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PREAMBLE

We the students of Bard College, united by a common educational cause, with the goal of protecting our individual academic and social rights, in order to encourage democratic student involvement and collective action, recognizing ourselves as a distinct and diverse community of learning, and seeking to cultivate this community for ourselves and for future students, do ordain and establish this document as the Bard College Student Constitution.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE STUDENT BODY

All registered undergraduate students at Bard College shall hereinafter be considered full members of the Student Body. This membership cannot be revoked for any reason except for the discontinuation of registered undergraduate status.

ARTICLE I. CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

a) The Central Assembly shall schedule, preside over, and facilitate General Assemblies.

b) The Central Assembly shall actively foster communication between the heads of Bard Student Government (BSG).

c) The Central Assembly shall meet weekly at 6:00 PM ET on Mondays. Non-student administrators shall only attend Central Assembly meetings when invited by its constituent members.

d) In order for a member of the Central Assembly to take on additional BSG projects outside of their stipulated role, consent by a simple majority of the Central Assembly shall be required.

e) Each member of the Central Assembly shall receive a semesterly stipend to be determined by the Fiscal Committee. At the end of each month a quarter of the stipend will be granted to each member of the Central Assembly by the Speaker. At the discretion of the Speaker, any Central Assembly member may opt out of the monthly stipend to receive the entire stipend at the end of the semester.

f) The Central Assembly shall control the budget of the BSG.

g) The Central Assembly, and all Committees represented by the Central Assembly, may expand upon their roles enumerated in the Constitution and Bylaws by crafting specific policies pertaining to the work of their Committee through internal, simple-majority vote. All internal Committee policies must remain within the role and purview of their Committee.

SECTION 1.1: COMPOSITION OF THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

a) The Central Assembly shall be composed of the following members: Speaker of the Student Body, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Chair of the Fiscal Committee, Chair of the Peer Review Board, Chair of the Student Judiciary Board, Chair of the Student Life Committee, Chair of the Educational Policies Committee, and Chair of the Multicultural Diversity Committee, and Archivist.

b) Each member of the Central Assembly shall have a term of one academic year, from Fall - Spring.

c) All members of the Central Assembly shall, at the beginning of one’s inaugural term, complete anti bias training that is deemed appropriate by the current members and faculty advisors for Bard Student Government. This includes but is not limited to anti-racism, Title IX, Title VI, Title VII, and diversity training.
ARTICLE II. COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

The Communications Branch shall be composed of the Speaker of the Student Body and the Archivist.

SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE SPEAKER OF THE STUDENT BODY

a) The Speaker shall serve as the intermediary between the student body and the administration.

b) The Speaker shall oversee the constitutionality of the workings of the BSG and inform the student body of BSG affairs.

c) The Speaker shall direct students to the appropriate Central Assembly member.

d) The Speaker shall coordinate, but not dictate, the meetings and activities of the Central Assembly.

e) The Speaker shall organize ad-hoc committees when appropriate.

f) The Speaker shall arrange BSG-wide retreats once a semester.

g) The Speaker cannot deny the right of any student to speak during General Assemblies.

h) The Speaker cannot spend BSG funds without unanimous approval from the Central Assembly.

i) The Speaker shall serve, alongside the Chair of the Student Life Committee, as a student representative to meetings of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 2: ROLE OF THE ARCHIVIST

a) In recognition of institutional memory loss functioning as a barrier to confronting chronic issues of equity, access, and accountability, and an understanding that institutional memory is necessary for an organization and its members to fulfill their role and purpose effectively. WHEREAS, increased information and knowledge about former Student Government Associations and greater campus happenings would be useful for all Association members in the creation of ideas, planning of events, marketing, and being a useful and important part of student life.

b) The Archivist will act as the student representative responsible for recording and maintaining a first and third person record of all happenings that shift campus climate. This can include globally recognized events like a presidential election or a pandemic, or happenings that are more endemic to the Bard College community.

c) The Archivist will maintain a live link where students are able to submit any first or third person documentation surrounding the happenings of the campus. They will also maintain and organize these documents so that they may be properly filed away and readily available if needed.

d) The Archivist will act as a scribe for all Central Assembly and General Assembly meetings, recording and properly archiving these testimonials to continue to encourage a consistent institutional memory.

e) The Archivist will also serve as the Club Archivist. The Club Archivist shall serve as overseer of the Club Archive, which shall contain all materials submitted by clubs to the BSG.

ARTICLE III. FINANCIAL BRANCH

The Financial Branch shall be composed of the Fiscal Committee, the Treasurer of the BSG, and the Socially Responsible Investment Committee.
SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE (FISCCOMM)

a) The Fiscal Committee shall allocate funds available to the Student Body amongst the student organizations that request such funds. These funds shall be distributed according to the level of interest for, the nature of past expenditures and revenues of, and the positive impact on the Bard community generated by the activities and projects of each organization.

b) The Fiscal Committee shall present a finalized budget at the Budget Forum for review by the Student Body.

SECTION 1.1: ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE

a) Unless there is no such candidate, the Chair of the Fiscal Committee must have served as a full-time member of the Fiscal Committee for the two consecutive semesters immediately prior to the election cycle.

b) The Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall schedule and preside over meetings of the Fiscal Committee.

c) The Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall provide student organization heads with notifications regarding any budgetary requests they make to the Fiscal Committee.

d) The Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall initiate all Fiscal Committee voting procedures and provide context to all budgetary requests.

e) The Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall ensure the balanced use of the Convocation Fund.

SECTION 1.2: COMPOSITION OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE

a) The Fiscal Committee shall be composed of the Chair of the Fiscal Committee, the Treasurer of the BSG, and five elected student members (one of whom must be a Freshman Representative). The Freshman Representative shall have no voting power in the Fall semester, but will be granted such authority for the Spring semester.

b) Each Fiscal Committee member shall have a term of one academic year.

c) One member of the Fiscal Committee shall be chosen via internal election to serve as Assistant Treasurer, to assist with all the duties and procedures of the Treasurer of the BSG.

SECTION 2: ROLE OF TREASURER OF THE BSG

a) Unless there is no such candidate, the Treasurer must have served as a full-time member of the Fiscal Committee for the two consecutive semesters immediately prior to the election cycle, or have served as Treasurer for the same duration of time.

b) The Treasurer shall account for the assets, debits, and expenditures of the BSG.

c) The Treasurer shall report fully and accurately the financial situation of the BSG at each General Assembly, if so requested.

d) The Treasurer shall ensure that the funds allocated by the Fiscal Committee are spent according to the requests of a student organization and approval by the Fiscal Committee.

SECTION 3: ROLE OF THE SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE (SRIC)
a) The SRIC shall maintain and facilitate an ongoing dialogue between the Bard College community and the management of public companies held within the endowment.

b) The SRIC shall engage shareholders through voting by proxy and execute shareholder resolutions.

c) The SRIC shall regularly host events on the subject of responsible investment.

d) The SRIC shall support and monitor the Social Choice Fund to leverage positive social change and offer a socially responsible alternative for endowment gifts.

e) The Chair of the SRIC shall be responsible for scheduling and organizing regular meetings of the SRIC, as well as maintaining an ongoing dialogue with the appropriate administrative outlets.

f) The Chair of the SRIC will meet with the Central Assembly at least once per semester to come to a consensus about the student body’s collective fiscal goals as it relates to the investing practices of the College.

SECTION 3.1: COMPOSITION OF THE SRIC

a) The SRIC shall be composed of the Chair of the SRIC, who must have served on the SRIC for two semesters prior to election, and four elected student members.

b) The term for each member of the SRIC, including the Chair, shall be one academic year.

ARTICLE IV. STUDENT LIFE BRANCH

The Student Life Branch of the Bard BSG shall be composed of the Student Life Committee (SLC), the Educational Policies Committee (EPC), and the Multicultural Diversity Committee (MDC).

SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE (SLC)

a) The SLC shall regularly collect student opinion on all issues concerning student services and residential life.

b) The SLC shall take on various projects and initiatives to improve student life at Bard College based on the desires of the Student Body. Responsibilities for the role include but are not limited to:

i) Ongoing Yearly Project within SLC: Organize and host Thanksgiving Food Security Events, along with the Bard Houses and Dean of Students, during Thanksgiving break to help provide food to students staying on campus during the break;

ii) Attend weekly student life committee meetings to address student concerns on campus and organize projects that help improve the betterment of student life;

iii) Advertise current events Bard Student Government hosts through posters, social media, and discussions with their peers;

iv) Set up and attend meetings with faculty, staff, and students to help organize various projects and initiatives that improve student life on campus;

v) Create polls for the student body to collect data on students current concerns on campus regarding student life;

vi) SLC committee members are encouraged to attend the General Assembly meetings to take notes on all issues concerning student services and residential life.
c) The SLC shall formulate policy recommendations for the Student Body in all matters concerning student services and residential life, and present these to the General Assembly for a vote.

d) All meetings of the SLC shall be open to all students.

e) The SLC shall oversee the Student Project Fund, ensuring its allocation to community projects approved by popular vote of the Student Body.

SECTION 1.1: ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

a) Unless there is no such candidate, the Chair of the SLC must have served as a full-time member of the SLC for the two consecutive semesters immediately prior to the election cycle.

b) The Chair of the SLC shall schedule and preside over meetings of the SLC.

c) The Chair of the SLC shall publicize and present the proceedings and results of SLC meetings to the Student Body.

d) The Chair of the SLC shall serve, alongside the Speaker of the Student Body, as a student representative to meetings of the Board of Trustees.

SECTION 1.2: COMPOSITION OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

a) The SLC shall be composed of the Chair of the SLC and six elected student members.

b) Each SLC member shall have a term of one academic year, with the choice to run again at the beginning of every Fall.

SECTION 1.3: ROLE OF THE SUSTAINABILITY LIAISON

a) The Sustainability Liaison shall serve as a liaison between the SLC and the BardEATS committee and as a member of both.

b) The Sustainability Liaison will serve as a representative of the Office of Sustainability.

c) The Sustainability Liaison will...

d) Unless there is no such candidate, the Sustainability Liaison will have prior experience on the BardEATS committee.

SECTION 2: ROLE OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE (EPC)

a) The EPC shall serve as the chief liaison between students and faculty on academic issues and curriculum changes.

b) The EPC shall be responsible for formalizing student opinion in the faculty evaluation process for non-tenure track, tenure track, and reappointment evaluations.

c) The EPC shall correspond with faculty search committees in order to ensure adequate student power in the hiring of new faculty members.

d) The EPC shall evaluate academic programs at the college based on the expressed concerns of students.
SECTION 2.1: ROLE OF CHAIR OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

a) Unless there is no such candidate, the Chair of the EPC must have served as a full-time member of the EPC for the two consecutive semesters immediately prior to the election cycle.

b) The Chair of the EPC shall schedule and preside over meetings of the EPC.

c) The Chair of the EPC shall archive documents received in connection with faculty evaluation, and shall indefinitely maintain copies of all written communications with College administration, faculty, and staff as they relate to the work of the EPC.

SECTION 2.2: COMPOSITION OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE

a) The EPC shall be composed of the Chair of the EPC and two elected student representatives from each of the four academic divisions of the College. In addition, two elected student representatives from any of the academic divisions of the College shall serve in advisory roles on matters of academic policy.

b) The Chair and elected students divisional representatives must be moderated Upper College students in good academic standing. These members are allowed to participate in the Faculty Evaluation Review process, as outlined in the Faculty Handbook.

c) The advisory members must be unmoderated Lower College students in good academic standing. These members are not allowed to participate in the Faculty Evaluation Review process as outlined in the Faculty Handbook, but may participate in efforts to review matters of academic policy unrelated to Faculty Evaluation Review.

d) An advisory member who moderates during their term of office remains in the same position on the EPC, without any change in privileges or responsibilities.

e) Each EPC member shall have a term of one academic year.

SECTION 3: ROLE OF THE MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE (MDC)

a) The MDC shall advocate for diversity in the realms of academics, social, community, and community service, and work with the Bard Community to enhance and broaden diversity at Bard College.

b) The MDC shall assess the diversity of events on campus, surveying student opinion on all issues concerning diversity on campus.

c) The MDC shall serve as a liaison between groups such as student organizations, offices, departments, and the administration in the field of promoting and upholding campus diversity.

d) The MDC shall be responsible for organizing and implementing at least one panel or event concerning diversity on campus each semester.

e) Any member of the Student Body may file proposals, suggestions, or complaints in writing to the MDC.

f) Representatives from the MDC shall meet with admissions personnel, college administrators, Peer Counselors, the Faculty Diversity Committee, and all other appropriate groups to obtain information and represent Student Body policy on all issues that affect diversity on campus.

SECTION 3.1: COMPOSITION OF THE MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE
a) The MDC shall be composed of six student members, including the Chair of the Multicultural Diversity Committee and five elected members. The tenure of all members shall be two semesters.

b) It shall be the responsibility of the Chair of the Multicultural Diversity Committee to schedule and preside over MDC meetings, as well as meet weekly with the MDC faculty/staff advisor.

c) The MDC shall meet once a week, and quorum for meetings of the MDC shall be the Chair and two other members.

d) The MDC shall conduct all business by consensus whenever possible.

ARTICLE V. JUDICIAL BRANCH

The Judicial Branch of the Bard BSG shall be composed of the two Conduct Boards - the Peer Review Board (PRB) and the Student Judiciary Board (SJB) - the Student Advocate, and the Constitutional Court.

SECTION 1: ROLE OF THE STUDENT CONDUCT BOARDS

a) The PRB and the SJB derive their powers equally from the students, administration, and faculty of Bard College. The purpose of the Conduct Boards is to enforce, protect, and preserve, within the limits of its jurisdiction, the rights of all Bard students by means of peer-to-peer conduct hearings.

b) The PRB and SJB shall have original jurisdiction in campus cases, involving alleged violations of college social and residential rules. Neither board shall have jurisdiction for those cases involving alleged violations of academic regulations, or cases involving alleged sexual misconduct.

c) The PRB shall serve as the lower Conduct Board, hearing (but not being limited to) cases involving first-time policy violations, less severe policy violations, and cases in which a clear violation of policy has occurred. The PRB shall have the power to impose sanctions upon any student found in violation of college policy. The PRB shall not have the authority to determine that a student leave the college via suspension or expulsion.

d) The SJB shall serve as the higher Conduct Board, hearing (but not being limited to) cases involving repeat policy violations, more severe policy violations, and cases in which the occurrence of a policy violation is unclear. The SJB shall have the power to impose sanctions upon any student found in violation of college policy, as well as the authority to determine that a student leave the college via suspension or expulsion.

SECTION 1.1: ROLES OF THE CHAIRS OF THE CONDUCT BOARDS

a) Unless there are no such candidates, the Chair of the SJB and the Chair of the PRB must have served as a full-time member of either the SJB or the PRB for the two consecutive semesters immediately prior to the election cycle.

b) The Chair of the SJB and the Chair of the PRB shall be responsible for scheduling and presiding over the meetings of their respective boards.

d) The Chair of the SJB and the Chair of the PRB shall be responsible for maintaining contact with and disseminating information to all parties involved in conduct hearings, prior to and after the hearings occur.

e) The Chair of the SJB and the Chair of the PRB shall jointly organize and run a conduct retreat (attended by all members of the PRB, SJB, and the Student Advocate) at least once a semester. The retreat shall serve as a checkpoint, where collective discussion about the nature of the student conduct system shall occur.
SECTION 1.2: COMPOSITION OF THE CONDUCT BOARDS

a) The Conduct Boards shall be composed of the Chair of the SJB, the Chair of the PRB, at least fourteen and no more than sixteen students, eight staff/faculty members, silent advisors from either the Dean of Student Affairs Office or the Office of Residence Life, and a Student Advocate.

b) The student membership of the Conduct Boards shall be determined based on a completed application designed by the Chair of the SJB and the Chair of the PRB.

c) The term for each member of the Conduct Boards shall be one academic year, after which members shall confirm individually if they wish to continue to serve on the boards.

d) Students who are currently on Social or Academic Probation cannot be members of the Conduct Boards.

e) One student member of the Conduct Boards shall serve as the Vice Chair of the PRB and another shall serve as the Vice Chair of the SJB. The Vice Chairs shall be chosen via internal election.

SECTION 2: ROLE OF STUDENT ADVOCATE

a) The Student Advocate shall be chosen via internal election from the membership of the Conduct Boards, and upon election, shall relinquish all duties associated with the Conduct Boards.

b) The term of the Student Advocate shall be one academic year.

c) The Student Advocate’s primary duty shall be to serve as a liaison between the Conduct Boards and the students summoned before the Conduct Boards. The Student Advocate shall be available to answer any questions or concerns summoned students might have about the student conduct process.

d) The Student Advocate shall make contact with every summoned student prior to and following every hearing in order to delineate conduct procedures and sanction expectations.

d) The Student Advocate position shall be supervised and paid by the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

SECTION 3: ROLE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

a) The Constitutional Court shall oversee all elections as outlined in this document

b) The Constitutional Court shall address issues of constitutionality if they so arise.

c) The Constitutional Court shall oversee impeachment and dismissal proceedings as outlined in this document.

d) All Constitutional Court hearings shall be open to the public.

e) The Constitutional Court shall have the right to preside over, oversee, and arbitrate any disputes that may arise between students and/or student organizations, only if the Court’s authority is called upon by one or more of the involved parties.

SECTION 3.1: COMPOSITION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

a) The Constitutional Court shall be composed of the Chair of the PRB, the Chair of the SJB, and seven student members. These seven students shall be chosen from the membership of the Conduct Boards by means of random selection.
b) The Chair of the PRB and the Chair of the SJB shall jointly oversee and organize all proceedings of the Constitutional Court.

ARTICLE VI. GENERAL ASSEMBLIES

SECTION 1: AUTHORITY OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

a) The General Assembly shall serve as the directly democratic function of the BSG, in which every member of the Student Body has one vote in all matters brought to the floor.

b) All motions and resolutions passed at the General Assembly shall be considered policy of the BSG.

SECTION 1.1: CONDUCT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

a) The agenda of the General Assembly shall be determined by the Central Assembly 48 hours prior to each meeting of the General Assembly. Any member of the Student Body may add an agenda item by contacting the Central Assembly 24 hours prior to the meeting.

b) All elected members of the BSG must attend all General Assemblies.

c) At least twenty members of the Student Body must be present in order to open a General Assembly.

d) No member of the Student Body may be denied entrance to a General Assembly.

e) All motions and resolutions must be brought to a vote by a two-thirds majority.

f) All motions and resolutions must be passed by a two-thirds majority.

g) The Budget Forum shall occur in the first month of the Fall and Spring Semester, in the form of a General Assembly.

i) Following a General Assembly, it is the responsibility of the Archivist to promptly and accordingly update the Constitution and Bylaws. In the absence of an Archivist, that responsibility falls to the Co-chairs of the Constitutional Court.

ARTICLE VII. ELECTIONS

SECTION 1: GENERAL ELECTORAL PROCESS

a) When the Constitutional court sends a student body email notifying students of forthcoming elections, the chairs of the affected committees will send a committee wide email notifying committee members of both the election for committee chair, and the necessary eligibility requirements for the chair position.

b) Eligible committee members for the respective chair positions will have until the specified date set by the Constitutional court to declare their intentions to run. Committee members must declare their intentions to run to the Constitutional court.

c) When there is no eligible committee member for the chair position, or, no eligible committee member expresses their intention to run by the set date, the committee chair position will be made available to the student body by email from the Constitutional Court.
d) When known early enough, Fall candidates for Central Assembly positions shall announce their electoral intentions to the Constitutional Court by the First Friday in November. Elections for these positions shall be held beginning on the third Thursday in November, and ending on the third Saturday in November, via online elections.

e) Elected Central Assembly chairs that plan to vacate their chair positions prior to the conclusion of their term must inform the constitutional court as soon as they are aware that they will not be able to fulfill their full term.

f) This pre-election process applies to Spring, Fall, and emergency elections.

g) The candidate with the most votes at the end of the electoral process shall be declared the victor.

h) All candidates shall agree to maintain decorum throughout the electoral process.

i) Non-partisan polling stations shall be set up daily in two public common spaces throughout the electoral process. The polling stations shall be overseen by the Constitutional Court.

j) Candidates and their campaigns shall be expressly prohibited from providing internet-enabled devices to any student for the purpose of voting.

k) All candidates must make all campaign expenditures available to the Student Body, via the Constitutional Court.

l) All questions of constitutionality in regards to the electoral process shall be presented to the Constitutional Court.

m) Following the general election, if there are:

   i) any vacant positions in the Central Assembly or,

   ii) sufficient vacant positions on a committee to hinder its efficient functioning,

   an emergency election will be held. Only one emergency election will be held per semester and it will be held via email.

n) Following one emergency election in a semester, any remaining vacant committee positions will be filled at the discretion of the committee’s chair.

SECTION 2: SPRING ELECTORAL PROCESS

a) Elections for Central Assembly members shall be held in the Spring Semester, beginning on the third Thursday in April and ending on the third Saturday in April, via online elections.

b) All Central Assembly candidates shall announce their electoral intentions to the Constitutional Court by the first Friday in April.

c) All Central Assembly candidates shall, upon announcing their electoral intentions, privately meet to agree on campaign policy. This meeting shall be organized and moderated by members of the Constitutional Court.

d) In order to run for Speaker of the Student Body each candidate must gather at least fifty signatures from Student Body members and submit the signatures to the Constitutional Court by the first Friday in April.
e) Elections for all other elected Bard Student government positions, with the exception of the Student Life Committee, shall announce their electoral intentions to the constitutional court by the first Thursday in May. Elections for these positions shall be held beginning on the second Thursday in May, and ending on the second Saturday in May.

SECTION 3: FALL ELECTORAL PROCESS

a) Elections for all Student Life Committee positions shall be held in the Fall Semester, in the week after Budget Forum, via online elections.

b) All Student Life Committee candidates shall publicly announce their electoral intentions at the Fall Semester Budget Forum.

ARTICLE VIII. IMPEACHMENT OF BSG OFFICIALS

Any member of the Central Assembly may immediately be removed from office via the impeachment process outlined in this Article if that member does not follow, or actively acts against, the provisions of this Constitution.

SECTION 1: IMPEACHMENT PROCESS

a) Any member of the Student Body may bring a charge of egregious unconstitutionality against any Central Assembly member at the General Assembly.

b) The accused Central Assembly member shall be impeached by a two-thirds majority of the General Assembly.

c) Once impeached, the accused Central Assembly member’s case shall come before the Constitutional Court, whose decision regarding whether or not to remove the member from office shall be considered final.

d) If the impeached official is a member of the Constitutional Court, the Speaker shall appoint another Central Assembly member to temporarily serve on the Court throughout the duration of the impeachment proceedings.

e) In the instance that a Central Assembly member is removed from office, that member’s committee shall internally determine who among them shall be the removed official’s successor.

f) The chosen successor must be unanimously approved by the Central Assembly.

g) The chosen successor shall be considered an interim member of the Central Assembly, and will hold office only for the remainder of the term.

h) In the instance that the Speaker is removed from office, an emergency election shall be held under the supervision of the Constitutional Court.

ARTICLE IX. DISMISSAL AND RESIGNATION OF BSG MEMBERS

Any BSG member may immediately be removed from office via the dismissal process outlined in this Article if that member does not follow, or actively acts against, the provisions of this Constitution. Any BSG member may resign from office at any time for any reason, via the resignation process outlined in this Article.

SECTION 1: DISMISSAL PROCESS
a) The members of the Central Assembly shall have the power to dismiss members of their respective committees for egregious unconstitutional actions.

b) Any dismissed BSG member may appeal the decision to dismiss to the Constitutional Court, whose decision shall be considered final.

c) If the dismissed BSG member is a member of the Constitutional Court, or if a member of the Constitutional Court made the initial decision to dismiss the BSG member, the Speaker shall appoint another BSG member to temporarily serve on the Court throughout the duration of the appeal proceedings.

SECTION 2: RESIGNATION PROCESS

a) In the instance that a Central Assembly member resigns from office, that member’s committee shall internally determine who among them shall be the resigned official’s successor.

b) The chosen successor must be unanimously approved by the Central Assembly.

c) The chosen successor shall be considered an interim member of the Central Assembly, and will hold office only for the remainder of the term.

d) In the instance that the Speaker resigns from office, an emergency election shall be held under the supervision of the Constitutional Court.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1: AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

a) Amendments to this Constitution must be brought to a vote at a General Assembly by a two-thirds majority.

b) Amendments to this Constitution must be passed at a General Assembly by a two-thirds majority.

c) Amendments to the Bylaws must be brought to a vote at a General Assembly by a two-thirds majority.

d) Amendments to the Bylaws must be passed at a General Assembly by a two-thirds majority.
Bard College
Student Government Bylaws

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1. COMMUNICATIONS BRANCH

SECTION 1.1 PROCEDURES OF THE SPEAKER OF THE STUDENT BODY

a) It is expected that the candidates for Speaker of the Student Body have served no less than one full term in any capacity of Bard Student Government.

b) The Speaker shall be the only student who has access to the speaker@bard.edu email account, which has access to the [undergrad] listserv.

c) The Speaker shall meet with the ??? Student Government Advisor ??? once a week.

d) The Speaker shall ensure a smooth transition of responsibilities between the Speaker and the Speaker-elect of the following year. The outgoing Speaker shall be compensated for their time.

e) The Speaker shall be responsible for overseeing the smooth transition of the newly elected chairs of the Central Assembly during the course of the respective intercession after the election. As part of the aforementioned oversight, the Speaker shall ensure that incoming chairs have received the proper training from outgoing chairs.

f) The Speaker shall advocate for certain student projects as they arise, if the initiating student or committee chair so approves.

SECTION 1.2 PROCEDURES OF THE ARCHIVIST

a) The Archivist will join the Speaker of the Student Body and the Student Life Committee Chair at their weekly meetings with administration in an effort to continue transparency and communication between the administration, BSG, and the larger student body.

b) These documentations will be made available to the public except for information that proves to be confidential, personal, or effectually irrelevant for the student body to know on a large scale.

c) These determinations will be made by the administrators, the Student Life Committee Chair, and at the ultimate discretion of the Speaker of the Student Body.

d) The Archivist will work concurrently throughout the semester with the Resident Archivist at Bard College to continue to work towards encouraging more sophisticated forms of document retention.

e) The Archivist will hold a meeting with the outgoing Chairs of the Central Assembly in an effort to inscribe, describe, and amend the potential implicit responsibilities not stated in the Constitution or the Bylaws, but that are considered essential to the functioning of the committee.

2. FINANCIAL BRANCH

SECTION 2.1 CONVOCATION FUNDS

a) The funds available to the Student Body shall be constituted by the sum of all Student Activities Fees collected in a given semester plus any allocations remaining from the previous semester’s club accounts. The combination of these funds shall be henceforth referred to as the Convocation Fund.

b) It shall be the role of the Fiscal Committee, henceforth referred to as FiscComm, to handle the Convocation Fund and its distribution.
SECTION 2.2 PROCEDURES OF THE FINANCIAL BRANCH

a) It shall be the role of FiscComm to oversee all requests for Convocation Funds, Stimulus Funds, or transfer requests, henceforth referred to as budget requests.

b) No member of FiscComm, with regards to any Student Organization of which they are a head, member, or in which they have a vested interest, may vote on any budget request from that Student Organization.

c) The Speaker of the Student Body and the Treasurer receive all budget requests submitted to FiscComm, but neither possesses voting rights with regards to such requests. They act in an advisory role, and can contribute to discussions as appropriate.

d) In the event of a tie among FiscComm votes regarding budget requests, the Speaker of the Student Body shall be able to cast the tie-breaking vote.

e) The Treasurer shall receive all budget requests submitted to FiscComm and shall vote during budget deliberations.

SECTION 2.3 THE BUDGETING PROCESS

a) Any club that fails to submit a proposed budget in the correct format and cover letter to FiscComm, or sign itself up for Budget Review by the set deadlines shall be allocated a penny budget for the semester.

b) Any club that fails to mark its attendance at Club Head Day shall receive a 5% budget deduction.

SECTION 2.4 CLUB REGISTRATION

a) All clubs wishing to receive monies from the Convocation Fund must register their club by the Friday following the first day of classes.

SECTION 2.5 CLUB HEAD DAY

a) At the beginning of every semester, FiscComm shall hold Club Head Day, at which the Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall explain the budgeting process, and detail all relevant dates and guidelines. Club Head Day shall occur on the Saturday following the first day of classes.

b) All Clubs wishing to receive monies from the Convocation Fund must send at least one club representative to Club Head Day in order to mark their club present and fit to receive such monies.

c) A Club Head Guide shall be created each semester by Student Activities. The Club Head Guide shall be distributed at Club Head Day; this document shall contain additional information to which clubs must adhere.

SECTION 2.6 BUDGET REVIEW

a) The dates and times of Budget Review shall be decided by the Chair of the Fiscal Committee, so long as they allow for the budget to be ready by Sunday before 8 pm.

b) Clubs that fail to sign up or submit their proposed budget and cover letter by the deadline shall receive a penny budget.

c) Per the cover letter requirement, clubs shall be required to answer a questionnaire that shall be created by the Chair of the Fiscal Committee. Clubs shall be able to submit their budget materials and sign up for Budget Review online before the deadline.
d) Clubs shall be required to attend a 5 minute budget with at minimum two members of the Fiscal Committee, the Treasurer, or Speaker of the Student Body.

e) If the Fiscal Committee finds a club has provided sufficient information with its budget and cover letter alone, it shall be able to waive the requirement for the club to meet before receiving its budget.

SECTION 2.7 THE FISCAL COMMITTEE DRAFT BUDGET AND BUDGET FORUM

a) After Budget Review, FiscComm shall prepare a draft of the Budget of the Student Body, including total allocations for each Club; it shall also include commentary on each club’s proposed budget.

b) The Draft Budget shall all be made publicly available at least by 8 PM on the Sunday before Budget Forum. The Speaker shall email the budget to all club heads.

c) After the publication of these materials, and continuing until 48 hours before Budget Forum, Clubs shall be allowed to submit via email to speaker@bard.edu proposed friendly or hostile amendments to the draft budget. All amendments to the Draft Budget shall be presented and voted on at Budget Forum.

d) A Friendly Amendment is an open request for other clubs to donate portions of their budget to the club requesting the amendment. These amendments require no additional vote from the student association in order to pass.

e) A Hostile Amendment is a specific request for a named amount of money from a specific club to the club requesting the amendment. These amendments must be voted on by all students in attendance, and be passed by a two-thirds majority vote.

f) The Speaker of the Student Body shall notify any club whose budget stands to be altered by a hostile amendment at least 24 hours prior to the start of Budget Review.

g) At Budget Forum, the Speaker of the Student Body shall call up speakers from the club proposing friendly or hostile amendments and speakers from the club against which a hostile amendment is directed. Each party should be allotted 30 seconds to speak regarding their amendment. Those supporting or opposing an amendment shall, in lieu of the club speakers, be allowed to submit a written statement, which shall be read by the Speaker of the Student Body. These statements shall also be limited to 30 seconds.

h) Every hostile amendment to the Draft Budget requires a vote of two-thirds to be adopted. It shall be the responsibility of the members of the Central Assembly to count such votes. The Speaker of the Student Body shall then announce the results.

i) After all amendments and motions have been submitted to a vote, and all donations have been communicated to FiscComm, the budget as a whole shall be submitted to the Forum for a vote. The Forum shall, by a two-thirds majority vote whether to accept or reject the finalized budget. If the finalized budget is rejected, another Budget Forum shall be held two days following the original Budget Forum.

j) After Budget Forum, the Treasurer shall log all transfers in the Student Body Ledger.

k) The Chair of the Fiscal Committee shall be responsible for publishing, publicly, the finalized Budget of the Student Body.

SECTION 2.8 ADDITIONAL STUDENT ORGANIZATION FUNDING

a) Student Organizations may transfer funds from their own budget towards the budgets of other Student Organizations. To transfer their funds to another club, the club providing the transfer shall submit a transfer request using the form provided by FiscComm, detailing how much money is to be transferred,
to what club, and for what purpose. All club transfers must be approved by the Chair of the Fiscal Committee.

b) Student Organizations may request Stimulus Funds by using the form provided by FiscComm. Stimulus Fund requests must detail how much and for what purpose the money is being requested.

c) A decision on Stimulus Fund requests shall be released to relevant Club Heads each Wednesday, so long as the request was received before Monday at 5:00 pm. Any votes not cast by members of the Fiscal Committee before Wednesday at 5:00 pm shall be considered abstentions. The spending workshop, held in the beginning of each semester, shall be mandated for new clubs and new clubs heads. Any new club and/or club head that does not attend the workshop shall have a 5% penalty to their budget.

SECTION 2.9 BUDGET AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

a) Halfway through the semester, the Treasurer and FiscComm will meet to assess the current state of club spending and devise an appropriate way to hold clubs accountable for their budget.

SECTION 2.10 PRE-ALLOCATION REQUESTS

a) Student organizations that wish to utilize Convocation Funds prior to the normal budgeting process, may submit pre-allocation requests via email to FiscComm.

b) Pre-allocation request must be submitted to FiscComm by a date to be determined by the Chair of the Fiscal Committee that is at least two weeks before the end of the previous semester.

3. THE CHARTER CLUB PROCESS

SECTION 3.1 ELIGIBILITY AND APPLICATION FOR CHARTER CLUB STATUS

a) A student club that strives to meet a vital and unfulfilled need of the Bard community may achieve recognition of its centrality to the purpose of the Student Association through the ratification of a charter.

b) Any student club is eligible to apply for chartered status, provided it has drawn a budget from the Convocation Fund for at least nine consecutive semesters.

c) Two types of charters shall be granted:
   i) Organization charters;
   ii) Service charters.

SECTION 3.2 CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE

a) A Charter Review Committee shall be constituted in order to evaluate charter applications, approve their incorporation, allocate Charter Club Budgets, and periodically review chartered organization performance.

b) The Committee shall be composed of FiscComm, including the Treasurer, with each member allotted a single vote. Additionally, the Speaker of the Student Body, who may only vote as a tie-breaker, must be present at all Charter Review Committee meetings, as well as the Director of Student Activities, who may not vote, but shall be present at the meetings of the Charter Review Committee in order to provide consistency, and elaborate on historical precedence.
c) All matters under consideration by the Committee must be approved by a majority of voting members.

SECTION 3.3 ORGANIZATION CHARTERS

a) In its evaluation of chartered organizations and of clubs applying for that status, the Charter Review Committee shall seek to promote activities that serve at least four of the following five purposes:
   i) Community building;
   ii) Education and awareness;
   iii) Cultural outreach;
   iv) Political or social engagement;
   v) Advocacy for under-served populations at Bard.

b) An organization charter shall consist of three parts:
   i) A mission statement;
   ii) Specific benchmarks to annually assess progress towards these goals agreed to by both the organization and the Review Committee;
   iii) A plan to transition leadership and ensure club sustainability, whether in the form of a Constitution or other means.

d) A chartered organization and clubs applying for that status must meet the following requirements:
   i) Engagement with the Bard community, and activities inclusive of individuals who are not members of the club or organization;
   ii) Open meetings, which must be advertised at the beginning of each semester;
   iii) A presence at Club Fair;
   iv) Attendance at charter club gatherings hosted by the MDC.

e) Organizations must meet the following requirements the semester after attaining chartered status:
   i) Designation of officers, including at least a club head and a treasurer, through democratic means;
   ii) Representation by a single club member to the Chartered Organization Council.

f) Failure to adhere to the terms of the charter, to meet the requirements specified above, or to efficaciously serve the five purposes for chartered organizations specified above, shall all constitute grounds for revocation of the charter.

g) The last date to submit an application for an organization charter shall be the fourth Monday of the Spring semester. An application shall consist of:
   i) A narrative history of the club, reflecting upon the club's purpose and role in the community, of a length determined by the Review Committee;
ii) A letter to the Review Committee addressing how the club fulfills at least four of the purposes specified above, demonstrating achievement of the requirements specified above, and outlining how the club intends to meet the other requirements specified in above;

iii) A proposed charter.

h) The Charter Review Committee shall be convened when applications are pending. It shall choose between three available options:

i) Acceptance of the submitted charter in full;

ii) Proposal of changes to the submitted charter, continuing to work with the club to develop a refined charter to the satisfaction of both parties;

iii) Rejection of the application as being wholly without merit.

i) At the end of the Spring semester, any applications that remain pending shall be considered rejected.

j) A chartered organization shall be granted the following prerogatives of its status:

i) The ability to submit budget requests to the Priority Fund;

ii) The ability to roll over its remaining budget between semesters and to request budget lines intended for future expenditure.

k) The use of the Priority Fund does not preclude a chartered organization from making Convocation Fund requests through the usual means.

l) In the 4th week of the Spring semester, all currently chartered clubs must submit a progress report to the Charter Review Committee and sign up for a time to meet with the committee to discuss the club’s charter status and review plans for the future.

m) All chartered organizations shall be represented by a single member on a Chartered Organization Council. No individual may serve as representative of two or more clubs. The goal of the Council is to encourage cooperation and the development of community among the chartered organizations and to represent their needs to the Student Association, the administration, and the wider Bard community.

SECTION 3.4 SERVICE CHARTERS

a) In its evaluation of chartered services and of clubs applying for that status, the Charter Review Committee shall seek to preserve clubs that provide a free service without prejudice or restriction to all members of the community. A service charter shall consist of three parts:

i) A mission statement;

ii) Specific descriptions of the service provided;

iii) A plan to ensure club sustainability.

b) Chartered services and clubs applying for that status cannot spend more than 10% or $250 of their priority fund budget, whichever is the least, towards non-service spending. Failure to adhere to the terms of the charter or violation of the non-service spending limit specified above shall both constitute grounds for revocation of the charter.

c) The last date to submit an application for a service charter shall be the fourth Monday of the Spring semester.
d) An application shall consist of:
   
   i) A letter to the review committee describing the history of the club and explaining the vitality and accessibility of the provided service;
   
   ii) A proposed charter.

e) The Charter Review Committee shall be convened when applications are pending. It shall choose between three available options:
   
   i) Acceptance of the submitted charter in full;
   
   ii) Proposal of changes to the submitted charter, continuing to work with the club to develop a refined charter to the satisfaction of both parties;
   
   iii) Rejection of the application as being wholly without merit.

f) At the end of the Spring semester, any applications that remain pending shall be considered rejected.

g) A chartered service shall be granted the following prerogatives of its status:
   
   i) The ability to roll over its remaining budget between semesters and to request budget lines intended for future expenditure;
   
   ii) FiscComm shall view budget requests of services with due consideration of their recognized vitality to the Bard community, and shall seek to the best of its ability to ensure their full perpetuation.

h) In the 4th week of the Spring semester, all currently chartered clubs must submit a progress report to the Charter Review Committee and sign up for a time to meet with the committee to discuss the club's charter status and review plans for the future.

i) A service charter may be revoked by either FiscComm or the Charter Review Committee at any time on the grounds specified in above. Such revocation shall not affect the status of previously allocated funds.

SECTION 3.5 THE PRIORITY FUND

a) The Priority Fund consists of Convocation Fund monies to which chartered organizations receive preference. The Priority Fund is allocated by the Charter Review Committee at the end of each academic year for expenditure in the subsequent year.

b) Chartered organizations shall submit Priority Fund requests in the second week of April. Along with this request, they shall submit a detailed report of the organization's sponsored activities and events of the preceding year.

c) The Charter Review Committee shall evaluate the merit of these requests and allocate funds on the basis of the following criteria:
   
   i) Furtherance of the goals specified above;
   
   ii) Creativity and originality in programming;
   
   iii) Past performance and demonstrated ability to achieve goals.

d) The Charter Review Committee shall comply with all policies governing legitimate expenditures established by FiscComm and the Student Forum.
e) An organization shall be allowed to retain its charter for one year without receiving an allocation from the Priority Fund, should either the organization opt not to submit a request or the Charter Review Committee opt to deny funding. If the organization does not receive an allocation for a second consecutive year, this shall automatically result in the revocation of chartered status.

4. STUDENT LIFE BRANCH

SECTION 4.1 PROCEDURES OF THE STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

a) The Student Life Committee shall meet once a week while the college is in session.

b) Quorum for meetings of the Committee shall be one half of all active members and the Chair.

c) The Student Life Committee, or its designated representatives, shall meet with department heads, College Administrators, Health Service personnel, Peer Counselors, and others to obtain information and represent Student Body policy on all issues which affect student life.

d) The Student Life Committee Chair shall meet weekly with the staff of the Dean of Students Office to review the effects of existing and proposed college policy on student life, and to represent Student Body policy.

e) Any member of the Student Body may file proposals, suggestions, or complaints in writing to the Student Life Committee.

f) The Committee may decide that a particular proposal, suggestion, or complaint does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Student Life Committee, or that the issue in question falls more appropriately under the jurisdiction of another BSG committee. On these grounds the Student Life Committee may choose not to discuss the proposal.

g) The Student Life Committee shall conduct all business by consensus whenever possible.

h) Every semester, the Student Life Committee shall send out at least one general survey seeking student input on student life at Bard. Other surveys may be sent out based on the needs of the Committee.

i) Members shall not act on initiatives if they are not supported by a committee consensus.

SECTION 4.2 STUDENT PROJECT FUND

a) At the beginning of each semester, the Fiscal Committee shall set aside 2% of the total each semesters available Convocation Fund to the Student Project Fund (SPF).

b) The SPF shall be allowed to rollover between semesters for the purpose of accumulating the monies necessary for large-scale projects.

c) The SPF shall not exceed 5% of each semester available Convocation Fund unless allocated additional monies from the Stimulus Fund.

d) The SPF shall be allocated towards on-campus, community projects accessible to all members of the Student Body.

e) The SLC shall poll popular project proposals with the Student Body. To pursue use of the SPF, a project proposal must have the approval of at least 10% of the polled Student Body population.

SECTION 4.3 PROCEDURES OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
a) The Educational Policies Committee shall maintain regular contact with the Office of the Dean of the College in order to stay updated on proposed changes to academic policy.

b) The EPC shall be responsible to respond to administrative decisions of faculty reappointment and tenure.

c) The EPC shall correspond with the Dean of the College, the Faculty Executive Committee, and/or the Faculty Senate at least once each semester to provide these bodies with student input regarding proposed changes to educational policy.

d) The EPC shall be responsible for participating in the faculty evaluation process in accordance with the faculty evaluation document, available at the Office of the Dean of the College.

e) The EPC shall be responsible to address students’ expressed concerns with academic policies at the College.

f) The EPC shall be responsible for thoroughly reviewing any tenure or rehire decision made by the President of the College should a group of at least twenty students’ petition the EPC Chair for such a review. In the case that such a review is performed, and the committee decides the action taken by the President is in conflict with student interest, a report detailing why must be produced. This report must be sent to the President, Dean of the College, Faculty Executive Committee, the two student representatives to the Board of Trustees, and the students who petitioned for the review.

g) The Chair of the Educational Policies Committee shall attend meetings of the full faculty.

SECTION 4.4 PROCEDURES OF THE MULTICULTURAL DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

a) The Multicultural Diversity Committee shall organize and host at least two events on culture/race/diversity that are open to the student body every semester.

b) The Multicultural Diversity Committee shall meet with the Bard College administration at least once per year to discuss issues relevant to the work of the MDC, including but not limiting to information regarding current and pressing issues of race and racism on and off campus.

c) At least one member of the Multicultural Diversity Committee shall attend all CIE meetings as a student representative.

d) The Chair of the Multicultural Diversity Committee shall meet with the Campus Climate Team on an at least yearly basis.

V. JUDICIAL BRANCH

SECTION 5.1 PROCEDURES OF THE PEER REVIEW BOARD

a) Sanctions shall be enforced by the appropriate authority. The PRB shall ensure that details of the sanctions are communicated to the appropriate bodies, and shall monitor the enforcement of the sanctions. Failure to complete the sanctions or incurring an additional offense shall result in a reopening of the case and potential for further sanctioning.

b) Copies of all written documents pertaining to the case shall be made available to inquiring parties involved in the case and the Dean of Student Affairs Office.

c) Five members shall constitute a quorum. The quorum must consist of the Chair of the PRB or the Vice Chair, and three student Board members.
d) In cases of conflict of interest, board members shall excuse themselves and an appropriate alternate member shall serve.

e) The PRB shall establish a weekly hearing time, and shall meet at that time on any week when there is business to conduct. Students required to meet with the PRB shall be notified via email of the hearing time and location. If a student cannot make the assigned time they must, prior to the hearing time, inform the PRB in writing about the conflict and request a deferred hearing time. Failure to communicate a conflict or attend the scheduled hearing shall result in the PRB rendering a decision based on written information and other statements. Students who do not attend their hearing lose the right to appeal the decision made by the PRB.

f) The Chair shall maintain decorum during the proceedings. Actions to maintain decorum may not conflict with specific provisions of this Constitution.

g) Individuals may have a silent support person, someone who does not have firsthand knowledge of the events in question, if they put the request in writing. The Board reserves the right to deny requests for individuals whose presence seems inappropriate or disruptive.

h) In no case shall legal counsel be allowed to attend a hearing of the PRB, including family members.

i) Character witnesses may not attend or speak at PRB hearings.

j) The Chair of the PRB and the Student Advocate shall have access to the records of any prior case—the former for each case and the latter when services are requested by the student and/or as directed by the Chair. Accused students shall have the right to review the records of their case. The Dean of Student Affairs Office shall maintain a record of individuals who have accessed the file via Maxient.

k) PRB members commit to a confidentiality agreement and understand that they shall not reveal the details of any PRB proceedings, including deliberations that are not open to the public, unless required by law. Board members inappropriately sharing details of a case shall be removed from the Board.

l) The Peer Review Board shall conduct all business by consensus whenever possible.

m) In the case of an irreconcilable deadlock, each member of the PRB shall have one vote, with the exception of the Silent Advisor. Unless specified in this Constitution, decisions shall be made by a majority of voting members. Members of the PRB must be present for an entire hearing in order to vote on that case. The Chair shall only vote to break ties.

n) The Chair shall issue a written decision within seventy-two hours of the rendering of that decision. The Chair shall inform the parties of their available appeals within the college, and explain the procedures for initiating these appeals.

o) As directed by the Chair and the Silent Adviser, the Student Advocate shall be responsible for ensuring student completion of sanctions. The outcomes of student failure to complete given sanctions by the established deadline shall be communicated by the Student Advocate.

SECTION 5.2 PROCEDURES OF THE STUDENT JUDICIARY BOARD

a) Sanctions shall be enforced by the appropriate authority. The SJB shall ensure that details of the sanctions are communicated to the appropriate bodies, and shall monitor the enforcement of the sanctions. Failure to complete the sanctions or incurring an additional offense shall result in the Board reviewing the case and possibly sanctioning further.

b) Copies of all written documents pertaining to the case shall be distributed to the parties in the case, the members of the SJB, and the Dean of Students.
c) Seven members shall constitute a quorum. The quorum must comprise the Chair, three student Board members, three faculty/staff members.

d) In cases of conflict of interest, Board members shall excuse themselves and an appropriate alternate member shall serve.

f) The SJB shall make reasonable provisions for all parties and witnesses to participate in the proceedings. Failure for an accused party to communicate a conflict or attend the scheduled hearing shall result in the SJB rendering a decision based on written information and other statements. Students who do not attend their hearing lose the right to appeal the decision made by the SJB.

g) The Chair shall maintain decorum during the proceedings. Actions to maintain decorum may not conflict with specific provisions of this Constitution.

h) The Chair shall, at the reasonable request of any party to the case or member of the Board, ask a member of the community to appear as a witness in the case.

i) Both the individual(s) reporting the incident and the accused student may be present during the questioning of witnesses. Following questioning by the SJB, both students may address questions to the witness. It is the responsibility of the SJB to ensure that questioning remains relevant to firsthand knowledge of the witnesses.

j) Either party may request an individual of their choice be present during any part of the proceedings to provide emotional support. This person shall remain silent during the proceedings. Furthermore, this person may not have firsthand knowledge of the events in question.

k) In no case shall legal counsel be allowed to attend a hearing of the SJB, including family members.

l) Character witnesses may not attend or speak at SJB hearings. Any statement concerning matters of character that does not constitute first hand testimony related to determining responsibility for alleged actions must be submitted in writing to be entered into the record of the case. The SJB may consider such evidence in their determination of an appropriate sanction.

n) The Chair shall have access to the records of any prior case. The student(s) bringing charges as well as the student(s) accused shall have the right to review the records of their case. The Dean of Student Affairs Office shall maintain a record of who has had access to these files.

o) SJB members commit to a confidentiality agreement and understand that they shall not reveal the details of any SJB proceedings, including deliberations that are not open to the public, unless required by law. Board members inappropriately sharing details of a case shall be removed from the Board.

p) The SJB shall conduct all business by consensus whenever possible.

q) In the case of an irreconcilable deadlock, each member of the SJB shall have one vote, with the exception of the Silent Advisor. Unless specified in this Constitution, decisions shall be made by a majority of voting members. Members of the SJB must be present for an entire hearing in order to vote on that case. The Chair shall only vote to break ties.

r) A sentence of suspension or expulsion shall require the vote of two thirds of the members of the Board. Following a vote to suspend or expel, the Silent Advisor or the Chair may veto the sanction, in which case the Board shall resume sentencing deliberations.

s) The Chair shall issue a written decision within seventy-two hours of the rendering of the decision. The Chair shall inform the parties of their available appeals within the college, and explain the procedures for initiating these appeals. Suspensions and expulsions must first be appealed to a representative of the Dean of Student Affairs Office.
t) Members of the SJB are free to add personal statements to the permanent record of the case. No member shall interfere with the placement of statements in the record.

SECTION 5.3 CONDUCT BOARD APPEALS PROCEDURES

a) A student may appeal a decision of the Peer Review Board (PRB) or Student Judiciary Board (SJB) about a student conduct matter on the following grounds:
   i) The conduct meeting was not conducted in a fair or impartial manner,
   ii) New evidence became available after the conduct meeting,
   iii) The conduct process was not properly adhered to.

b) The order of appeals bodies are as follows:
   i) PRB decisions are appealed to the SJB.
   ii) SJB decisions are appealed to the Dean of Students, or designee of the Dean’s choosing.

c) The decision of the appellate body may take one of the following forms:
   i) Affirm the original decision.
   ii) Reverse the original decision based on the appeal.
   iii) Vacate the decision of the original board and order a new conduct meeting with a presently uninvolved administrator/board.

d) Should the appeal body determine there is appropriate grounds for an appeal, an appellate decision shall be rendered and shall be final except in the case of suspension or expulsion. Final appeal regarding suspension or expulsion lies with the President of the College, whose decision is final.

SECTION 5.4 PROCEDURES OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT

a) The Constitutional Court shall meet as necessary, to be determined by the provisions of this Constitution and these Bylaws.

b) The Constitutional Court shall have all powers of constitutional interpretation in regards to issues of constitutionality.

VI. ELECTIONS

a) All candidates for Central Assembly positions must have a minimum GPA of 2.5, and may not be on Social or Academic Probation (to be determined by the Student Government Advisors).

b) In the extraordinary case of an exact numerical tie in the amount of votes in an election, a runoff election shall be immediately held and supervised by the Constitutional Court.

c) If a member of the Constitutional Court is also a candidate in an election, that member must recuse themselves from the oversight of that particular electoral race.

d) The Constitutional Court shall determine what Student Body members shall run the polling stations throughout the election.
e) The private meeting between candidates shall include, but not be limited to, discussion of campaign finance limits and campaign conduct.

f) Campaign expenditures shall be defined as all monetary expenses used for the purpose of campaigning (on and off campus), which includes, but is not limited to literature, advertisements, t-shirts, and foodstuffs. All donations, including but not being limited to, club gifts and individual gifts, shall also fall under the umbrella of campaign expenditures.

g) All expenditures shall be submitted by candidates to the Constitutional Court, and publicized.

h) The deadline for candidates to appeal the electoral process to the Constitutional Court shall be one week after the results are made public.

VII. IMPEACHMENT, DISMISSAL, AND RESIGNATION

a) Grounds for impeachment and/or dismissal include, but are not limited to, not attending committee meetings, not attending General Assemblies, and not upholding this Constitution or the provisions that it sets forth.

IV. LEGAL SUCCESSION

a) The Speaker of the Student Body shall be the legal successor to the former President of the Student Government Association.

b) The Fiscal Committee shall be the legal successor to the former Planning Committee.

c) The Central Assembly shall be the legal successor to the former Central Committee.

d) The General Assembly shall be the legal successor to the formerly named Student Forum.

IV. ADDITIONAL BSG COMMITTEES

SECTION 9.1 STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD (SAB)

a) The Student Activities Board shall serve as the student branch of the Office of Student Activities. The Board shall identify the needs of the Student Body and provide support and logistics for individual students to present and implement event ideas.

b) The SAB shall ensure consistent programming initiative by working with the Student Body to gain student opinion in regards to desired entertainment events.

c) The SAB shall lead events that are inclusive to all members of the community.

d) Membership of the SAB shall consist of the Chair of the SAB, a SPARC Liaison (who shall oversee event registration and set-up), an A/V Liaison (who shall provide sound, projection, and technology), a Marketing/Publicity Liaison (who shall be responsible for disseminating information about events), a Civic Engagement Liaison (who shall promote events that include civic engagement opportunities), and a PC Liaison (who shall serve as a liaison between SAB and the Office of Residence Life).

e) The SAB Chair must have been an active member of SAB for at least one semester.
f) The SAB Chair shall oversee the events planned by the SAB and be responsible for the overall budget and administrative logistics of the committee.

g) The Associate Director of Student Activities shall serve as the advisor to the SAB. The advisor shall provide guidance for the implementation of events and provide consistency and sustainability for the committee.

h) The SAB shall meet weekly, and these meetings shall be open to the public.

SECTION 9.2 Community Dinners Committee (CDC)

a) The Community Dinners Committee shall serve as the planning and organizing body of the Community Dinners Program.

b) Membership of the Community Dinners Committee shall consist of two elected student members, the Director of Student Activities, the Chaplain of Community Life, at least two members of the Faculty Student Affairs Committee, and a representative from the Center for Student Life and Advising.

c) The two elected student members shall serve for terms of one academic year. The Community Dinners Committee will internally appoint one student member as Chair of the Community Dinners Committee and the other as Treasurer of the Community Dinners Committee. The Chair shall organize and facilitate meetings of the Community Dinners Committee, and the Treasurer shall oversee fundraising for and the budget of the Community Dinners Program.

d) The Community Dinners Committee will be guided by internally-crafted policies, passed and maintained by simple-majority vote of the Committee. These policies shall include, but not be limited to, the additional roles of members of the Community Dinners Committee, the procedures for organizing the Community Dinners, and all other logistical minutiae.

SECTION 9.3 Faculty Committees

a) The Speaker of the Student Body, the Chair of the Student Life Committee, and the Chair of the Educational Policies Committee shall serve on the Faculty Grievance Committee, so long as that Committee operates.