



Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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63.gsc.10: Amendment to the Bylaws concerning affairs pertaining to Council Officers

Authors: GSC Secretary Orpheus Chatzivasileiou and GSC ARC Co-Chair Andrew Fiore

The Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, taking into consideration:

1. Article X.2 of the GSC Constitution
2. The need for accountability in how Officers perform their duties
3. The need for provisions in the case of an Officer position becoming vacant
4. The need for fair procedures for elections and impeachment of Officers,

decides to amend the Bylaws as follows:

1. In the matter of Officer elections, the Bylaws currently have no provision for the possibility of a tie. However, a tie is theoretically possible, especially when there are only two candidates for a position. The Bylaws should cover this eventuality.

Therefore, Article IV.D.3 is amended as follows:

The candidates will be asked to leave the room and closed-ballot voting will take place. Voters will be asked to list the candidates in order of preference and the votes will be counted using the full preferential method. If no one receives a majority of first choice votes, the candidate with the fewest first place votes will be eliminated and his/hers votes will go to the candidate that was listed as a second choice. This process will continue until a candidate receives a majority of the votes. If at the end of this process, there are two or more candidates with an equal number of votes, but no majority of the votes, all other candidates are eliminated and another vote will be held, using the above procedure involving only the candidates not eliminated. In the case of a deadlock between two or more candidates, defined as three consecutive tied votes, the winner shall be chosen by a fair random method, e.g. a coin flip.

2. In the matter of Officer impeachment, the only provision lies in the Constitution, which states that Officers can be impeached by a 2/3 vote. However, no procedure for how impeachment proceedings are brought up or how an impeachment process would proceed is specified anywhere in the Bylaws. Such a procedure is necessary. Therefore, the Bylaws are amended to add Article IV.E, which will read as follows:

In the event an Officer fails to perform the required duties or commits any other gross misconduct, he or she may be removed by a “vote of no confidence”. The “vote of no confidence” can be initiated by a petition signed by a minimum of 3 Council members and must be introduced to Council outlining the specific charges against said Officer. Immediately upon introduction of this petition, Council will vote to appoint a neutral Council member to preside over the impeachment proceedings. This neutral Council member may not be an Officer or one of the signatories of the petition for a “vote of no confidence”. The hearing on the presented charges



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and impeachment proceedings can take place during a regular Council meeting or a special meeting of the Council can be scheduled. The presiding Council member shall notify the Council and the Officers of the time and date of the meeting. The impeachment proceedings cannot occur sooner than two weeks nor later than six weeks from the introduction of the petition for a “vote of no confidence” and cannot occur on MIT holidays. After presentation of a case for and against the Officer’s conduct, the Council members present at the meeting shall vote whether the Council has no confidence in the accused Officer, and the Officer shall be immediately removed by a 2/3 vote of the members of the Council. An Officer cannot be put up for a “vote of no confidence” more than once in a three month timeframe. All votes related to the impeachment process are subject to the regular quorum requirements specified in Article V.C.3 and Article V.C.4..

3. Currently the Bylaws have no provisions for what happens if an Officer position becomes vacant due to impeachment, resignation, etc. The current election procedures are very specific in that Officer elections happen at the April meeting and no other possibility is mentioned. In order to provide for this eventuality and eliminate the need to resort to ad hoc solutions, the Bylaws are amended to add Article IV.F, which will read as follows:

In the event that an Officer position becomes vacant, e.g. due to Officer removal or resignation, special elections will be called to replace that Officer. These elections will occur at the next Council meeting that is at least two weeks after the position becomes vacant. These elections shall be run in accordance with Article IV Sections A-D with appropriate date and timeline exceptions made due to the accelerated schedule described above. Until the vacant Officer position is filled, the duties of the position will be shared between the remaining Officers. If the position of the President is vacant, the powers and responsibilities of this position are exercised by the Vice-President.

The above shall take effect immediately. The Secretary of the Graduate Student Council is ordered to publicize this document by any means appropriate.