Article 1: Name
This organization will be named The SLAMechanics.

Article 2: Purpose
The SLAMechanics exist to engender the art of slam poetry, spoken word, and the free expression included therein. Our most common activities will be the organization and management of poetry slams at Hendrix, the various travels of the Slam team, and writing workshops as well as guest poet performances.

Article 3: Membership
All present students of Hendrix College are eligible to be members of The SLAMechanics. In order to join, an applicant need not write or perform slam poetry but must demonstrate an interest in and consistent dedication to slam at Hendrix. Core group members who wish to perform must both write their own pieces, attend at least two slams and one workshop, and are subject to approval by the co-founders/officers of The SLAMechanics by general consensus. Unless valid reason, excluding personal dislike, is provided by another member of the organization, any applicant will be admitted as a member.

Members of The SLAMechanics who have ranked in the top two of any on-campus competition have a right to accommodation, if desired, on any trip taken by the Slam Team excluding the ACUI Regional and National tournaments.

Article 4: Team Captain/Officers
A team captain will be elected by general consensus following the first semester of The SLAMechanics. Those eligible for election will be the four top-placing members from on-campus competitions. The officer positions will be decided upon after the 2011 fall semester, and elections will be held soon thereafter.

Article 5: Finances
Funding for The SLAMechanics will be obtained, whenever possible, directly from Hendrix, which is to say from the Odyssey Foundation, the Murphy Program, and the Student Activities Office. The co-founders will be primarily responsible for the solicitation of funds from Hendrix as well as outside sources and will have final authority over the usage of that money by the Slam Team or any other members of The SLAMechanics. This does not

include individual prizes won by members of The SLAMechanics when competing.

At least one of the co-founders must provide documentation of how any The SLAMechanics money is spent and make that documentation available to any member of The SLAMechanics who requests it. In order to overrule a spending decision made by the co-founders, there must be a majority vote by the members of The SLAMechanics.

Article 6: Amendments

Any member of The SLAMechanics has the right to propose an amendment to this constitution. Any amendments must be proposed at a meeting, and no one may limit the debate over an amendment. Voting on an amendment may not take place at the same meeting at which the amendment is proposed, nor for 24 hours after that meeting ends.

In order for an amendment to pass, it must have the support of over 2/3 of the members of The SLAMechanics. In this case the co-founders are each considered equal voting members with the rest of the organization. If an amendment passes, it must be agreed to by the advisor of The SLAMechanics and then written into the Constitution immediately.

Article 7: Slam Rules

The following are the rules under which on-campus slams must be conducted.

Any member of The SLAMechanics who has properly reserved a position within said slam is welcome to perform. To reserve a position a member needs to be within the first ten people to request a performance slot and is required to attend the workshop proceeding said slam. In order to uphold equal opportunity for all members to compete, the co-founders will send out an email after each workshop, to which every member will have 24 hours to respond. The first ten members to reply will thereby reserve their spots for the upcoming slam only.

Each slam consists of three rounds, in which each poet will perform once, giving a total of three pieces per poet. The pieces have no minimum length but may not exceed 3 minutes in length. After the three minutes has passed, the poet will be penalized .5 (1/2) points for every ten seconds overtime, starting at 3 minutes, ten seconds. All pieces performed must be the original work of the performer. No cover pieces or borrowing is allowed.

The poems will be scored by five judges, all of whom will be selected randomly from the audience. Whenever possible, the judges will not be connected to the performers in any way. The judges will score each poem on a scale of 0.0 to 10.0 (with the decimal point used to avoid ties), and the lowest and highest scores will be disregarded for a perfect possible score of 30.0.

The order of performances will be determined randomly at the beginning of the first and second rounds. If any poet has not performed at a poetry slam before, he or she may not be the first to perform. If a poet was the last poet to perform in the first round, he or she may not be the first to perform in the second round, ect.

Final scores will be determined by adding both of a poet's scores from all rounds. Ties will be resolved by audience applause.

Current members: Maria Ims, Caiti Rolfes-Haase

Faculty advisor: Shin Yu Pai

Founders: _____   _____

Advisor: _____