

## **Constitution: Caucus, Hindu College**

(Amended as of 20/6/2021 resulting in the rephrasing of Article 1, and the addition of Article III(7) and VIII(5);  
Amended as of 24/02/2023 resulting in the omission of Article VII, insertion of Article XI and Article XII and  
addition of Article V(4))

### **Article I: Society Name**

The name of the society shall be (as has been since 2007) Caucus, Hindu College. Caucus should also be known as “Caucus: The Discussion Forum of Hindu College”

### **Article II: Purpose**

1. Caucus is a student group designed to create a professional culture of discussion, writing, research & model united nations for Hindu College students.
2. Caucus will strive to organise public and private events each year with speakers, experts & working professionals on relevant topics.
3. Caucus will not indulge in professional commitments to policies, individuals, or institutions which display any sort of intolerance towards people because of their caste, class, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or physical disability.

### **Article III: Membership**

1. Application for membership in this society shall be open to all students in good standing currently enrolled in Hindu College, regardless of caste, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, or physical disability.
2. Members must be students of Hindu College or otherwise enrolled in the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi, to study at least one semester in Hindu College.
3. The right to rescind membership is reserved to the core council. If a majority of core council members agree that an individual’s membership should be rescinded on grounds of exceptionally poor performance, violation of the constitution or discriminatory behavior said member will be notified and, as of notification, no longer be part of the Caucus.
4. Membership shall be retained, unless explicitly rescinded by the core council, until the student severs relations with the college whether by graduation or otherwise. Membership will be retained during the vacation and recesses of the college.
5. Members may formally resign by notifying the core council through a written/typed statement.
6. Caucus may host events for non-members.
7. Updated details and terms of membership shall be informed to the staff coordinator.

### **Article IV: Inductions**

1. The process of induction to the society shall be divided into three rounds: (i) application form, (ii) speech round & (iii) personal interview round.
  2. The objective of the application form would be to test the comprehension, knowledge, and imagination of the applicant.
  3. The objective of the speech round would be to test the knowledge, effort, and opinion of the applicant. Applicants must present their views in under 2 minutes on any one of the three predecided topics which shall be revealed to the applicants in advance. The said topics must be of intellectual relevance.

4. The objective of the interview round would be to assess the knowledge, opinion, commitment, ideas, and plans of the applicant. The general tone of the interview shall be informal.
5. Qualification to the next round shall be dependent on the applicant's performance in the previous rounds.
6. Selection to the society shall be based on merit, with due consideration given to the candidates' professional commitments and a noble aspiration to make the society an inclusive space in terms of gender, caste, class, etc.

#### **ARTICLE V: Core Council**

1. The Core Council shall be the primary body responsible for the administration and working of the society. It shall comprise of a Senior and a Junior council. The President and Vice-President shall comprise the Senior Council whereas the Junior Council will have three General Secretaries.
2. The Core Council shall be headed by the President followed by the Vice-President. In absence of the Senior Council, the Junior Council will be deemed as the legitimate authority.
3. The President shall be accountable for society's functioning at all times. The Vice-President shall be second in command. The General Secretaries shall assist the President and look after the day-to-day functioning of the society.
4. In case the Senior Council deems necessary, the President and the Vice-President may jointly propose and appoint a Chief Advisor as a part of the core-council for a period not more than the tenure of the Senior Council itself.
5. A member of the core council shall not be permitted to hold another position of responsibility in any other society or department of Hindu College.

#### **Article VI- Appointment of Core Council**

1. Senior Council (President & Vice President)
  - a. The minimum tenure requirement as a member of the society for eligibility shall be 4 semesters.
  - b. Interested members can only apply to one of the two posts (refer to Annexure).
  - c. Postholders shall be determined by elections held on the "first past the post" model and the principle of "one person, one vote, one value".
  - d. The electorate shall consist of all first-year and second-year members of the society.
2. Junior Council (Three General Secretaries)
  - a. The minimum tenure requirement as a member of the society for eligibility shall be 2 semesters.
  - b. Interested members can only apply to one of the two posts (refer to Annexure).
  - c. Postholders shall be determined by elections held on the "first past the post" model and the principle of "one person, one vote, one value".
  - d. The electorate shall consist of all first-year and second-year members of the society.
3. Polling, if held online, shall be conducted through a google form. To maintain transparency, the staff coordinator shall be given "editor access" to the same.

4. Polling, if held in the physical mode, shall be conducted through ballot paper. To maintain transparency, counting of ballots shall be held by the outgoing council in the presence of the candidates.

5. The President may appoint an election officer from the outgoing third-year batch to assist and oversee the electoral process.

#### **Article VIII- Grievance Redressal**

1. Any kind of discrimination, malicious behaviour on the basis of caste, creed, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, place of birth, or physical disability is prohibited in the bounds of the society.
2. The society shall pursue the establishment of a formal grievance redressal mechanism, with appropriate guidelines and provisions.
3. Until such a mechanism is established, formal/informal complaints can be lodged through the complaint form.
4. Until such a mechanism is devised, in case of a complaint, the view of the core council, after due investigation, shall be final.
5. The core council shall refer the situation to the staff coordinator if need be.

#### **Article IX- Supplementary positions of responsibility**

1. Nothing in this constitution shall prevent the core council from creating new positions of responsibility for efficient management of the society (for example, media manager). However such posts will have no authoritative say in the matters of decision making.
2. Such posts can be quashed if deemed unnecessary/redundant by the core council.

#### **Article X-Amendments**

1. The constitution may be amended by an 80% affirmative vote of the core council.
2. Amendments and changes to the constitution shall be discussed with the society and

in special cases ( to be determined by the core council) must be consulted with senior members (senior-most undergraduate year in the college) of the society.

3. Any member of the core council may propose an amendment. Proposals shall be filed in writing with the President prior to the meeting so that the group may debate the proposal.

#### **Article XI-Honourary Members**

1. In case the Senior Council deems fit, the President and the Vice-President may jointly provide the distinction of being 'Honourary Member' to members as per their discretion.
2. Notwithstanding anything in this Constitution, all 'Honourary Members' shall not have any right to contest or vote under Article VI."
3. No other certificate than that of a 'member' shall be presented to such members.

#### **Article XII-The Probe**

1. The Probe is the magazine published by Caucus.

2. The Editor-in-Chief shall be accountable for the magazine's functioning at all times.
3. There shall be an "Editorial Board" constituted by an empowered committee of three outgoing President and the Vice-President and the Editor-in-Chief of The Probe.
4. The appointment of the Editor-in-Chief shall be based on the recommendation of the empowered committee.
5. The core council shall be a part of the "Editorial Board".
6. The Editor-in-Chief can recommend creation of new positions of responsibility under Article IX to the core council.

## **Annexure**

*Special case 1 - If there are no candidates for the vice presidency:*

In such a case, the candidate receiving the second highest votes in the presidential elections shall be declared the vice president.

*Special case 2 - If there are no contestants for treasurer:*

In such a case, the candidates receiving the highest, second-highest, and third-highest votes shall be declared as Joint Secretaries. Post elections, the entrant core council shall allocate the responsibilities of finance to one of the members of the council, or mutually decide to appoint one of the joint secretaries as the treasurer. However, such an appointment shall mean that the person holding the treasury shall no longer be a joint secretary.

*Special Case 3 - Tie in presidential/ vice-presidential elections*

In such a case, re-elections shall be held and the electorate shall be expanded to include the outgoing senior batch (third years). If the re-elections end in a tie, the outcome shall be determined by the flip of a coin.