will seek to foster a Beloved Community on campus and beyond.
- Section 14. There shall exist such special committees as Congress shall from time to time appoint.
- A. The Chairpersons and members of such Special Committees will be chosen in the same manner as the Chairpersons and members of Standing Committees unless Congress appoints members to these positions in the legislation establishing a Special Committee.
  - B. Special Committees are dissolved when they have either finished their work and issued a final report or when the Congress, which created them, adjourns without a specified return date.
- Section 15. The various Committee Secretaries appointed by the Executive Board and confirmed by Congress in accordance with its laws, whether with or without a Chairmanship or other post, that is serving without portfolio, must maintain the same standards as any Congress member.
- Section 16. Non-elected members may join all Committees, with the exception of the Committee on Ethics and Finance, provided that
- A. they join before the first Congress meeting of the fall semester following the Freshman Elections or for one week following said elections, whichever period of time is longer;
  - B. they join during the first week following Christmas recess;
  - C. they join anytime after the election of the new Congress in the spring,
  - D. they maintain responsible attendance, in accordance with Chapter Ten, Section Four of the Standing Legislation.
- Section 16. When deemed necessary, student representation, both Student Congress and non Student Congress, on *ad hoc* committees will be determined in the following manner:

- A. The Executive Board, upon receiving the need for a student representative, will advertise the position to the entire constituency.
- B. Each interested candidate will submit a platform, or application (designed by the Executive Board).
- C. The Executive Board will review all applications, and hold interviews for all promising candidates.
- D. The Executive Board will choose, to the best of their ability, the person who they feel is the most qualified candidate to represent the student body on the aforementioned committee.

### **ARTICLE THIRTEEN**

[Power of Congress to Create Committees]

- Section 1. Congress may from time to time create such committees as it deems necessary; these committees must be approved by a majority vote of Student Congress.
- Section 2. Congress must create and maintain a Committee that will function as a General Court to have jurisdiction over all cases arising from Article Two of this Constitution.

### **ARTICLE FOURTEEN**

[Describing the Parliamentary Authority of the Congress]

- Section 1. The Parliamentarian shall not be an elected officer. They shall be appointed by the Executive Board of the Student Congress, subject to approval by the majority of Student Congress.
  - A. The Parliamentarian shall:
    - 1. be well versed in parliamentary procedure;
    - 2. serve as the Chairperson of the Committee on Legislative Affairs;
    - 3. serve as the Chief Justice of Student Congress;
    - 4. serve as Chairperson of the Constitutional Committee;
    - 5. on a question of parliamentary procedure the Parliamentarian's decision is final.
- Section 2. All Student Congress business shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order*, newly revised, except in cases where *Robert's Rules of Order* conflicts with this document, or the Standing Legislation of Congress or the Congress Rules of Order.

### **ARTICLE FIFTEEN**

[Providing for Standing Legislation]

- Section 1. The Student Congress may create a body of legislation which it deems necessary to have full force and effect provided it is not in conflict with the mission statement of Providence College, the Student Handbook, and the College Bulletin.
- Section 2. The body of legislation shall be called "The Standing Legislation of the Student Congress of Providence College."
- Section 3. Any active member, or semi-active member of Student Congress may propose legislation.
- Section 4. Different types of legislation may be defined as:
  - A. Bill (SCB) – Any proposed addition or change to the Standing Legislation.
  - B. Recommendation (SCRC) – Written recommendation on behalf of the Student Congress to the administration, the Student Congress itself, or the student body as a whole. Also used to express loyalty or sympathy to a person or body outside of the Providence College community.
  - C. Resolution (SCR) – A form of bill that takes effect for one academic year.
  - D. Amendments (SCA) – See article 13.
  - E. Statement of Position: The positional stance of the Student Congress on issues facing the Providence College community or society as a whole. (SCA 58-01)

- Section 5. Steps for additions or changes to the Standing Legislation shall be as follows:
- A. The Committee on Legislative Affairs introduces proposed legislation as New Business at the next meeting of Student Congress. The Parliamentarian shall read New Business by an identifying number, title and person/group introducing proposed legislation. The proposing active/semi-active member(s) and/or point person(s) may make initial comments on proposed legislation at this time.
  - B. Proposed legislation is sent to the relevant Congressional Committee by the President of the Student Congress for approval, pending the committee's recommendations and/or amendments.
  - C. Pending approval of the relevant Congressional Committee, legislation moves to the Committee on Legislative Affairs for approval. Any active/semi-active member(s) proposing legislation must complete, in its entirety, the Legislation Request and Presentation Form (which can be found within congress electronic records and is to be reviewed and/or edited at least annually by the Chair of the Committee on Legislative Affairs for its constitutionality and form) and present its completed form to the Committee on Legislative Affairs any time prior to the proposed legislation being read as "Old Business". Approval from the Committee on Legislative Affairs will be based on the proposed legislation's coherence with the Legislation Request and Presentation Form, adherence to the Student Congress Constitution, the Student Handbook, the Rules of Order and the College Bulletin.
  - D. Following approval by the Committee on Legislative Affairs, legislation is read in its entirety as Old Business at the following meeting of the Student Congress. During this time copies of the proposed legislation will be made available to all interested parties. All relevant information contained within the approved Legislation Request and Presentation Form must be revealed by the active/semi-active member(s) and/or point person(s) at this time.
  - E. Proposed legislation will be read a second time as Voting Business and will move to the floor of the Student Congress to be discussed and voted upon as governed by the Student Congress Rules of Order.

## **ARTICLE SIXTEEN**

[Providing Amendments to this Constitution]

- Section 1. Any active or semi-active member may propose amendments to this Constitution.
- Section 2. Proposed amendments must be approved by the Committee on Legislative Affairs and the Constitutional Committee for its constitutionality and form, before being submitted to the Student Congress as a whole.
- Section 3. Proposed amendments must be submitted to the Congress and read at two separate and consecutive meetings of the Student Congress before being acted upon.
- Section 4. Amendments to this Constitution require a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting in order to be enacted. No amendment can be effective without the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs Administration.
- Section 5. No amendment to this Constitution will be effective without the approval of the Vice President for Student Affairs Administration.

## **ARTICLE SEVENTEEN**

[Allowing Suspension of Rules]

With two-thirds consent of the members present and voting, the Congress may suspend its standing rules and regulations relating to procedure and priority of business.

## **ARTICLE EIGHTEEN**

[Describing and Defining Majorities]

- Section 1. Except where specifically stated, a majority is fifty percent plus one of those members present and voting, excluding abstentions. A two-thirds majority is also counted by the number of members present and voting, excluding abstentions.
- Section 2. In the event the total abstentions equal or exceed one-third of the members present the Resolution/Bill will return to General Discussion, after which the Resolution/Bill may be introduced again.
- Section 3. If the total abstentions again equal or exceed one-third of the members present, the Resolution/Bill will be tabled. At this point the Resolution/Bill will be forwarded to the Committee on Legislative Affairs.