



Constitution

Article I: Concerning the Title

The title of our organisation shall be the Hendrix Tea Society. Within this constitution, the Hendrix Tea Society shall be referred to simply as the Society.

Article II: Concerning Purpose

The purpose of the Society is to act as a semi-formal social entity that explores culture of tea, the influences that have propagated tea in modern culture, and to provide a calm, leisurely environment for refined socialisation. The organisation exists for the benefit of the Hendrix community, which includes students, **faculty**, staff, and alumni.

Article III: Concerning Membership

Any member of the Hendrix community is eligible to become a member of the Society. Membership will consist of non-voting members known as attendees who have attended less than two consecutive meetings, voting members who have attended two or more consecutive meetings and Ministers who have been elected by the voting members. Attendance from the previous semester will be applicable when determining voting eligibility during the first meeting of a new semester. The only qualification to remain in good standing is that members abide by the policies laid out in the Student Handbook. A serious violation of these policies would result in expulsion from the Society.

Article IV: Concerning Officers

The distribution of offices in the Society, collectively referred to as the Ministry, shall be as follows:

- The Speaker of the Ministry, who facilitates meetings, oversees the Ministry and its documents¹, represents the Society, and acts as the liaison between the Society members and the Ministry as well as the Society and the school administration.
- Deputy Speaker of the Ministry, who assists the Speaker of the Ministry in his or her responsibilities, facilitates the creation of committees and fills any temporary vacancy within the Ministry until a replacement is elected.
- Minister of the Hours, who chronicles the Society's meetings, records Society membership, and ensures that all of this information is shared with the Speaker of the Ministry.
- Minister of Affairs, who is responsible for documenting and publicising the activities of the Society both within the Society and to the greater Hendrix community², for ensuring

¹ Documents defined as official Society records, such as minutes, publications, photographs, attendance records, etc.

² In the form of photography, journalistic articles, posters and publicity.

that all plans for such publications are first approved by the Ministry, and for informing Society members of upcoming meetings and functions.

- Minister of the Treasury, who is responsible for managing the finances of the Society through management of budgets, drafting of proposals, oversight of the collection of funds, and also for ensuring that all such information is shared explicitly with the Speaker of the Ministry.
- New Student Ambassador, who shall represent the first year population within the Society's members, convey their concerns to the Ministry, **and will be responsible for the administration of one recreational meeting a semester.**

The Ministry shall operate under the supervision of the Society's faculty advisor, referred to within this document as the Consul.

Article V: Concerning the Election of Officers

To be eligible to hold a position within the Ministry, one must be a Hendrix student and a voting member of the Society³. The officers will be elected by paper ballot at the beginning of the spring semester of each year. Nominations may be submitted by any voting member (including the candidate themselves), and will take place at the same meeting as the election to office.

They will be elected by absolute majority (being more than fifty percent of the vote), whereby each voting member will list their preferences and if an absolute majority is not obtained, then the votes of the lowest-ranking candidate shall be divided among the other candidates according to the voters' preference. If an absolute majority is *still* unattained, then the votes of the second lowest candidate shall be distributed, and so on. The Speaker of the Ministry will oversee this process.

The term of office shall last for one year, with a transition period of two weeks between the election of the new Ministers and the cessation of existing power, in which the retiring Ministers and Ministers-elect shall aid one another in the administration of the Society. In the event of a vacancy, a special election overseen by the Speaker of the Ministry, or, in the Speaker of the Ministry's absence, the Deputy Speaker of the Ministry, shall be held.

Should a Minister fall short in his or her duties, there are two methods by which he or she may be removed from his or her office: firstly a unanimous decision of the other Ministers and secondly by a two thirds majority among the voting members, including the other Ministers. An absence from **three consecutive meetings** shall result in automatic abdication of that Minister's office.

Article VI: Concerning Meetings

Meetings shall be defined as any gathering of current and prospective Society members with at least ~~five~~ **four** Ministers, where as functions shall be defined as any event hosted by the Society and open to the general Hendrix community.

Meetings will be held on a bi-weekly basis whenever possible, with no less than two meetings per month. Meetings shall be opened and facilitated by the Speaker of the Ministry. The Minister of affairs must notify attendees and voting members of upcoming meetings at least twenty-four hours beforehand.

³ Except for the New Student Ambassador, who may be nominated while still a non-voting memeber.

It is strongly suggested that members dress neatly when attending Society meetings. Uncouth attire may result in firm reiterations of this policy.

Matters of administration and planning must be dealt with during ~~administrative~~ **planning** meetings, and may not be addressed during recreational meetings. During administrative meetings, voting members of the Society may vote on any motion that has been seconded, except for the Speaker of the Ministry, who will cast his or her vote only if required to break a deadlock. The motion shall only be approved if it receives an absolute majority of the votes cast. There must be at least four voting Ministers and the Speaker of the Ministry present for any vote to be considered valid. Each voting member is entitled to one vote.

Article VII: Concerning Finances

The Minister of the Treasury is responsible for all matters of finance within the Society. Funds will be raised through donations, budget proposals to the Student Senate, SIP grants, and Society-initiated fundraisers. The Society will spend money according to a budget agreed upon by the Ministry, concerning the purchase of necessary provisions such as tea, tableware, and anything else deemed appropriate. There will be no mandatory dues.

Article VIII: Concerning Amendments to the Constitution

An amendment to the constitution may be proposed by any voting member of the society at any administrative meeting. Such an amendment must be voted upon within a month after its proposal and must receive an absolute majority of votes among the Ministry, then be approved by the Consul before it is considered ratified. In the event that an amendment does not receive an absolute majority of votes among the Ministry but the voting members still feel it is necessary, then a unanimous vote among the non-ministerial voting members will override the Ministry's decision.

Article IX: Concerning Committees

~~Both Standing and temporary~~ committees will be established by a vote of an absolute majority amongst the Ministry, **and temporary committees will be created at the discretion of the Deputy Speaker of the Ministry, who will inform the Ministry of their creation at the next meeting of the Society.** In instances where the purpose of the committee being created directly corresponds to a certain Minister's responsibilities, that Minister shall head that committee. Should there be no clear committee head, the position will be **appointed by the Deputy Speaker of the Ministry.** The head of a committee shall then appoint committee members, though appointees have the right to refuse their appointment. It shall be the duty of the Deputy Speaker of the Ministry to oversee this process.

Article X: Concerning the Founding

Anyone who attends the first meeting of the Society will be considered a voting member and will be able to vote upon, and run for ministerial office. After the conclusion of this meeting this article will be obsolete and therefore permanently nullified.