

# McMurtry By-Laws

## Article I. Establishment of Rules

Section 1.01 These By-Laws are established as the functional addendum to the Constitution, serving as modifiable and active rules and standards for McMurry College.

## Article II. Elections

Section 2.01 EC and At-Large Rep elections shall be executed according to the following timeline:

- a) Petitions for President and Chief Justice (CJ) shall be released during the second week of the Spring Semester.
- b) The President shall be elected no later than 2 weeks after petitions are released.
- c) Petitions for At-Large Rep and the remaining EC positions shall be released during the fourth week of the Spring Semester.
- d) The At-Large Rep and the remainder of the EC shall be elected no later than 2 weeks after their petitions have been released.
- e) The committee selection process shall take place no later than 2 weeks after the EC has been elected.
- f) The official changeover ceremony shall take place no later than 2 weeks after events a. to e.

Section 2.02 PC elections shall take place no later than 1 week after housing jack has concluded.

Section 2.03 Elected positions are chosen by a vote of their available constituents. Elections for Hall Representatives shall be voted on only by those who will live in that hall during the tenure of the representative.

Section 2.04 First Year Representatives shall be chosen before the second Town Hall of the Fall Semester.

Section 2.05 Elections and Special Elections shall be determined through a preferential vote, and conducted by the Parliamentarian.

Section 2.06 In the case of a tie, run-off elections shall be held between those that tied until a candidate gains a plurality.

- (a) If a tie occurs between the same two candidates twice consecutively, a vote of the PC shall elect the candidate between the two remaining by simple majority.

Section 2.07 In the case of special circumstances that would hinder the election process, an election may be delayed by one week following a majority ruling of all voting members.

## Article III. Nominating

Section 3.01 Nominations shall be done via petition

- (a) Elections involving the entire college require 25 signatures.
- (b) Elections for the First Year Representatives, Hall Representatives, and O.C. Representatives require 10 signatures solicited from any McMurry students.

Section 3.02 Changeover

- (a) The Executive Council and College Court shall changeover on the first Monday after Spring Break.
- (b) All other confirmed McMinistry positions shall change over on the last day of classes.

Section 3.03 The positions of Treasurer(s) and Secretary(s) are the only elected positions for which more than one person may run and hold office.

## Article IV. Campaigning

Section 4.01 Direct solicitation of votes and organized speeches are permitted.

Section 4.02 Public campaigning for elected positions is not permitted, and the following list includes, but does not exhaust, the use of mediums prohibited:

- (a) Facebook
- (b) Twitter
- (c) Other social media
- (d) Fliers
- (e) Public announcements

Section 4.03 Any candidate found not in compliance with campaign regulations may be removed by vote of the EC, or if elected, under the terms of impeachment described in the Constitution.

## Article V. Meetings (time, place and quorum)

### Section 5.01 Town Hall Meetings

#### (a) Town Hall Meetings

- (a) Shall be held every other week during the academic year.
- (b) Shall be held in a public McMurtry space large enough to accommodate all members wishing to attend.
- (c) Shall be announced by the President or Prime Minister within twenty-four hours prior to the time of the event. The Prime Minister shall encourage attendance.

#### (b) President and Parliamentarian will uphold order.

- (c) Any attendee can bring up agenda items.
- (d) President reserves the right to reasonably reject agenda items not formally submitted prior to Town Hall.

#### (e) Additional announcements

- (a) Can be made by College members and approved non-College members.
- (b) Must be made in a respectful fashion.
- (c) Should pertain to College-wide and/or University-wide interests.
- (d) Should not include solicitations for funds.

#### (f) Attendance

- (a) Executive Council members, People's Council members, and a committee head from each committee are required to attend all Town Hall Meetings.

#### (g) Proxy Regulations

- (a) Proxy must be approved by the President, Prime Minister, At-Large Rep or related Vice-President prior to a meeting.
- (b) Proxy shall be a McMurtry member not in a voting position.
- (c) A McMinistry member may designate a proxy no more than three times during the academic year.
- (d) Proxy member should be briefed prior on pertinent issues prior to the Meetings.

#### (h) Absences

- (a) If a McMinistry member is absent, without proxy, more than three times, the voting members may relieve the member from his or her position. The position shall be filled in accordance with the vacancy section in Article III of the Constitution.

## (i) Minutes

- (a) The Secretary shall record accurate minutes and keep a record of attendance.

## Section 5.02 Voting

- (a) All McMinistry votes shall be conducted publicly.
- (b) Any voting member can call a vote.
- (c) In the case of a tie, the President shall act as tiebreaker.
- (d) For any vote, a voting member reserves the right to request that the Parliamentarian conduct a roll call vote in which no voting member may abstain from voting. The roll call vote would supersede the previous vote.

## Section 5.03 Executive Council Meetings

- (a) EC meetings shall be held weekly
- (b) The President may invite Magisters, RAs, Members of the College, or any other relevant persons.
- (c) An EC member must inform the President prior to an absence.

## Section 5.04 People's Council Meetings

- (a) PC meetings shall be held every other week.
- (b) The At-Large Rep and the President shall set the agenda.
- (c) Voting items shall be brought up at a PC meeting in advance of a Town Hall vote.

## Section 5.05 Public Space Reservations

- (a) Reservations for the Commons and the Quad as well as recurring reservations for all McMurtry public spaces shall be brought to the secretaries and will require a majority vote of the EC to gain approval.

## Article VI. Fiscal Responsibilities and Establishment

## Section 6.01 Budget Procedures

- (a) The McMinistry is responsible for ratifying Fall and Spring Semester budgets with consideration of the members of the College.
- (b) President and Treasurer(s) will prepare the budget for discussion and ratification by the College population via a simple majority vote by the voting members of the McMinistry.
- (c) The Fall Midterm Budget Review shall be executed according to the following timeline:
  1. The review shall be held no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the Fall Semester.
  2. The Review shall be conducted by the EC. If changes to the budget are recommended, they must be passed by a majority vote of the EC and PC.
  3. Budgets for the following Spring Semester shall be submitted no later than the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the Fall Semester.
- (d) The Spring Midterm Budget Review shall be executed according to the following timeline:
  1. The Review shall be held no later than the 8<sup>th</sup> week of the Spring Semester.
  2. The Review shall occur before the official EC changeover during Spring Semester.
  3. The Review shall be conducted by the EC. If changes to the budget are recommended, they must be passed by a majority vote of the EC and PC.
  4. Budgets for the following Fall Semester shall be submitted by the 10<sup>th</sup> week of the Spring Semester.
- (e) Budgets shall be presented to the EC and PC at least one week prior to voting.
- (f) Budgets shall be presented at town hall 1-2 weeks after they have been submitted.

- (g) Committee budgets are reset at the end of each semester.
- (h) If a committee or McMinistry member negligently exceeds an allotted budget, the voting members of the McMinistry shall elect an advisor from the McMinistry to oversee the rehabilitation of funds. During this time, the committee or McMinistry member shall have no access to McMurtry funds. After this occurs, the voting members of the McMinistry shall elect to retain or relieve the member in question.
- (i) Calendaring for the next semester shall occur no later than dead days.

#### Section 6.02 College Initiatives Fund

- (a) The initiative fund shall support innovative and beneficial improvements to the college.
- (b) Funds shall be allocated to the initiatives fund each year.
- (c) Requests should be proposed by any member of the college more than one week prior to public vote at Town Hall, and will require a simple majority of voting members of the McMinistry to approve funds.
  - (a) Presentation must be made at the PC meeting prior to Town Hall.
  - (b) A written proposal should be made to the President and Parliamentarian for distribution to college members.
  - (c) If a proposal is deemed time-sensitive by the President, he or she reserves the right to expedite the request. The President must notify all voting members 24-hours prior to public vote.

#### Section 6.03 Endowment

- (a) The endowment shall be presented with the semester budget, and be managed by the Treasurer(s) and President.

#### Section 6.04 Socio-Economic Inclusivity

- (a) Any funds provided to McMurtry by the Socio-Economic Inclusivity Initiative will be used exclusively for that purpose.
- (b) The EC will set maximum costs for events and Murtchandise at the beginning of the year.
- (c) Events that exceed the set limit must meet EC approval
- (d) Committees that wish to sell Murtchandise items that exceed the limit must get approval from the EC confirming that there are comparable alternatives within the set limit.

## Article VII. Committee Regulations

#### Section 7.01 Standing Committees

- (a) Alumni: Shall be responsible for updating the alumni on pertinent College news, and inviting them to important College events.
- (b) Amenities: Shall be responsible for the improvement and upkeep of public spaces throughout the College
- (c) Arts: facilitate the creativity of students at McMurtry.
- (d) Associates: Shall serve as liaisons between the College's students and associates, and help coordinate events to facilitate relationships between the two parties. Shall work closely with the Magisters.
- (e) Awards: Shall form in the spring under presidential oversight to bestow both campus wide and McMurtry awards upon students who go above and beyond.
- (f) Beer Bike: Shall organize McMurtry events surrounding Willy Week and Beer Bike, coordinating with campus-wide entities.
- (g) Cultural: Shall engage students in the diversity of the Houston community and the world. Shall facilitate opportunities for events and shows in Houston.
- (h) Environmental: Shall recommend and execute projects that protect the environment.
- (i) Murtchandise: Shall manage and obtain McMurtry paraphernalia.

- (j) Shall form in the fall to organize McScottish night as well as plan events leading up to this celebration of McMurtry spirit.
- (k) Seniors: Shall plan and host events for the Senior class.
- (l) Service: Shall encourage and organize student engagement in the community.
- (m) External Socials: Shall host events that foster inter-College spirit. Shall manage public parties, college nights, and North college block parties.
- (n) Internal Socials: Shall host events that foster McMurtry spirit and camaraderie.
- (o) Sports: Shall serve as liaisons between the College and Rice Intramural Sports. Shall promote participation in both college and intramural sports.
- (n) Varsity Sports Liaisons: Shall be responsible for promoting Rice University varsity athletics at the College.

#### Section 7.02 Ad-Hoc Committees

- (a) May be created and managed by the President as he or she sees fit.
- (b) Ad-hoc Committee Heads shall be appointed by the President.
- (c) All funding for Ad-Hoc Committees shall be gained through initiative-based funding or appropriated by the budget.

#### Section 7.03 Committee Oversight

- (a) Budget Oversight
  - (a) Committee Heads shall check in with their Overseer on a monthly basis.
  - (b) Requests for the purchasing card requires approval from Committee Overseer prior to checking out.
  - (c) Itemized receipts MUST be returned with the purchasing card within 24 hours of purchases.
- (b) General Oversight
  - (a) The Prime Minister, Internal Vice President, and External Vice President shall be responsible for overseeing committees as defined in the Constitution.
  - (b) The Overseers shall be responsible for checking in with each committee at least once a month.
  - (c) The Overseers shall be responsible for advising committee programs and initiatives.

### Article VIII. New Student Orientation (O-Week)

#### Section 8.01 Appointment of New Student Orientation Coordinators

- (a) O-Week Coordinators shall consist of rising Juniors and Seniors and shall represent a diversity of interests at the College.
- (b) Selection will occur prior to Winter Break of the year preceding O-Week.
- (c) O-Week Coordinators shall be selected by a committee of the College Magisters, RAs, College Coordinator, previous O-Week Coordinators, and President.
- (d) Coordinators are expected to regularly report to the McMurtry Magisters and President.

#### Section 8.02 Responsibilities

- (a) The O-Week Coordinators shall be responsible for planning and executing O-Week. They shall select advisors and co-advisors at their discretion, with input from the Magisters.

#### Section 8.03 The President and Chief Justice must be on campus during O-Week.

### Article IX. Associated Members

#### Section 9.01 Selection of Non-Resident Associates

- (a) Potential Non-Resident Associates may be recommended to the McMurtry Associates Committee, by any member of the College.
- (b) Non-Resident Associates are appointed by the Magisters in consultation with the McMurtry Associates Committee.

**Section 9.02 Selection of Resident Associates**

- (a) The President shall work with the Magisters to form a Resident Associate Selection Committee which will consist of both students across all classes and representatives from the current adult leadership (RA, Coordinator, Magisters, or Associates) from McMurtry or, if necessary, from other colleges.
- (b) The outgoing RA shall serve as consultant to the committee and to the candidates.
- (c) The committee shall submit recommendations to the Magisters.
- (d) The Magisters shall make final recommendations to the Dean of Undergraduates Office.

**Section 9.03 Selection of the Magisters**

- (a) The President shall work with the Magisters to form a Magister Selection Committee, which will consist of both students across all classes and representatives from the current adult leadership (RA, Coordinator, or Associates) from McMurtry or from other colleges.
- (b) The McMurtry President is an ex officio (voting) member of the committee.
- (c) The outgoing Magisters shall serve as consultants to the committee and to the candidates.

**Article X. Robert's Rules of Order**

**Section 10.01** All procedure not described in the Constitution or By-Laws shall follow the most recent edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*.



