# Meeker House Constitution

## Preamble

We, the members of Meeker House do establish and adopt this constitution in order to form an efficient house, ensure equal representation of each resident, and secure an environment that stimulates intellectual, social, recreational integration and interaction. In order to make ours a more efficient organization, this constitution will guide our actions and activities toward our best mutual interests.

## Article 1: Name and Affiliation

The name of the organization shall be Meeker House, hereafter referred to as the House. The House shall be affiliated with The Friley Hall Council (The Senate), IRHA, the Department of Residence, and Iowa State University. At no time shall this constitution or the House make procedures that are contrary to an affiliated organization’s constitution/by-laws or are unsupportive of the Department of Residence Policy Handbook or Terms and Conditions.

The House is also loosely affiliated with the Department of Engineering through a live-in learning community. The House constitution and by-laws need not agree with the constitution, by-laws, or rules of these loosely affiliated organizations.

## Article II: Purpose

**Section A:** It is the purpose of the House and constitution to create an atmosphere of fellowship among the members as well as to help improve the scholarly, social, culture awareness, and personal development of each House member and the House as a unit. The House will provide the members with a positive living environment and studying environment that promotes and recognizes the need of all its members

**Section B:** Meeker House abides by and supports Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws and follows local ordinances and regulations. Meeker House agrees to annually complete President’s Training, Treasurer’s Training and Advisor Training (if required).

## Article III: Membership

Active members: The House shall be composed of all the residents living within the physical limits as defined by the Department of Residence. Active members shall include all residents of the House. Anyone who is a member of the House for any semester or part thereof shall be bound by all sections of this constitution. Iowa State University and Meeker House do not discriminate on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, pregnancy, color, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, age, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information or status as a U.S Veteran.

## Article IV: Advisors

The advisors of the House consist of both the Community Advisor (CA) who lives on the House and the Hall Director (HD) of the building that the House resides in. Although the HD serves as the official advisor to the House, the CA carries out many advisory roles including advising the Cabinet, meeting weekly with the House President, assisting with elections, etc. The HD is responsible for authorizing all purchases of the House through both the Voucher system and the Purchasing Card system.

## Article V: Legislative Body

**Section A: Members**The Legislative Body will be composed of all House members, and hereafter referred to as House members. All members attending an official House meeting supervised by the CA have the right to vote.

**Section B: Procedures**

The House will provide opportunities during regularly scheduled House meetings for new legislation to be brought forward by any member of the House. Legislation may also be submitted to a member of the House Cabinet prior to a House Meeting.

**Section C: House Meetings**

Regularly scheduled meetings will be held at a time and place determined by a majority vote of the House members. Special meetings may be called by the Cabinet or the CA. Notice of all special meetings will be posted at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the meeting, unless a shorter time is approved by the CA. During House meetings, if a member(s) are disrupting to others, he/she/they may be asked to leave by the president, a vice president, or the CA. Disruptive behavior includes but is not limited to interrupting others, having side conversations, or being disrespectful to another member attending the meeting. A member who is asked to leave forfeits his or her right to vote for that meeting.

**Section D: Voting**

The quorum necessary to conduct business at a house meeting shall be 20 members of the current house membership. Members not attending are considered to be abstaining from the vote, unless their vote is submitted in advance to the CA or the president. All house policies and election procedures must have a 60% house participation to be considered valid. During the house meetings, voting will be based on a majority poll. When the issue is brought to question, the voting members will raise their hands for, against, or abstaining from the vote. Non-student members, the CA, and the HD cannot vote. The CA may declare a vote to be invalid if it does not appear to be fair or does not follow this constitution.

## Article VI: House Cabinet

**Section A: Official Members**The House Cabinet will be comprised with a President and Treasurer, at minimum. The House Cabinet is fully comprised of the following offices: President, two Vice Presidents (one male and one female), Treasurer, Secretary, three Social Chairpersons, and Intramural Chairperson. Other positions determined necessary may be created by an 80% majority vote of the cabinet. All Cabinet positions are elected positions and are subject to removal procedures as detailed below. All members of the House Cabinet, excluding the President, shall be voting members of the House. All members of the House Cabinet, including the President, shall be voting members of the House Cabinet Meetings.

**Section B: Non-Official Members**The Community Advisor (CA) is a non-official member of the Cabinet and possesses no voting rights. Any Peer Mentor on the house is also a non-official member of the Cabinet, and does possess voting rights on the Cabinet. Non-official members of the Cabinet are not able to be removed from the Cabinet through the normal removal procedures detailed below. A Peer Mentor may only be removed from the Cabinet by a majority vote of the other Cabinet members if he or she fails to meet the expectations set for the position in Article VI, Section F (as determined by the CA).

**Section C: Duties**

1. The Cabinet will consist of all elected Officers, the Peer Mentor, and the Community Advisor.
2. The President and Vice-Presidents will serve as the official representatives of The House in any situation which pertains to The House.
3. The Cabinet will collectively discuss and execute any House business.
4. The Cabinet shall meet within 24 hours, as needed, prior to regular house meetings.
5. The Cabinet will design and supervise any programs desired by The House. Programs should effectively serve the needs and desires of The House.
6. All Cabinet members are expected to regularly attend House meetings. If The Cabinet feels it is necessary, an officer may be removed by the procedures in Section I.
7. If available, special parking permits will be assigned in the following order to cabinet members: President, Vice Presidents (first decided through coin toss), Treasurer, Secretary, Academic Chairperson, Diversity Chairperson, Social Chairpersons, and Intramural Chairperson, followed by any other created cabinet position by chronological order of creation. House members with vehicles will be eligible to draw from the remaining permits.
8. The treasurer will serve as the risk management officer and will oversee all risk management responsibilities.

**Section D: Eligibility**The Cabinet Members of the House must meet the following requirements:

(a) Have a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) as stated below and meet that minimum cumulative GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office. For undergraduate students, the minimum GPA is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.

(b) Be in good standing with the university and enrolled: at least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and at least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.

(c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

(d) The President must have been a member of the house for more than one semester, unless this condition is waived by the CA.

(e) One Vice President must be male and one Vice President must be female.

**Section E: Terms of Office**

The Offices of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer are elected at the second-to-last House Meeting of the spring semester.

All other Cabinet Positions are elected at the first or second house meeting of the fall semester. The terms of office begin the first day of the fall semester (or election date, whichever is later) to the last day of the spring semester.

**Section F: Offices, Responsibilities, and Expectations**

**All Members**

* Be early to all House Meetings and on-time to all Cabinet Meetings, unless excused.
* Show respect to all Meeker residents, Friley staff, and the building.
* Be a good role-model for members of the House.
* Work well as a team.
* Help fellow cabinet members when they need assistance.

**President**

* Oversees the Cabinet and all of its members.
* Presides over the Cabinet and Cabinet Meetings.
* Presides over the House and House Meetings.
* Be a positive representative of the House.
* Hold House Meetings at least once every three weeks.
* Regularly post relevant materials received in the house mailbox, or relay important information to the House members.
* Meet weekly with the Community Advisor (CA).
* Attend Friley Senate meetings, as determined by the Hall Director or Friley Senate. If the President cannot attend, it is the President’s responsibility to find a suitable replacement.
* Maintains House constitution and by-laws.
* Votes only to serve as tie-breaking in House Meetings.
* Calls House Meetings and notifies residents in advance at least twenty-four hours, unless a shorter time is approved by the CA.
* Shall be responsible for knowing all university and Department of Residence policies and procedures for House functions.
* Is responsible for knowing and presiding over House elections processes including ballot counting.
* Helps plan and promote house activities.
* Shall have an awareness of and express approval or disapproval of all house spending and social activities.
* Be visible on the House.

**Vice Presidents**

* Co-preside over the Cabinet Meetings and House Meetings in the absence of the President.
* If President vacates his/her position, the Vice Presidents will co-assume the President’s responsibilities for the remainder of the term, or until a new President is elected.
* Assist the president in all duties, as needed.
* Oversees house committee structure, if committees are created.
* Meets from time to time with house committee chairs, if committees are created.
* Oversee social activities if requested by the President.
* Help plan and promote House activities.
* Be visible on the House.
* Represent the whole house and make sure both genders are equally represented in discussions and decision-making.
* The Vice President will also assume the Risk Management Officer Position. The duties of this position are as follows:
	+ Become educated on ISU risk management procedures
	+ Share applicable procedures as needed with the council in order to meet ISU guidelines and expectations
	+ Submit documentation to ISU’s Risk Management Office
	+ Will recommend risk management policies or procedures to Meeker House
	+ Will ensure that Risk Mgt. procedures are implemented at all of the orgs. events

**Treasurer**

* Oversee House spending.
* Keep a budget for the House, created under the advice of the Cabinet.
* Maintain financial records for the House.
* Collects any additional social dues and any other payments as necessary.
* Pays all house bills (upon approval of House President and CA)
* Collects project statements from the Campus Organizations Accounting Office
* Attends mandatory treasurer training session each year (provided by the Campus Organizations Accounting Office).
* Maintains records of House Purchasing Cards, which should be held by the President and the Treasurer.
* Regularly recycles cans from the den, or finds a suitable person to do so.
* Informs the Cabinet of the balance of the House via a weekly e-mail.
* Serve as the Risk Management Officer with the following duties therefore:
	+ Become educated on ISU risk management procedures.
	+ Share applicable procedures as needed with the council in order to meet ISU guidelines and expectations.
	+ Submit documentation to ISU’s Risk Management Office as needed.

**Secretary**

* Keeps minutes of House meetings.
* Sends minutes to the House via e-mail.
* Post meeting minutes in bathrooms.
* Help plan and promote House activities.
* Create flyers and signs as needed.
* Keeps track of attendance at house meetings and events, when requested to do so.
* Submits, maintains, and updates the House Student Organization database information through the Student Activities Center website.
* Shall keep records of committee chairpersons, if they exist.
* Shall keep records of updates to the House Constitution.

**Intramural Chairperson**

* Organize and informs house about intramural events.
* Represent the house at intramural meetings on campus.
* Collect intramural dues, as needed.
* Help plan and promote house activities.
* Works with other officers of other houses for joint-house events, as requested by the President or Vice Presidents.

**Social Chairpersons**

* Shall consist of up to three members.
* Plan and execute social, learning, and diversity activities and events for the House that appeal to both men and women and promote interaction of the House members.
* Plan and execute at least three activities each semester.
* Plans events in accordance with university and Department of Residence policies.
* Periodically survey the House for interest in activities.
* Shall inform house members of events and purchase group tickets to events for the house.
* Work closely with the Treasurer during planning.
* Works with other officers of other houses for joint-house events, as requested by the President or Vice Presidents.

**Academic Chairperson**

* An optional position.
* Plan lectures, activities, or events to help the House with academics or learn about academics (e.g. Resume Tips, Study Skills, study hours in the den).
* Coordinate Friley Hall academic events for Spinney, as needed.
* Maintains a list of house members' classes, and helps to arrange study groups, working with the Peer Mentor if needed.
* Works with the cabinet and the house members to set a house GPA goal.
* Recognizes academic success on the House.

**Diversity Chairperson**

* An optional position. This position eliminates one of the three social chair positions.
* Plan and execute enjoyable activities and events to educate the House about different cultures, ideas, places, etc. (e.g. Thai food night).
* Work closely with Social Chairpersons and the Treasurer while planning events.

**Peer Mentor**

* Set up study times in the den for students in the learning community.
* Keep CA informed of Learning Community activities.
* Perform all Learning Community Peer Mentor duties, as assigned through the Learning Community program.

**Section G: Creating Cabinet Positions**

Other cabinet positions may be created at any time during the academic year if deemed necessary by the House. Procedure for this is to be in keeping with all Cabinet positions and will abide by the election procedures detailed in Article VIII.

**Section H: Resignation of Cabinet Members**

The officer shall give the house a two-week notice before resignation. A special election will be held within two weeks of this notice. This election will follow normal election procedures.

**Section I: Removal of Officers**

* Any elected House Cabinet Member may be impeached.
* Before impeachment, the member should be asked whether he or she would like to continue serving in the position or would like to instead step down.
* Impeachment proceedings may be initiated by a majority vote of the Cabinet or the House.
* A Cabinet meeting shall be called one week after the initiation of impeachment proceedings. At this time the Cabinet Member in question may present his/her defense to the Cabinet members. A secret ballot shall then be made. A vote of 75% of all the Cabinet members is required for removal from the office.
* The CA and Vice Presidents shall conduct impeachment proceedings unless one or both of the Vice Presidents are being impeached, in which case the President will assist the CA in the proceedings.
* The Cabinet will appoint a successor with a 75% vote who can accept or decline the appointment. Alternatively, a special election in a House meeting may be held.
* The Hall Director (HD) may remove a member of the Cabinet from his or her position without impeachment proceedings or a vote, only after receiving input and advice from the CA.
* The House will be notified of the change in officers by the President, sharing only necessary details.
* Grievances of the impeached member will be handled by the CA.

## Article VII: Committees

**Section A: Names**The House has created the following committees that may be activated or deactivated by a simple majority vote of the Cabinet. Committees *are by default deactivated*. They are the: Social Committee, Education Committee, Philanthropy/Community Service Committee, Environmental Committee, and the House History and Traditions Committee. A new committee may be instituted by a simple majority vote at a House Meeting.

**Section B: Membership**All House Members are eligible for Committee Membership. The Vice Presidents will determine the size of the committee based on the number of interested individuals. In the case of more interest than determined positions, the Vice Presidents will conduct a secret ballot vote of the Cabinet Members during the next Cabinet Meeting.

**Section C: Committees and Responsibilities**

**Social Committee:**

* Plans social events for the house, such as house parties, activities with other houses, canoe trips, etc.
* Ensures that all house social events are in accordance with house, residence life, and university policies.
* Chaired by one or more of the Social Chairpersons.

**Education Committee:**

* Plans the educational activities for the house, including programs on academics, diversity, leadership, and personal development.
* Invites guest speakers to house meetings.
* Co-chaired by the Academic Chairperson and Diversity Chairperson, if these Chairpersons exist.

**Philanthropy/Community Service Committee:**

* Plans service activities for the house.
* Chaired by one or more of the Social Chairpersons.

**Environmental Committee:**

* Coordinates a house recycling program
* Discusses issues related to a clean and healthy house environment.
* Chaired by one or more of the Social Chairpersons, or the Treasurer.

**House History and Traditions Committee:**

* Maintains historical house records, such as old yearbooks, scrapbooks, notes, pictures, etc.
* Records current house activities through words and pictures.
* Chaired by the Secretary.

**Section D: Offices and Responsibilities**

If no Committee Chair exists for a committee, that committee will either self elect a Committee Chair or defer to the Vice Presidents who will appoint one from the current members. The Chair will facilitate meetings of the committee on a schedule determined by the committee and the Vice Presidents. Each Chair will communicate the committee’s progress with the Vice Presidents on a regular basis.

## Article VIII: Elections

**Section A: Candidates**

* All members of the House are eligible for all positions given he/she has a GPA of 2.0 or higher.
* Nominations must be submitted at the house meeting one week prior to the election date.
* Nominations may be made by the individual candidate or can be initiated by other House members.
* Nominees may accept or decline nomination.

**Section B: Procedures**

* Every position will be elected at least once a year. The Offices of the President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer are elected at the second-to-last House Meeting of the spring semester. All other Cabinet Positions are elected at the first or second house meeting of the fall semester.
* Campaigning is allowed, but must abide by ISU and Department of Residence policies, rules, and regulations.
* Nominees will be given an opportunity to present a brief speech during a house meeting before voting commences.

**Section C: Selection of Officers**

* The President and CA will monitor election procedures.
* Special Elections, to fill new or vacant positions, may be held when necessary.
* Vote will be conducted by the heads-down, hands-up method. Absentee voting may be made to the CA or President up to the time of the actual election.
* The election will only be considered valid with a minimum of 60% house participation.
* The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the President shall cast a vote to resolve the tie.
* For offices with more than one seat, House members will vote for one individual and the positions will be filled according to the highest number of votes.
* Should an office other than President be vacated, a special election shall be held consistent with the aforementioned procedures.
* A member may only hold one Cabinet position. If a person is elected to more than one Cabinet position they may choose which position they are going to fill.
* If a person is running for a position unopposed, a vote of confidence can be called to elect him or her to the position without the use of the heads-down, hands-up method.

## Article IX: Finances

**Section A: House Dues**The House collects dues through the mandatory student government dues each year. Of this, $10 per member is transferred into the House account. These dues contribute to programming and upkeep of house-owned equipment. All student government dues will be billed through the Accounts Receivable Office. These are mandatory dues. The House may collect social dues for House social functions. Social dues are not mandatory. The House will vote on the social due amount during the second or third House meeting, needing a simple majority to set the maximum collected amount. All social dues will be collected by the Treasurer and recorded by the Secretary. No refunds of House dues will be paid. All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within 48 hours after collection. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

**Section B: Budget**

* The Treasurer and volunteering members of the House will meet and propose the House budget for the academic year.
* This budget must be presented to the Cabinet and the Community Advisor (CA).
* The budget must be approved by the entire House Cabinet and the CA.

**Section C: Expenditures**The Cabinet, when following the approved budget, does not need any further approval of House members to spend House money. The Cabinet may make purchases under $25 without a unanimous Cabinet Vote.

## Article X: House Policies

* During the first House Meeting, the House will vote on House Policies. This at a minimum must include the incense policy and the noise policy.

## Article XI: Amendments to the Constitution and Ratification

**Section A: Proposal**

One or more members of the house may form an ad-hoc committee to draw up an amendment to this constitution at any time. The amendments must be presented to the House at an official meeting. Amendments must be posted immediately after presentation. Posting must detail current language, proposed language and purpose for the change or addition.

**Section B: Ratification**

Once in its final form, the amendment must be approved by 75% of all House members within two weeks of its proposal. House members failing to cast a vote will be considered to be abstaining from the vote. The ratification can be done in a House meeting or by petition. The constitution shall become effective upon ratification and shall supersede and make void any previous constitutions. The Secretary shall then be responsible for adding the amendment to the constitution and prompt submission of an updated constitution to the Student Activities Center.

*This constitution in its current form was approved unanimously on.*

*President: Caedron Bartles*

*Vice Presidents: Cody Simons*

*Treasurer: Eric Graika*

*Social Chairs: Scott Hood, Sierra Chelsvig*

*Community Advisor: Idalia Medina*

#### Intramural: Saimanoj Siddula, Ahkem Miller

#### Birthday Chairs: Alexander Short, Angel Barrera, Ashley Kohagen

*Recycling: Jonathon Krysh, Colin Ryan, Jared Sangsomwong*