

The Constitution of the Communications Residential College (CRC)

(Last Amended October 2nd, 2022)

Preamble

We live in an age of information. Communication, the means by which information is exchanged, fundamentally influences the life of every human being. The Communications Residential College exists to foster an environment promoting the study and collective understanding of communication in all its myriad forms, be it words, images, or sound. To aid in the acquisition of this knowledge, to create community promoting that end, and to advance the abilities of future creators and communicators of information, We, the Communications Residential College, hereby adopt through our General Assembly this Constitution for the government of our community.

Article I: The College

SECTION I. College Name and Mission

The name of the East Fairchild Residential College shall be the Communications Residential College (CRC). Its focus shall be the study of all aspects of communication in society, with an emphasis on creative expression through film, music, print and broadcast mass media, and information technology.

SECTION II. Membership of the College

- A. Membership shall include all students assigned living space in CRC by the Office of Undergraduate Residential Life, with the exception of the Residential Assistants and the Residence Hall Coordinator.
- B. Membership shall also include those students not living in CRC who have been accepted as nonresident members by a majority of the CRC Executive Board. Acceptance shall require a non-resident membership fee established by the Vice President in conjunction with the CRC Executive Board.
- C. Membership shall also include CRC's Faculty Chair, Associate Chair and Assistant Chairs.
 - a. The Faculty Chair, who shall: (a) be appointed by the provost after recommendation by the College government through a Faculty Chair Search Committee; (b) fulfill but not be limited to the duties and responsibilities of:
 - i. Representing the College to the university administration, the housing authority and the university at large;
 - ii. Overseeing housing matters, faculty fellow relations, and the use of funds provided by the provost;
 - iii. Advising the College government;
 - iv. Actively fostering a feeling of community within the College.
 - b. The Associate Chair, who shall: (a) be appointed by the provost after recommendation by the Faculty Chair, who must first consult the College government; (b) assume the responsibilities of the Faculty as necessitated by given circumstances; (c) coordinate activities between the student membership and the faculty fellows.

- c. The Assistant Chairs), who shall: (a) be appointed by the provost after recommendation by the Faculty, who must first consult the College government; (b) assist in the administration of the provost's funds in the areas of academic programming and equipment rooms.
- D. College residents, non-resident members and Faculty staff members shall be known as enfranchised (voting) members of the College. Residential Life staff members (RAs and RHC) and faculty fellows shall be granted enfranchised membership to the College.

Article II: Governing Chairs

SECTION I: The Executive Board

- A. Offices in the order of succession:
 - a. The President, who shall: (a) be chief executive of the College; (b) preside over the Executive Board and All-College meetings; (c) serve as a liaison between the College and the Faculty's Office, the Residential Assistants, and the Office of Residential Colleges; (d) represent the College on the Residential College Board; (e) represent the College in university functions; (f) oversee College activities and ensure that officers fulfill their responsibilities to the College; (g) organize all elections of the Executive Board officers and appointments of Special Committee Chairpersons; (h) perform any miscellaneous tasks that they deem necessary for the good of the College; (i) call All-College, Executive Board or Special Committee meetings at their own discretion.
 - b. The Vice President, who shall: (a) temporarily serve as President in the absence of the President; (b) maintain records of the College members' points for the housing eligibility system and inform the members about the points system and housing procedures; (d) administer the College housing lottery and coordinate housing assignments, assisted by the assistant Faculty and former vice president, in conjunction with the Office of Undergraduate Housing as covered in Article IV, Section II; (e) update points frequently and notify residents bimonthly via listserv; (f) record attendance at All-College meetings; (g) head planning for Wildcat Welcome endeavors when a Special Chair(s) is not elected for such; (h) approving and overseeing Recog events.
 - c. The Treasurer, who shall: (a) temporarily serve as President in the absence of both the President and the Vice President; (b) submit a quarterly budget to the Executive Board for approval within a week of collecting budget requisitions from committees that receive funds from SOFO; (c) maintain the accounts, receiving and disbursing of funds at the direction of the Executive Board, according to university procedures; (d) not hold a Special Chair which receives funding from SOFO.
 - d. The Secretary, who shall: (a) record the minutes of Executive Board meetings and All-College meetings and post them within 48 hours of these proceedings; (b) provide and update a monthly calendar of College events; (c) assume social media responsibilities if a Special Chair(s) is not appointed.
 - e. The Academic Chairperson, who shall (a) organize and publicize firesides, "Fellows Lunches," and other academic activities that engage Residential College Fellows; (b) aid in the recruitment and dismissal of faculty associates in conjunction with the Faculty and the Executive Board; (c) provide the secretary with updates for faculty as needed for the newsletter

- f. The Tech Chairperson, who shall: (a) publish, with the approval of the Executive Board, its equipment policies and procedures each year, with quarterly updates; (b) post those policies in the rooms that feature applicable equipment, as well as in the monitor's office; (c) be in charge of general upkeep and supervision of the College's equipment and equipment rooms; (d) be responsible for training enfranchised members to use the equipment in the equipment rooms, and keep record of the members who have been trained.
- g. The Social Chairperson(s), who shall: (a) plan a social event for the College at least once every week, with a minimum of nine per quarter; (b) plan major or traditional events such as formals or Panquake if a Special C
- h. The Philanthropy Chairperson, who shall: (a) organize and/or publicize philanthropic activities and opportunities both on and off campus, as well as one major philanthropy event per quarter; (b) organize Assassin (c) take responsibility for Radiothon- preferably held in the fall quarter- if no RadiothonChair is elected.

B. Office Limitations

- a. Only undergraduate, enfranchised members may hold office on the Executive Board.
- b. Non-Resident members may not hold the office of President, Vice President, Tech Chairperson or Treasurer.
- c. No person may hold more than one office simultaneously.
- d. Two members may jointly hold the positions of only the Social and Tech chairs.
- e. If any Executive Board position is jointly held, Each member will have a vote on the Executive Board
- f. If any co-chair of a jointly-held position resigns, the remaining co-chair continues their duties with permission of the Executive Board. A special election may be called at the discretion of the Executive Board to replace the co-chair.
- g. If the Executive Board does not grant permission, the office is vacated pending a special election.

C. The Executive Board is empowered to:

- a. Collect and establish itself as a Board, holding extra meetings to do so if necessary.
- b. Recognize and structure new committees and oversee their productivity.
- c. Appoint Special Committee chairpersons by a majority vote.
- d. Propose changes in the Constitution and/or published policies to the College membership.

D. All Executive Board decisions shall be determined through a vote. A simple majority of enfranchised Executive Board members voting is necessary for a binding vote.

- a. A simple majority is defined as 50 percent plus one of the votes cast by enfranchised members;
- b. A quorum of the Executive Board is defined as a simple majority of its voting members. If quorum is not present at a given Executive Board meeting, voting cannot occur, and any vote taken will be considered non-binding, null and void.
- c. Any board member who will miss an All-College or Executive Board meeting must notify the President 24 hours prior to the meeting. The President can pardon an absence by their discretion.
 - i. If a board member is to retain three unexcused absences from any All-College or Executive Board meeting will be subject to review of their duties, with the possibility of being expelled from their position.

SECTION II: Special Chairs

A. The following are the standing Special Chairs:

- a. The William G. Arnold Memorial Fund/Radiothon Chair, who shall: (a) be shared by up to four College members; (b) organize and run Radiothon; and (c) work with the Treasurer to donate money to the American Heart Association via the William G. Arnold Fund.
- b. The Dance Marathon Chair, who shall: (a) serve as the liaison between CRC and Dance Marathon; (b) promote DM and encourage CRC residents to participate in the event; (c) coordinate the fundraising efforts of CRC dancers; and (d) keep the College apprised of DM events on campus; (e) be held by up to 3 people, one of which is a CRC alumnus.
- c. The Wildcat Welcome Chair, which shall: (a) be shared by up to four College members; (b) work with the Executive Board to plan College events and activities for next academic year's New Student Week; (c) be appointed by the Executive Board with a majority vote by at least three weeks before the end of Spring Quarter; and (d) exist only until all of the specific duties of the Chairs) are completed in the Fall quarter.
- d. The Social Media Chair, who shall: (a) administer the College website, which must contain a copy of the CRC Constitution, the College listserv, and any other qualifications as specified by the Residential College Board Constitution; (b) run the College Instagram account. If this chair is unfulfilled, the responsibilities transfer to the Secretary
- e. The Intramurals Chair, who shall: (a) form teams of College members to participate in the Northwestern intramural leagues; and (b) coordinate practices for those teams.
- f. The Green/Environmental Chair, who shall: (a) organize CRC's efforts in recycling and maintaining an environmentally friendly presence on campus; (b) organizing relevant events and efforts during Green Week; and (c) represent CRC to any campus wide organization that deals with environmental policy. If this chair is unfulfilled, the responsibilities transfer to the Philanthropy Chair
- g. The Panquake Chair, which shall: (a) be held by up to two people; (b) organize and plan Panquake for the next academic year.
- h. The Return to the King Chair, which shall: (a) be held up by up to two people; (b) be appointed by the former Return to the King Chair(s); (c) plan and organize the commercial and execution of Return to the King during Wildcat Welcome.
- i. The Special Events Chair, which shall: (a) perform the duties of Panquake, Return to the King, and/or Dance Marathon Chair in the event that these chairs are unfulfilled; (b) assist the Executive Board with the planning of formal; (c) assist the Social Chair(s) with major events at their discretion.

B. Only undergraduate, enfranchised members may hold a Special Chair. The Executive Board shall choose Special Chairs by a majority vote. Each Chair shall be self-governing and responsible to the Executive Board. Each Chairperson shall report their progress to the Executive Board, and shall hold his/her Chair from the Fall Quarter of the year they are chosen through the Spring Quarter of the following year.

- C. Other Representatives or Chairs shall be appointed by the President or the Executive Board as is deemed necessary.
- D. If vacancies in Special Chair positions remain at the start of the Fall Quarter in the following year, the President must delegate these responsibilities to himself and the members of the Executive Board.

Article III: College Meetings and Legislation

SECTION I. Meetings

- A. Access of meetings is restricted on the grounds of the intended audience.
 - a. Any meeting of the entire college (All-College) is open to all enfranchised or disenfranchised members of the College and its community.
 - b. Meetings of the Executive Board are restricted to the members of the board and the Residential Assistants.
 - i. Certain members of the college can attend Executive Board meetings at the request or permission of the Board.
 - ii. Evaluation sessions for prospective non-resident members of the college will typically happen during Executive Board meetings.
- B. Call for All-College Meetings
 - a. All-College Meetings will happen no less than six times per quarter to appease the "attendance" points requirement stipulated in Article IV.
 - i. They may be called by a majority of the Executive Board, the Faculty, or a simple majority (one half plus one) of the enfranchised members of the college by petition b. All regular All-College meetings should occur at a fixed time specified by the Executive Board.
 - ii. "Special" or "emergency" All-College meetings that cannot wait for the next scheduled meeting are exempt from time limitations.
 - iii. Executive Board meetings may be called by the President, by a majority of the Executive Board, or by the Faculty.
- C. If, in an All-College Meeting, there is a written or oral presentation of legislation, a vote will be taken in the following manner:
 - a. The meeting shall be chaired by the highest elected official who is not running for office in accordance with Article III, Section III.
 - b. The chairperson may limit debate.
 - c. Ballots shall be collected by the Assistant Chair at a time announced during the meeting in which the legislation is presented. Residents shall also be notified over the dorm listserv.
 - d. The Assistant Chair shall notify all members of the college of the outcome of the vote.

SECTION II. Legislation

- A. The College recognizes two forms of legislation: The Constitution and published policies.

- a. The Constitution: (a) The Constitution or any revision of the complete document must be ratified by 70 enfranchised members; (b) Amendments may be proposed by the Executive Board or by petition of a simple majority of all members.
- b. Published policies are adopted by the Tech Chair in conjunction with the Assistant Faculty, and deal with the various facilities in the dorm.

B. Funding Responsibilities

- a. Money received from the social and maintenance funds are allocated through the budgeting process of the Executive Board; the policies of the Executive Board are executed by the Treasurer in accordance with University regulations.
- b. Money received through the Office of the Provost are allocated for the academic programming of the College by the Faculty who will be advised by the membership.
- c. Money received through the Non-Resident and other fees will be divided between the Social and Equipment Committee budgets.
- d. Money raised by the William G. Arnold Memorial Fund Committee shall be put into the CUFS account designated for such money, or an equivalent method approved by the Faculty and Assistant Chairs. Spending of this money shall be restricted to donations to organizations benefiting the American Heart Association. Money allocations must be approved by the Executive Board. Further, approval must be communicated in writing to the Coordinator for the Residential Colleges, signed by the President and Vice President of the Executive Board, and the student coordinator for the William G. Arnold Memorial Fund. An extended description of these rules may be provided by the Coordinator for the Residential Colleges, and any changes must be approved specifically by him or her.
- e. Money received through sales and other promotions will be administered either by the Executive Board (for social, maintenance or equipment needs) or by the Faculty (for academic needs) as determined prior to the sales or promotional event.

C. Additional Legislative Actions

- a. Executive Board actions may be vetoed by a two-thirds decision of all enfranchised members as presented in the form of a petition or at an All-College meeting, duly called for, advertised, and conducted by one of the parties petitioning for the veto.
- b. The Faculty is empowered to veto legislation when it requires appropriations from the Faculty's budget.

SECTION III. Rules for Elections and Referenda

- A. All-College elections for the Executive Board shall be held in accordance with the timetable stipulated in part C. One-year terms for all positions shall begin on the first day of Spring Quarter and end on the last day of Winter Quarter of the following academic year.
- B. Enfranchised members may cast a vote for a write-in candidate on the first ballot. Candidates may not be written in during a run-off election. If a write-in candidate from the first election collects the necessary votes, they can be a part of the run-off.

C. Executive Board Election Timetable

- a. Elections and referenda must be announced at least one week in advance.
- b. Election sign-ups and Elections must take place during Winter quarter.
- c. All sign-ups for Executive Board positions shall be opened in accordance with the wishes of the Residential College Board.
- d. Sign-up for Head Exec (President, Vice President and Treasurer) shall close thirty minutes before an All-College meeting of the latter half of the quarter. The debate between Presidential candidates shall take place during an All-College meeting during the latter half of the quarter.
- e. Voting for Head Exec will take place during the latter half of the quarter.
 - i. Any Presidential candidates who are not elected may sign up to run for other positions on the Executive Board.
- f. Sign-ups for all other positions on the Executive Board shall close thirty minutes before the following All-College meeting. Debates between candidates for those positions will take place during the following All-College meeting.
- g. Voting for all other Executive Board positions shall take place during the following week.

D. Voting and Voting Times

- a. All enfranchised members may vote in All-College elections or on referenda brought to an All-College vote.
- b. The Executive Board shall determine when an All-College vote will occur.
- c. A simple majority of enfranchised members voting is necessary for a binding vote: (a) A simple majority is defined as 50 percent plus one of the votes cast by enfranchised members; (b) In elections for offices, the lack of a simple majority vote for any one candidate shall result in a runoff election between the top two contenders.
- d. Voting for Executive Board positions shall take place within 72 hours of debates for respective positions. Run-off elections shall take place 48 hours after the first round of elections.
- e. The election can be held and judged by the administration of an online ballot, which must remain open for 72 hours. Other forms of voting can be used with the majority approval of the Executive Board, as well as the Faculty Chair.
- f. The actual number of votes shall not be posted but candidates may request to see them.
- g. If a dispute or problem arises concerning the election, it must be presented to the Faculty or Assistant Chair, who may decide whether or not to nullify the elections
- h. Any election procedures that are not addressed by the Constitution or by University procedures shall be determined by the Executive Board.
- i. Campaigns shall be paid for by the candidate.
- j. Campaign posters and fliers can be used by candidates only in areas approved by the Residential Director of the building.

SECTION IV. Recall of Officers and Vacancy of an Office

A. Removal of an Executive Board or Special Committee Chairperson may be requested:

- a. By a simple majority of the Executive Board;
- b. By a petition calling for such action signed by at least one-third of the enfranchised members of the College.
- c. By the President's discretion.

- B. Such a request shall be brought to the Executive Board through the President. If the charge is against the President, the petition shall be submitted to the highest elected official who is not named in the request for removal, and then presented to the Executive Board. The officer in question shall be notified of the request. An Executive Board meeting shall be called within the next three days or at the discretion of the Board.
- C. Recall of the officer shall require the approval of two-thirds of all enfranchised members of the College.
- D. When a vacancy of an office occurs on the Executive Board, the Executive Board may, if necessary, appoint an interim officer. The vacancy shall be filled by a general election within two weeks. If no member runs for this position, the interim officer shall hold the position for the remainder of its term.
- E. When a Special Chairperson leaves office prematurely, the Executive Board must appoint a new chairperson with a majority vote within two weeks. If no member seeks appointment to the position, all activities of that position will stop until a new chairperson is appointed.
- F. A current Executive Board member or Special Chairperson who would like to assume a vacant position may run for it; however, they do not have to give up their office until they are elected or appointed to another one. If they are elected to the new office, the Executive Board has two weeks to schedule an election for the position they vacate.

Article IV: Rights and Responsibilities of Members

SECTION I. Rights of Members

- A. All-College members shall have access to all College activities and facilities. However, all or part of this right may be suspended if enacted equipment policies are violated. Flagrant violations not specifically delineated in existing published policies will be subject to penalties determined by the Executive Board.
- B. Enfranchised members have the right to vote in all elections and on all issues presented at All-College meetings.
- C. All enfranchised members have the right to join in petitions for recall, veto and other referenda.

SECTION II. Housing/Living Requirements

- A. In conjunction with the official housing regulations of the University, all resident and non-resident members have the right to request housing in the College for the following year. The Vice President has the responsibility of furnishing the Office of Undergraduate Housing with a list of residents and their room assignments at the time designated by the Office of Undergraduate Housing.

- B. The College shall group each first-year member for Fall and Winter quarters of that year, and each returning member for the previous year into one of two categories: preferred or acceptable.
 - a. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Tech Chairpersons shall be granted preferred housing in the College.
 - b. Preferred members must accumulate 20 points each quarter in the following categories: six attendance points, ten community points (8 must be social, 1 is IM, 2 is academic), and two philanthropy points (at least 1 green).
 - c. Requirements must be met each quarter. Points for preferred status will not be averaged over quarters.
 - d. All residents not meeting the requirements for preferred status will be classified as acceptable.

- C. The College will rate non-resident members similarly, but with the following standards:
 - a. To remain a non-resident member, an individual must accumulate a total of six points each quarter in the following categories: two attendance points, three community points, and one philanthropy point. Requirements must be met each quarter. Points for non-resident eligibility will not be averaged over quarters.
 - b. Non-resident members must fulfill eligibility requirements each quarter. If eligibility requirements are not met, it is at the discretion of the Executive Board and Faculty to revoke nonresident status.
 - c. In matters concerning the In-College housing lottery, a nonresident member is classified as preferred or acceptable according to the same standards applied to current resident members.

- D. Definition of points:
 - a. One attendance point may be earned by attending an All-College meeting.
 - b. One community point may be earned by attending an event sanctioned by the Executive Board as a whole. One point may also be earned by planning or organizing such an event. Only one point per event may be earned.
 - c. One academic point may be earned by attending an event sponsored, organized, or approved by the Academic Chairperson.
 - d. One philanthropy point may be earned by participating in a philanthropic activity sponsored, organized, or approved by the Philanthropy Chairperson and Vice President.
 - e. Philanthropic activities taking places during Winter Break shall count toward Winter Quarter point totals; those during Spring Break shall count toward Spring Quarter point totals. Summer philanthropic events shall not count for points.
 - f. Points may not be earned through donations of money or possessions to a philanthropic enterprise.
 - g. The Vice President shall be responsible for ascertaining attendance at meetings and is the final authority on the awarding of points. The decision of the Vice President can only be overruled by a majority vote of the Executive Board. It is the responsibility of the host to submit attendance sheets to the Vice President.
 - h. Points are finalized for the quarter on the Friday of finals week. Any appeals for points must be brought to the Vice President prior to this date.

SECTION III. The In-College Lottery

- A. Resident and non-resident members who wish to be assigned housing in the College for the following academic year must participate in the College's housing lottery. The lottery shall be administered by the Vice President, with assistance from the assistant Faculty and former Vice President, and consist of a drawing of residents' names to determine priority in the assignment of rooms. This drawing shall be announced and open to all enfranchised members of the College.
- B. The order of room selection shall be based on the order drawn in the In-College lottery, years of membership to the College, and preferred status. The categories, in order of priority, are:
 - a. President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Tech Chair
 - b. Third-year member with 2 preferred quarters
 - c. Second-year member with 2 preferred quarters
 - d. First-year member with 2 preferred quarters
 - e. Third-year member with 1 preferred quarters
 - f. Second-year member with 1 preferred quarters
 - g. First-year member with 1 preferred quarters
 - h. All acceptable members
 - i. Residents of other residential colleges
- C. The Office of Undergraduate Housing is responsible for the assignment of housing to freshman and/or transfer students entering the College.
- D. In the event that more residents wish to be granted housing in the College than there are spaces allotted by the Office of Undergraduate Housing, order in the lottery drawing shall determine who receives housing.
- E. Residents of other residential colleges may be added to the end of the housing lottery if space allows. They need not be CRC nonresidents, nor do they need to have obtained any points in CRC. They will be ranked randomly. They must submit a 100-word explanation of their intention to live in the Communications Residential College to the vice president early in spring quarter, if not before.
- F. The housing lottery and "housing munchies" shall be administered by the Vice President with assistance from the former Vice President and current Assistant Faculty. These three people must attend all housing events, which are to be scheduled at a time convenient for all three. In the event that the former Vice President is unavailable or away from campus, the former President shall provide assistance to the Vice President.

As of the Second of October, in the year Two-Thousand and Twenty-Two, the members of the College vote to ratify this version of the Constitution. This article is signed on the behalf of the enfranchised members by the current members of the Executive Board to proclaim this as our governing body:

Sarah Wachs - *President*

Chloe Morton - *Vice President*

Sadie Fridley - *Treasurer*

Abby Mackenzie - *Secretary*

Adrienne Scheide - *Social Chair*

Henry Patton - *Academic Chair*

Amanda de la Fuente - *Philanthropy Chair*

Nicholas Kapp - *Tech Chair*