THE CONSTITUTION OF THE HONORS COUNCIL
AS AMENDED April 25, 2012

1. Article I: Name
2. The name of this organization shall be the Honors Council (HC).

4. Article II: Objectives
5. The UConn Honors Council (HC) is a leadership community for Honors students within the university. We seek to provide greater opportunities including academic achievement, community outreach, increased cultural awareness, and research opportunities in a welcoming atmosphere. HC is a venue through which students can speak and be heard by the Honors administration and the community as a whole.

7. Article III: Membership & Voter Identification
A. All Honors students are considered members of the Honors Council and are welcome and encouraged to attend meetings as often as possible and to participate actively in the council.
B. All members of the Honors Council are eligible to become voting members. Each voting member may exercise his or her one (1) vote in person. There are two types of voting members:
   1. Automatic Voting Members are members of the Executive Board, as defined in IV
   2. Voluntary Voting Members are any individuals not currently serving on the Executive Board, who meet all the following voting qualifications:
      a. Being a member of the Honors Program;
      b. Registering with the Honors Council in writing at the first opportunity each semester, or having missed that opportunity, at the first meeting attended by that individual. This document is to gather appropriate administrative information about the student (i.e., enrollment in the Honors Program, email and net ID).
      c. Agreeing to attend Honors Council meetings consistently and to undertake responsibility regularly within the body.
C. Voting rights can be suspended for any of the following reasons:
   1. An individual leaves the Honors Program;
   2. An individual misses three (3) consecutive meetings.
D. Voting rights can be reinstated by meeting the following requirement:
   1. The individual must attend two (2) consecutive meetings, and at the second meeting, voting rights will be reinstated.

9. Article IV: Voting Procedures
A. A quorum is defined as the minimum number of Voluntary Voting Members needed to be present in order for a vote to be held; Automatic Voting Members are excluded from the quorum count, but may still vote. A quorum shall exist when at least one third (1/3) of Voluntary Voting Members are present. If the total number of Voluntary Voting Members does not meet fifteen (15), then no fewer than five (5) Voluntary Voting Members shall constitute a quorum.
B. A member of the Honors Council body must motion a vote to be held.
C. All voting members (both Voluntary and Automatic) are entitled to vote on an Issue Vote or they may abstain. There are two types of issue votes: a Two-Option Vote and a Multiple-Option Vote.
1. In the case of a Two-Option Vote, the option that receives a simple majority (50% plus one vote) of votes cast, excluding abstentions, shall prevail. If there is no simple majority, then the vote goes back to the floor for discussion and a second vote.
2. In the case of a Multiple-Option Vote, if a simple majority exists, then the vote carries. If the majority does not exist, then the vote goes back to the floor for discussion. On the second vote, a plurality (the option receiving the most votes) shall prevail.
3. After two (2) votes, if there is no decision made, then it is at the discretion of the Executive Board either to hold a formalized discussion and re-vote or declare the vote failed.
4. In the event of a failed vote, two individuals can be appointed as co-chairs if all parties are amenable to the arrangement. If not, the executive board shall elect one individual by a simple majority vote.

11. Article V: Meetings
A. General meetings are to be held weekly during the fall and spring semesters. Exceptions may be made for days for which the University does not hold classes. If additional meetings are necessary, at any time of year, a motion should be made and a deciding vote cast by the voting members to set a date not otherwise specified by this Constitution. The Executive Board shall meet weekly outside of general meetings, as determined by the Board.
B. Business shall be conducted according to rules established by the Executive Board.

12. Article VI: Elected Offices
A. The Honors Council Executive Board shall consist of the Officers and the Chairs of the Permanent Committees.
B. The Officers shall be the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.
1. The President shall:
   a. Serve as the Honors Council's liaison to the university community, the university administration, and the Honors Program administration.
   b. Oversee the entire Executive Board.
   c. Directly oversee and manage the Officers and Appointed Positions.
   d. Officially present the agenda at all Honors Council meetings.
   e. Have the power to appoint and oversee ad-hoc committees.
2. The Vice President shall:
   a. Chair all Honors Council general meetings and serve as parliamentarian.
   b. Oversee and manage the Committee Chairs.
   c. Assist the President in any of his/her functions.
   d. Take on the President's responsibility in the absence of the President.
3. The Treasurer shall:
   a. Keep accurate and specified records of all Honors Council funds.
   b. Report on the Honors Council’s financial affairs at the discretion of the Executive Board.
   c. Provide, in writing, a budget summary at the last meeting of the semester.
   d. Serve as liaison to the Undergraduate Student Government’s Funding Board and obtain funding from said committee when needed.

4. The Secretary shall:
   a. Keep detailed and accurate minutes of all Honors Council proceedings.
   b. Maintain an active member list and keep attendance records.
   c. Be responsible for excusing absences and notifying the appropriate committee chair of such absences.
   d. Be responsible for all correspondence.
   e. Maintain a current and accurate copy of the Honors Council Constitution.
   f. Know and enforce the stipulations for membership, and be the arbiter in disputes over such matters.
   g. Keep possession of the Honors Council removable hard drive. At the conclusion of each term, he or she shall turn the hard drive over to the newly elected Secretary. If there is no newly elected Secretary at the time, or the secretary cannot be in possession of the hard drive for another circumstance, the President shall maintain possession.

13. Article VII: Permanent Committees
   A. The permanent committees shall work together to achieve the goals of the Honors Council.
   B. Additional permanent committees can be established by amending this Constitution.
   C. Each permanent committee shall be managed and overseen by a Committee Chair, whom shall be elected according to the procedures outlined in Article X.
   D. The permanent committee responsibilities are as follows:
      1. The Social Committee shall:
         a. Be responsible for planning and organizing non-academic social functions.
         b. Work with other committees to supplement academic, community service, or fundraising events with an additional emphasis on community.
      2. The Fundraising Committee shall:
         a. Be responsible for working with all committees to aid in creating sources of income.
         b. Serve an advisory function by helping to determine how resources should be allocated.
      3. The Academic Committee shall:
         a. Work closely with the Honors Program to plan and sponsor events which foster the overall education and edification of students and enhance learning.
         b. Be responsible for addressing academic concerns of an administrative nature.
3. Be responsible for proposing amendments to the constitution every two years, or as deemed necessary by the executive board.

4. The Community Service Committee shall:
   a. Be responsible for sponsoring and developing events which give Honors students the opportunity to give back to the community at large.
   b. Be responsible for fostering a better relationship between the Honors Council and the community at large.

5. The Newsletter Committee shall:
   a. Be responsible for the production and editing of the official Honors Council Newsletter.
   b. Investigate methods to improve and develop the newsletter.
   c. Write and/or request articles, photos, comics, or other materials included in the newsletter.
   d. Produce no less than 3 newsletters per semester, unless budgetary restrictions prevent this action.
   e. Provide the Webmaster with electronic issues so they may be uploaded onto the website.

6. The Public Relations Committee shall:
   a. Be responsible for publicizing Honors Council events.
   b. Maintain an Honors Council web page with the assistance of the Webmaster.
   c. Be responsible for fostering a true and positive image of the Honors Council.

7. The Environmental Committee shall:
   a. Be responsible for organizing environmentally-oriented events and promoting environmentally-conscious practices.
   b. Be responsible for integrating the Honors Council with other environmentally focused organizations and offices on campus.
   c. Work to reduce the environmental impact of the Honors Council as a whole.

15. Article VIII: Appointed Positions

A. Members serving in appointed positions shall not be considered members of the Executive Board. Each appointed individual shall report to the Honors Council and the Executive Board at HC meetings or through correspondence.

B. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint three "Student Representatives to the Board of Associate Directors of the Honors Program" (HBAD).

1. These representatives:
   a. Must be registered voting members of the Honors Council in good standing.
   b. May also serve as an elected officer or committee chair in the Honors Council.
   c. The HBAD representatives must ensure that at least one representative is present at every HBAD meeting.
   d. Hold voting privileges on the HBAD.
e. Shall provide detailed reports to the Honors Council after every HBAD meeting.

C. If an ex officio position on the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) or any other campus organization becomes available, the President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, may appoint an individual to fill the position.

D. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint no more than two voting members to serve as the official Historian(s).
   1. The Historian will:
      a. Attend official Honors Council events to take photographs that will document the event.
      b. Be responsible for designating another member to take photographs at an event if he or she cannot attend.
      c. Upload the photographs onto the official hard drive at least once a month during the Fall and Spring academic semesters.
      d. Email photos to secretary after every event.

E. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint one voting member to serve as the official Webmaster.
   1. The Webmaster will:
      a. Be responsible for maintaining a current Honors Council website including but not limited to:
         i. Uploading recent photos from Honors Council events
         ii. Announcing upcoming events and meetings
         iii. Uploading electronic versions of Honors Council documents such as the newsletter, Constitution, and meeting minutes.
      b. Work with the Secretary to obtain documents and photos from the hard drive for the website.

F. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint no more than two voting members to serve as the official Athletic Coordinator(s)
   1. The Athletic Coordinator(s) will:
      a. Organize and Execute all Athletic Events within Honors Council, both by helping other committees and by conceiving of, and actuating his/her own events
      b. Plan events that are meant to promote participation in all realms of athleticism, including sports, fitness, outdoor activities, and campus wide events.

G. The President, with the advice and consent of the Executive Board, shall appoint no more than two voting members to serve as the official Homecoming Coordinator(s)
   1. The Homecoming Coordinator(s) will:
      a. Be a Liaison between the University wide Homecoming Committee and Honors Council, and represent Honors Council at all University Homecoming meetings
      b. Organize meetings with Honors Council members, as well as interested Honors students, to prepare for as many events where there is interest.

17. Article IX: Election and Replacement of Officers
A. Officers and Committee Chairs must be voting members in good standing with the University of Connecticut. Election of the Officers and Committee Chairs is to be held in the following manner:

1. Eligible students wishing to run for an Officer position (President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary) shall submit a statement of intent including:
   a. A letter of intent to the current Secretary.
   b. A petition to be placed on the ballot having been signed by no fewer than twenty (20) Honors students (signatories must include net ID for verification purposes).

2. Eligible students wishing to run for a Committee Chair position shall submit a letter of intent to the Secretary.

3. All voting members of the University of Connecticut Honors Council are eligible to vote in an election of officers.

4. Ballots will be delivered by at least one of the following methods:
   a. By campus mail.
   b. By electronic mail.
   c. At a balloting station(s)
   d. At a general Honors Council meeting.

5. Votes will be counted by Honors Program Advisor. This process shall be supervised by a graduating senior from the Honors Council or another member not standing for election.

6. Annual elections will be held in the Spring Semester.

7. Results for each election will be announced within five business days through the media, or, if voting is to take place at an Honors Council meeting, at the end of said meeting.
   a. The results of the President, Secretary, and Treasurer election must be available at least three (3) days before the filing deadline for Statements of Intent for the office of Vice President.

8. In the event of a vacancy, the Executive Board must be collectively responsible for:
   a. Performing the duties of the vacant office(s).
   b. Supervising a new election.

9. In the event that a position is vacated at least seven (7) days before the end of the spring semester, after the last general meeting of the Honors Council for that semester has taken place, the vacant position will be publicized and applications will be accepted for a period of three (3) days for that position. The applications will then be posted online for the Honors Council voting members to vote on before the end of the semester. Voting members will have three (3) days to cast their votes and then results will be announced through the media.

10. In the event of a vacant office after the state seven (7) days before the end of the spring semester, officer and committee chair position(s) shall be filled as follows:
    a. At the beginning of the fall semester the position(s) shall be adequately publicized as being vacant and Statements of Intent (see Article IX
subsection b.1 above) must be filed by the deadline established by the
Executive Committee.
b. Elections shall be held at the regularly scheduled Honors Council meeting
during the third week of the fall semester.

11. The term of those elected in April will commence with the close of graduation
ceremonies in May.
12. Each office shall be held by one person with an elected term of one year with
a limit of four terms.
13. If an officer (other than the president (see Article V 2d)) is no longer eligible
to serve (i.e., he or she leaves the University or the Honors Program), or if he
or she resigns his or her position or is removed, the position will be filled as
follows:
a. News of the vacated position will be publicized adequately with an
invitation to all interested and eligible Honors students to apply.
b. A letter of intent must be filed with the secretary. No petition is necessary.
c. The matter of election is to become new business for the first general
Honors Council meeting held thereafter.
d. After a short presentation of the candidate(s) at the general meeting, the
Officers and Voting Members will cast secret ballots. They will elect, by
simple majority, the departed officer's replacement.
e. In such an election, the new officer's term begins with the adjournment of
said general meeting.

18. 19. Article XI: Removal of Officers and Committee Chairs
A. Officers or committee chairs who become ineligible to serve will be removed
automatically from office, without a vote. Ineligibility includes explicitly:
1. Leaving the University of Connecticut.
2. Leaving the Honors Program.
3. Loss of Good Standing in the University.
B. Officers and committee chairs can be removed from office by their fellow Honors
Council members if so necessary. Only if an officer or committee chair is truly a
detriment to the Honors Council should these proceedings take place. The process
for removal is as follows:
1. The subject of removal must be put on the agenda as follows:
a. One or more voting members may sponsor such business to be called
"Motion to Remove Member from Office".
b. To be placed on the agenda, such business must have at least five
signatories (sponsors may also be signatories).
2. Once raised, this issue of the removal of any office holder must be discussed
at said general meeting. The sponsor(s) of the business must make a
presentation to those present (which may or may not include the officer or
committee chair in question, depending on his or her attendance). The
member in question shall have the opportunity to respond to any allegations in
a short rebuttal presentation, if he or she is in attendance. He or she must be
notified of the general meeting's business at least four days prior to the
meeting date in order to allow sufficient preparation time.
3. A vote requiring a two thirds (2/3) majority of a quorum present is required to put the person in question on probation. The member in question may not vote. If it fails, he or she is cleared. If it passes, a period of probation lasting one (1) month will commence. During that time, the member in question must make every effort to display his or her willingness to rectify whatever situation caused the removal proceedings to commence.

4. At the end of the period of probation, a vote requiring a two thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum present, is required to remove the subject in question from office. If it fails, he or she is reinstated and cleared. If it passes, he or she is removed from office.

20.

21. Article XII: Amendments
A. Amendments to this Constitution must be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a quorum present (see Article IV) at a general meeting. The President and the Vice President must be present at a meeting at which an amendment shall come to vote, unless one or both of those officers communicate their absence to the Secretary. A verbatim copy of all proposed amendments as well as a justification for such changes must be transmitted to registered voting members at least three days in advance of the scheduled vote. Members may abstain from voting.
B. Formatting changes to amendments do not require additional votes. For example, the insertion of a new article will automatically change, as necessary, the numbering of subsequent articles.

22.

23. Article XIII: Ratification
24. This Constitution shall become effective immediately upon ratification by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the students present. Any previous Constitutions of the Honors Council (formerly referred to as the "Honors Program Coordinating Council") are void with the ratification of this Constitution.

25.

26. Article XIV: Advising

The Honors Program Director, in consultation with the Executive Board, shall designate an Honors Program Staff Member to serve as Advisor of Honors Council.

The Honors Council Constitution was ratified April 2, 2000.
Amended October 29, 2001; February 18, 2002; February 25, 2002; March 25, 2002; April 15, 2002; April 10, 2005; April 18, 2006; April 30, 2008; November 18, 2009, and April 25, 2012.