Text of the new SA Constitution: vote on it tomorrow

PREAMBLE
We, the members of the Student Association of Rice University, desiring
• to provide channels of communication and cooperation among all parts of the Rice community;
• to provide a form of government for the coordination of student activities;
• to provide a forum for the expression of student views and interests;
• to maintain academic freedom and academic responsibility;
• to enhance the value of the undergraduate experience;
• to help promote national and international understanding and fellowship at the student level;
• to foster the recognition of the rights and responsibilities of students to humanity, the community, and the school, do hereby establish this Constitution.

ARTICLE I. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANIZATION
Section 1. All students of Rice University who have paid the undergraduate blanket tax shall be members of this Association.
Section 2. The officers of the Student Association shall be the President, the Internal Affairs Vice-President, the External Affairs Vice-President, the Secretary, and the Treasurer.
Section 3. The Student Senate, the University Courts, and the Student Association organizations are all integral parts of the Student Association.
Section 4. The Residential Colleges are separate from the Student Association. The Student Senate and the Colleges shall work together in matters of importance to the students of the University as a whole.
Section 5. The Honor Council is separate from the Student Association. The Student Senate and the Honor Council shall work together in the election of Honor Court members, selection of ad hoc committees, and other matters concerning the Honor System that require cooperation.
Section 6. The Student Association organizations are the subsidiary organizations and the dependent organizations. The constitutions of all Student Association organizations are subordinate to this Constitution. These organizations shall be governed according to the By-Laws of the Student Association Constitution.
(a) Subsidiary organizations shall consist of those Student Association organizations which directly receive blanket tax money, namely the Rice Program Council, KTRU, the Campanile, and the Rice Theatre.
(b) Dependent organizations shall include those societies, clubs, or the like, which are formed because of the special interests of any particular group of students.
1. The functions and elections of the officers of any dependent organization shall be determined by its own constitution, provided it conforms to the existing regulations of the Student Association and the University.
2. The Student Senate can abolish any dependent organization failing to meet the regulations of the Student Association.
Section 7. The Student Senate and all Student Association organizations shall be directly responsible to the Director of Student Activities for their actions.

ARTICLE II. LEGISLATIVE
Section 1. The legislative authority of this Association shall be vested in the Student Senate.
Section 2. The Student Senate shall be composed of the following members: the President, the Internal Affairs Vice-President, the External Affairs Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, the College Presidents, and an elected Senator from each college; and the Parliamentarian and Faculty Advisor as ex-officio members.

Section 3. The Student Senate shall
(a) Represent the Student Association in all relations with the faculty, administration, trustees, alumni, and other bodies
(b) Assume on behalf of the Student Association the responsibilities for the actions of all student organizations.
(c) Hold publicly announced open meetings from which no one may be excluded. 
(d) Hold privately announced meetings of which a student member of the Student Senate may be invited to attend. These meetings shall be announced in advance.

Section 4. All legislation of the Senate shall be classified as:
(a) Senate Bills, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced whenever action is necessary.
(b) Senate Resolutions, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced to state a fundamental policy or theory of the Student Association, to express itself or exert its influence on some issue in a formal manner.
(c) Senate Bills, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced whenever action is required by the Student Association Constitution; such action shall be clearly within the authority of the Student Association.
(d) Amendment and Repeal of Existing Legislation.

Section 5. The Senate may pass legislation in any manner. Resolutions shall be introduced by a Senator or a constituent body. A resolution shall have force and effect only to the extent that the Senate shall so determine.

Section 6. All legislation of the Senate shall be classified as:
(a) Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws as prescribed elsewhere in this Constitution.
(b) Senate Resolutions, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced to state a fundamental policy or theory of the Student Association, to express itself or exert its influence on some issue in a formal manner.
(c) Senate Bills, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced whenever action is required by the Student Association Constitution; such action shall be clearly within the authority of the Student Association.
(d) Amendment and Repeal of Existing Legislation.

Section 7. Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws shall be introduced by a Senator or a constituent body. Amendments shall be introduced by a Senator or a constituent body. Amendments shall have force and effect only to the extent that the Senate shall so determine.

Section 8. The Senate may pass legislation in any manner. Resolutions shall be introduced by a Senator or a constituent body. A resolution shall have force and effect only to the extent that the Senate shall so determine.

Section 9. All legislation of the Senate shall be classified as:
(a) Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws as prescribed elsewhere in this Constitution.
(b) Senate Resolutions, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced to state a fundamental policy or theory of the Student Association, to express itself or exert its influence on some issue in a formal manner.
(c) Senate Bills, which shall be passed by a majority vote, to be introduced whenever action is required by the Student Association Constitution; such action shall be clearly within the authority of the Student Association.
(d) Amendment and Repeal of Existing Legislation.

Section 10. Amendment and repeal of legislation currently in force may be accomplished by a Bill or Resolution of the same type as the legislation to be repealed, only as practical
Vote early, vote often, vote for the Student Association constitution to correct Lynn Lednicky's mistakes

Yes, there is an election tomorrow (that's Thursday, the 11th of April, in the Year of Our Lord the 1985th). You get to vote on three count 'em, three things:

RPC Blanket Tax: this is money, folks. It is also, if you listen to the RPC, crucial to the future of Beer-Bike, and the money will be spent only on Beer-Bike. Right now, Beer-Bike takes up about one-fourth of the RPC's $20,000 budget.

Sammy the Owl: vote for your feathered mascot to frolic at football games and the like. We almost had pictures of most of the candidates, but I screwed up. Sorry. Just as well, though, because there wasn't enough room.

SA Constitution: don't think, just vote for it. The new constitution, printed here in its entirety (with changes and additions italicized), is a vast improvement over the old fundamental document. You may have problems with the new constitution, but the old one is just a useless piece of garbage.

Among the changes and additions in the new version are:

1. Recognition of the independent nature of the Honor Council.
2. Better definition of the roles of SA officers.
5. Clarified qualifications for the SA treasurer position.
6. A new judicial article, resulting from the work of the judicial review committee.
7. Amendments to the constitution and by-laws have to be made by bill, so there is less chance now of "losing" an amendment.

Again, one more blatant plug from someone on this year's senate: any flaw you find in the new constitution was probably there in the old, but worse. Vote yes to give the senate a document they can work with.

—Paul Havlak
Baker Senator '85-'86
ELECTIONS/Student Association Constitution, part 2 of 3

2. All such amendments or repeals shall be clearly denominated as such, and shall clearly state the nature of the change(s).
(e) The written format of each type of legislation shall be prescribed in the By-Laws of this Constitution.

ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE
Section 1. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the responsibility of enforcing the actions of the Student Senate and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Association, either upon its own initiative or that of the Senate.
Section 2. Composition and Duties
(a) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Student Association: the President, as chairman; the Internal and External Affairs Vice-Presidents; the Secretary, the Treasurer; and the Parliamentarian and Faculty Advisor to the Senate as ex-officio members.
(b) The Executive Committee shall periodically meet to discuss the activities and projects of the Senate and its members.
(c) No commitments or contracts shall be made by any Senate member on behalf of the Student Association without the approval of the majority of the Executive Committee or the Senate.

Section 3. The President of the Student Association shall:
(a) Be present at all regular meetings of the Student Association and Student Senate, in person or through the Vice-Presidents of the Student Association, and be a member ex-officio, without voting rights, of all Student Association and Senate committees.
(b) Represent the Student Association to the Board of Trustees, University administration, the faculty, the alumni, and other bodies.
(c) Call meetings of the Student Association upon the written demand of the Student Association members, upon the request of a Vice-President or upon any other initiative.
(d) Call special meetings of the Student Senate upon the written demand of three Senate members.
(e) Be chairman of the Executive Committee.
(f) Be responsible for recruiting monitors for self-scheduled exams, as needed by the Registrar.
(g) Countersign checks written against the account in the name of the Student Association.

Section 4. The Internal Affairs Vice-President shall:
(a) Act as President if the President is unable to carry out his duties.
(b) Coordinate and foster relations with the various segments of the Rice community.
(c) Be responsible for the appointment and coordination of student members on the University committees dealing with University affairs.
(d) Be responsible for student Association activities during freshman week and the publication of an annual newcomer's guide.
(e) Be responsible for recruiting monitors for self-scheduled exams, as needed by the Registrar.
(f) Coordinate the activities of the various Colleges as needed.

Section 5. The External Affairs Vice-President shall:
(a) Coordinate and foster programs of communication and cooperation with the Rice University Alumni, other universities throughout the nation and abroad, and local, state and national communities; this may include representing the Student Association at various conferences as needed.

(b) Report external events and information to the Student Association.
(c) Be responsible for the publication of the student directory.

Section 6. The Secretary of the Student Association shall:
(a) Keep an accurate roll of the Student Senate membership.
(b) Keep complete minutes of all meetings of the Student Association, including the Senate, and add to the distribution of the minutes, legislation, and other important information.
(c) Be responsible for the keeping of files of all Student Association business.
(d) Be chairman of the Elections Committee.
(e) Be chairman of the Student Senate.

Section 7. The Treasurer of the Student Association shall:
(a) Keep all funds of the Student Association in an accredited bank or similar institution approved by the Student Senate and the Director of Student Activities.
(b) Disburse funds of the Student Association upon the authorization of the Student Senate. The Treasurer shall sign all checks written on Student Senate funds.
(c) Keep an accurate roll of the Student Senate membership.
(d) Be responsible for the appointment and coordination of student members on the University committees dealing with University affairs.
(e) Insure that the constitutions of the Student Association organizations conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Association.
(f) Be responsible for keeping the Student Senate informed of all official activities of the Executive Committee.

Section 8. The Faculty Advisor of the Student Association Senate shall:
(a) Be chosen by a committee appointed by the Student Association Senate.
(b) Advise the Senate and its officers on matters pertaining to the Student Association.
(c) Be chosen by the President with the approval of the Student Senate.
(d) Advise the President, by Robert's Rules of Order on questions of parliamentary procedure which are not covered by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Association. The decision of the President on such matters may be overturned by a simple majority of the Senate.
(e) Insure that the constitutions of the Student Association organizations conform to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Student Association.

ARTICLE IV JUDICIAL
Section 1. The judicial authority of this Association shall be vested in the University Court.
Section 2. The composition of the University Court shall be as prescribed in the By-Laws of the University Court.
Section 3. The University Court shall:
(a) Be chaired by the University Court Chairman, who shall be elected by the Student Association.

BLOOM COUNTY
by Berke Breathed
Section 4. Special Committees shall be committees created by the Senate to address issues of continuing business of importance to the Student Association.

(a) General. The Senate shall approve the selection of the members of such committees, and the Senate President shall be a member of all Special Committees.

(b) Special Committees may be renewed with Senate approval.

(c) The chairman shall be chosen by the committee from their own number and is the Student Senate liaison for the committee.

(d) The committee members shall have the right to remove their chairman for failure to carry out his duties by a 2/3 vote of the membership of the committee.

(e) Senate Standing Committees shall be committees created by the Senate to conduct continuing business of importance to the Student Association.

(f) Senate Standing Committees are created through the passage of a By-Law of this Constitution which specifies its duties, lifetime, and the criteria and procedures for selection of members.

(g) The Senate shall approve the selection of the members of such committees.

(h) The chairman shall be chosen by the committee from their own number and is the Student Senate liaison for the committee.

Section 5. Special Committees shall be committees created by the Senate to address issues of continuing business of importance to the Student Association as they arise.

(a) Special Committees are created through the passage of a Senate Bill which specifies its duties, lifetime, and the criteria and procedures for selection of members.

(b) Special Committees may be renewed with Senate approval.

(c) The Senate shall approve the selection of the members of such committees.

(d) Chairman shall be chosen by the committee from their own number, unless otherwise stated at the time of formation, and is the Student Senate liaison for the committee.

ARTICLE V. COMMITTEES

Section 1. Three types of committees shall be established to handle University affairs. These committees shall be called Joint Committees, Senate Standing Committees, and Special Committees.

Section 2. Joint Committees shall exist to coordinate university-wide activities and services which are conducted through the Colleges.

(a) Each college chairman for the activity or service shall be a member of the corresponding Joint Committee.

(b) Joint Committees are created through the passage of a By-Law of this Constitution which specifies its duties and lifetime.

(c) The Joint Committee shall appoint its chairman, either one of their own number or a non-committee member, unless otherwise stated in the creation of this committee. The chairman shall rotate as specified in Robert's Rules of Order and by the Student Senate liaison for the committee.

(d) The committee members shall have the right to remove their chairman for failure to carry out his duties by a 2/3 vote of the membership of the committee.

Section 3. Senate Standing Committees shall be committees created by the Senate to conduct continuing business of importance to the Student Association.

(a) Senate Standing Committees are created through the passage of a By-Law of this Constitution which specifies its duties, lifetime, and the criteria and procedures for selection of members.

(b) The Senate shall approve the selection of the members of such committees.

(c) The chairman shall be chosen by the committee from their own number and is the Student Senate liaison for the committee.

ARTICLE VI. ELECTIONS

Section 1. All elections at Rice University involving the entire Student Association shall be held by secret ballot according to the rules set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution. These include elections of the Student Association officers, the undergraduate representatives on the University Council, the University Court Chairman, subsidiary organization officers, and all-school elections and referenda required by other segments of the Rice community.

Section 2. Election of the Student Association officers and Student Senate members

(a) The President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected yearly by the members of the Student Association. The time of the election shall be prescribed by the By-Laws of this Constitution.

(b) The College Presidents and Senators shall be chosen by their respective Colleges.

Section 3. Eligibility

(a) No Student Association member who is on probation as prescribed by the Administration of Rice University shall hold or seek office.

(b) The most recent class lists certified by the Registrar of Rice University shall be the sole authority for voting eligibility and classification of the student.

Section 4. The members of the student body may remove any Student Association officer, undergraduate representative on the University Council, subsidiary organization officer, or the University Court Chairman if a written petition calling for the officer's removal is submitted with the signatures of ten percent (10%) of the members of the Student Association, and if the referendum passes with 2/3 of the votes cast.

Section 5. Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and changes to the By-Laws may be originated by any member of the Student Association and presented to the Student Senate in the written form of Senate Bills.

Section 6. All proposed Amendments and By-Laws shall be reviewed by the Constitution Committee and the campus-wide student body before submission to the Student Senate for a referendum vote.

Section 7. Proposed Amendments and By-Law changes must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the Student Senate, the vote being taken no sooner than five class days after the meeting at which the Amendment or By-Law change is first read. Proposed Amendments and By-Law changes which are in conflict with University rules must also be approved by the University administration, or the conflict resolved by the University administration and the Student Senate to their mutual satisfaction.

Section 8. An Amendment or By-Law change shall become effective five class days after its adequate promulgation to the Student Association, unless it is contested by a written petition of the Student Association members demanding a referendum vote as provided for in Article II of this Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII. PASSAGE

Section 1. This Constitution must be approved by a 2/3 majority of the Student Senate before being submitted to the Student Association for a referendum vote.

Section 2. The approval of 2/3 of the Student Association members voting in the referendum shall be necessary for passage of this Constitution.

Section 3. Upon the approval by the Student Senate of the referendum vote, this Constitution, if approved by the Student Association as required above, shall go into effect at a time determined by the Student Senate, not later than six (6) months after the referendum. The previous Student Association Constitution shall become null and void upon activation of this Constitution. The present By-Laws shall remain in effect until such time as new ones are established.