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Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

63.gsc.9: Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the removal of Committee Chairpersons

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 committee chairs operate,
- decides to amend the Bylaws as follows:

Currently, committee chairpersons can be removed by their committee members, but not by the Council. This can be potentially problematic, if a committee will not remove a chairperson not performing their duties well or committing gross misconduct. Furthermore, in the case of the External Affairs Board, whose Chair is elected by the Council, there is the possibility of a committee removing a Council appointee. Currently, Council cannot remove a committee chairperson for failing to perform their duties, but can only suspend a committee. In order to maintain accountability, Council should be the body able to remove chairpersons, especially if council has appointed said chairpersons. Therefore, Article II.E. is amended as follows:

In the event a chairperson fails to perform the required duties or commits any other gross misconduct, he or she may be removed by a "vote of no confidence" ~~initiated by the graduate student membership of that committee.~~ The "vote of no confidence" can be initiated in two ways: 1. by the graduate student membership of that committee or 2. by the Council. To initiate such proceedings, a petition signed by a minimum of 2 graduate student members of the committee, or 3 Council members, and certified by the Vice-President, must be presented to the President outlining the specific charges against said chairperson. The President shall notify said chairperson of the charges submitted. The hearing of the presented charges and impeachment proceedings can take place during a regular meeting of the Council, or the President can ~~and~~ schedule a special ~~committee~~ meeting of the Council ~~for a hearing on the presented charges.~~ The President shall notify the committee and the Council of the time and date of the ~~special meeting~~ impeachment proceedings. The ~~special meeting~~ impeachment proceedings cannot occur sooner than two



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weeks from the date the President notifies the committee and Council, and it cannot occur on MIT holidays. The Executive Committee shall appoint a neutral Council representative to ~~oversee~~ preside over the hearing. After presentation of a case for and against the chairperson's conduct, the ~~graduate student membership~~ Council members present at the meeting shall vote, supervised by the Vice-President or his or her designated representative, whether the ~~committee's~~ membership Council has no confidence in the accused chairperson, and the chairperson shall be immediately removed if it passes with a majority of the votes cast. ~~The President shall report all results of the vote to the Council.~~ A chairperson cannot be put up for a "vote of no confidence" more than once in a three month timeframe. Committees that elect their chairs though their internal operating procedures can also establish additional procedures for removing their Committee Chairpersons.

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