

Summary of Legislation Recommended by the Ad-Hoc Committee on Governing Documents

Committee members: George Chao, Dan Day, Shabnam Raayai, and Chris Smith, and Brian Spatocco.

I. Amendment to clarify the definition of standing and ad-hoc committees and procedures for committee leadership selection (pg. 4)

- **Problem:** Bylaws Article II leaves unresolved the question of whether boards, like the Muddy Charles Pub Board of Governors, should be considered standing committees, and therefore would be subject to Bylaws provisions pertaining to standing committees. It also lacks important specification about the selection and removal of committee chairpersons.
- **Solution:** This amendment edits Article II in several sections to confirm that Boards are a type of standing committee, while also preserving ability of standing committees to maintain their own rules and procedures of operation. It also includes more detailed specifications of the rules for electing committee chairpersons and for removing them.
- **Original proposal source:** Ryan Iutzi

II. Amendment to clarify the rules governing Council voting methods (pg. 10)

- **Problem:** The Bylaws sections pertaining to Council voting are ambiguous on whether Council may exercise discretion in choosing voting methods. Implicit in this issue is the larger question of what Council should do to ensure transparency in voting.
- **Solution:** This amendment edits Article V, Section C to clarify that Council has discretion in choosing voting methods and means except for certain items of legislation. It establishes a default requirement that certain articles of legislation be decided by recorded votes.
- **Original proposal source:** Dan Day and Chris Smith (Committee members)

III. Amendment to clarify the definition of abstentions in Council voting (pg. 12)

- **Problem:** The language in Article V as it pertains to Council voting is confusing on the question of how abstentions affect Council voting outcomes.
- **Solution:** This amendment states a new formal rule for how abstentions are to be handled during voting. Abstentions will be subtracted from the real-time member attendance count, potentially impacting quorum status. This new rule ultimately affirms the legitimacy of simple pluralities and of the right to abstain, but ties the legitimacy of voting outcomes to their being a sufficient level of participation by Council members.
- **Original proposal source:** D.W. Rowlands

IV. Amendment to enhance the clarify the Council's budgeting procedures (pg. 14)

- **Problem:** The financial administration provisions listed under Bylaws Article VI include terms and processes that are poorly defined. This is an obstacle to public transparency in GSC budget management and makes knowledge transfer to about GSC financial processes more difficult than necessary.
- **Solution:** This amendment provides clarifying and updated definitions of financial terms and administrative processes.
- **Original proposal source:** Shabnam Raayai Ardakani (Committee Member)

V. Amendment to update the description of the duties of the Vice-President (pg. 21)

- **Problem:** The description of the duties of the Vice-President under Article III is only partial, at best, with other important duties being specified in other parts of the Bylaws. This has created past misunderstandings about the full range of the Vice-President's responsibilities.
- **Solution:** This amendment modifies description of the Vice-President's duties by centralizing all of the duties indicated throughout the Bylaws.
- **Original proposal source:** Francesco Bellei

VI. Amendment to clarify the processes and responsibilities for nominating and electing Council Representatives (pg. 22)

- **Problem:** The process for nominating and electing GSC Council Representatives, as described in Article III, is very GSC-centric and arguably out-dated. It contrasts significantly with Council's practice of recent years which gives a greater deference to the GSC Representative selection processes managed by the student associations affiliated with the various constituencies with positions on the Council. It also states a timeline for the nomination and election of new members that overlaps with early semester activities, such as GSC Orientation and the start of classes, which is logistically burdensome and may introduce a recruitment bias against first-year graduate students.
- **Solution:** This amendment modifies Article III to institutionalize the GSC's coordination with the governing bodies of student constituencies on the nomination and election of GSC Representatives. It also clarifies the right of individual graduate students to initiate a nomination of any graduate student (including themselves) for a Council Representative position. It also adjusts the timelines for the selection of new Council Representatives under various scenarios.
- **Original proposal source:** Francesco Bellei

VII. Amendment to update the formatting structure of Bylaws Article IV (pg. 26)

- **Problem:** The Bylaws Article IV contains inconsistent numbering and lettering which makes referencing the different sections of that article difficult and confusing.
- **Solution:** This amendment modifies the lettering of Article IV where necessary to bring navigability and consistency to the section and the entire document.
- **Original proposal source:** The Committee

I. Committee Procedures

Resolved by the Graduate Student Council in meeting duly assembled, that the following changes be made to the GSC Bylaws:

- 1. Amend Article II, Section A to clarify authorization to create committees:**

Article II. Committees

A. Committee Structure

Pursuant to Article II of the Council Constitution, the Council may establish standing and ad-hoc committees. Standing Committees of the Council shall be those defined in Article II, Section ~~D~~3 of these Bylaws. **Ad-hoc** ~~Other~~ committees may be formed by a majority vote of the Council **and** ~~these shall be referred to as ad hoc committees. All ad hoc committees shall terminate with the Officers under whom they were established. Unless specified otherwise, the membership of committees shall consist of graduate student volunteers who serve at the pleasure of the Council and ex officio members as specified by the Constitution, Bylaws, or committee guidelines or appointed by the Council. Standing committees shall elect their chairpersons, unless otherwise indicated; the chairpersons of ad hoc committees shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Council. The chairpersons shall call and preside over all meetings, and shall be responsible for ensuring that all committee procedures are followed.~~

- 2. Create and insert new Article II, Section B, Point 1 to define standing committee elections procedures:**

B. Election of Committee Chairpersons

1. Election of Standing Committee Chairpersons

The chairpersons of standing committees shall be elected by the committee's graduate student membership, unless an alternative procedure is otherwise specified in the committee's formal operating guidelines. A committee sets its own election procedure provided that any chairperson elected receives at least majority support of voting committee members. The Vice-President, or his or her appointed designee, shall supervise the election and certify the results, but he or she shall not modify the

committee's established election procedure except where it conflicts with the Bylaws or the Constitution.

Unless otherwise specified in the committee's formal operating guidelines, all standing committees must set the date for the election of new chairpersons at least one month prior to the official transition between the old and new Officer teams.

In the event of a chairperson vacancy because of resignation, graduation or any other reason, the vacancy may be filled in the same manner as electing a chairperson, unless otherwise specified in the committee's formal operating guidelines.

3. Create Article II, Section B, Point 2 to define ad-hoc committee elections procedures:

2. Election of Ad-Hoc Committee Chairpersons

The chairpersons of ad-hoc committees shall, whether upon formation of the ad-hoc committee or because of vacancy, be appointed by the President and approved by the Council.

4. Re-label old Article II, Section B as Section C and amend it to insert a specification of chairperson duties and removal process:

C. ~~B.~~ Committee Procedures

Committees established by the Council must operate under the GSC Council Constitution and Bylaws. The chairpersons shall call and preside over all meetings, and shall be responsible for ensuring that all committee procedures are followed. Committees shall report on their activities to the Council on a regular basis, inform the Officers of current developments, maintain pertinent documentation, and handle the responsibilities of distributing publicity or otherwise communicating with the graduate student body. In addition, committees may be called upon by the Nominations Board Committee to nominate representatives to relevant Institute Committees, as specified in Article II, Section D.2 of these Bylaws. Committees may form subcommittees as deemed necessary by the chairs. These subcommittees shall terminate with the committee chairs under which they serve.

Committees may establish or modify their formal operating guidelines through the passage of legislation at a General Council Meeting.

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. To initiate such proceedings, a petition signed by a minimum of 2 graduate student members of the committee, 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 and schedule a special committee meeting for a hearing on the presented charges. The President shall notify the committee of the time and date of the special meeting. The special meeting cannot occur sooner than two weeks from the date the President notifies the committee, and it cannot occur on MIT holidays. The Executive Committee shall appoint a neutral Council representative to oversee the hearing. After presentation of a case for and against the chairperson’s conduct, the graduate student membership present at the meeting shall vote, supervised by the Vice-President or his or her designated representative, whether the committee’s membership 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.

5. Re-label old Article II, Section C as Section D:

D. Suspension of Committees

A majority of the full membership of the Council may initiate an inquiry into the proceedings of any committee and may suspend a committee until such a time as a vote is cast by the full Council to return the committee to active status.

6. Re-label old Article II, Section D as Section E and amend Point 1 to specify the chair and membership of the Executive Committee:

E. The following **standing** committees **are** will be established:

1. *Executive Committee*

~~The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council, chairpersons of standing committees and other persons appointed (and removable) by the Council. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council, have overall coordination of finances, and budgets not delegated to other committees, prepare an agenda for each Council meeting, and may deal with all matters pertinent to the Council. All decisions on finances and budget must be made after open hearings and be approved by the Council.~~ **The President, or another Officer in the President's absence, shall chair the Executive Committee.** The Executive Committee shall convene at the call of the President, or at the request of two members of the Council. Any graduate student may attend an Executive Committee meeting. **The voting membership of the Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the Council, non-Officer chairpersons of standing committees, and other persons appointed (and removable) by the Council. Boards are considered to be closed standing committees.**

7. Amend Article II, Section E, Point 2 to clarify the leadership and membership of the Nominations Board:

2. Nominations Board

The Nominations Board is concerned with nominating graduate student representatives to all presidential and faculty appointed Institute Committees. **The Nominations Board shall be formed by the GSC Vice-President, who chairs the Nominations Board, two Officers, and three members of the graduate community at large. The three positions for the members at large shall publicized in May. The candidates for the three positions can be nominated by any member of the graduate student body. At the June General Council Meeting, the three members at large shall be elected by the Council.** The Nominations **Board** Committee shall be called by the Vice President a minimum of one session per academic year and three committee members shall constitute a quorum. If the Nominations **Board** Committee chooses to recommend more than one individual for a committee seat, the recommendations may be listed in order of preference. The

Nominations **Board** Committee may delegate to other Council committees the nomination of representatives involving similar issues.

8. Amend Article II, Section E, Point 4 to define Secretary as Chair of the Publications and Publicity Board:

3. *Publications and Publicity Board*

The Publications and Publicity Board is responsible for coordinating the dissemination to the general student body and providing a forum for discussion of important issues within the graduate student community. The Board shall publish the Graduate Student News and any other official publications of the GSC, thus providing a means for communication and a forum for discussion of important issues within the graduate community. Profits realized through operations are to be used in a fashion so as to improve the paper. Other activities may include general announcements via the web page, e-mail lists, the Infinite Corridor bulletin board, and poster routes, as well as publications support for special projects. The Board shall consist of the Secretary, the Editor, the Managing Editor, and three others, one of them appointed by the President with the consent of the Council and the other two chosen at large by the Board. In addition, a Webmaster may be chosen by the Board. **The Secretary chairs the Publications and Publicity Board.** The Board shall meet regularly at the call of the Secretary, elect an Editor, employ and discharge a Managing Editor for the paper and determine his/her wage, prepare an annual budget, and determine other operating policies as required.

9. Strike Article II, Section E, Point 11 and create a new Article VII titled “Board of Advisors” (using same text as before but with sections lettered instead of numbered):

Article VII. Board of Advisors

A. Purpose of the Board

The GSC Board of Advisors (hereinafter referred to as “the Board”) will serve in a purely advisory capacity to the GSC leadership team,

and will consist of past GSC leadership who have a deep understanding of the GSC and of MIT.

B. Structure & Operation

The Board will consist of up to six members, with each member serving a two year term. Appointments will be staggered so that up to three members are appointed every year. Board members will elect a chair from amongst themselves to serve for a period of one year. This chair shall be responsible for organizing meetings and coordinating between fellow Board members. The GSC Officers will serve as the main point of contact for the Board and will be required to report semesterly to the Board on their progress and goals.

C. Election of Members

New board members will be nominated by the GSC Executive Committee and presented to the Council at the April GCM of every year. Board members will be confirmed by the Council through a majority vote at the May GCM of each year. In the event a Board member resigns before the end of their term, the GSC Executive Committee may present a replacement to the Council, to be voted upon at a subsequent GCM.

D. Removal of Members

A Board member may be removed by a unanimous vote from the remaining Board members.

II. Discretion in Council Voting Methods

Resolved by the Graduate Student Council in meeting duly assembled, that the following changes be made to the GSC Bylaws:

1. Article V, Section C, Point 4, strike “the taking of the roll of voting members and”

4. When a vote is taken, **quorum must exist, and** ~~the taking of the roll of voting members and~~ the vote count shall be the responsibility of the Vice President, or of a Council member designated by the presiding officer if the Vice President is absent or recused from the vote.

2. Article V, Section C, Point 5, re-number Point 5 as Point 10

~~5.~~ **10.** Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution or Bylaws, an article of legislation shall pass if a majority of those voting members present vote in its favor.

3. Article V, Section C, Point 6, re-number Point 6 as Point 11

~~6.~~ **11.** The Council may vote to temporarily suspend the process described in Article V, Section C, Point 1, allowing immediate action on a legislative item. Doing so shall require a majority vote of the full Council. This suspension shall only be used when following the prescribed legislative process can be shown to substantially diminish the utility of the vote due to external factors.

4. Article V, Section C, insert as Points 5 through 9

5. The Chair, or the designated presiding officer, shall determine and announce the method and means of voting on any question pending before the Council, UNLESS:

- i. The method and/or means of voting is specified elsewhere in the Bylaws or Constitution, OR;**

- ii. The question is a Main or Principal Motion that pertains to an amendment to the Constitution or Bylaws, which always shall be taken by a recorded vote.

6. The Chair, or designated presiding officer, shall subsequently announce the results of a vote upon conclusion of the voting period.

7. It is the right of any voting member of the Council to motion to change the method and means of voting, and such a motion shall require a majority vote to pass. If a motion to change the method and means of voting advocates a recorded vote, then such a motion shall require only the support of at least one-fifth of the voting members present to pass. If the method and means of voting on a motion is determined elsewhere in the Constitution or Bylaws, then a motion to change the method and means of voting is out of order.

8. A voting member may, upon the conclusion of a vote, motion to have that vote repeated as a recorded vote, if the original vote was not a recorded vote and the motion has the support of at least one-fifth of the voting members present. Only a voting member who voted for the losing side may make such a request. The Chair may deny the request if he or she concludes the vote was not close and such an action is merely dilatory.

9. The Vice-President shall have the responsibility of calling the roll during a recorded vote. The Secretary shall have the responsibility of ensuring that individual members' votes are entered into the minutes during a recorded vote.

III. Role of Abstentions in Council Voting

Resolved by the Graduate Student Council in meeting duly assembled, that the following changes be made to the GSC Bylaws:

1. Amend Article V, Section C, Point 3, by clarifying requirement that Council members' proxies must be from their constituency:

3. In order to proceed with a vote, quorum must be established. A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum. A Council member may appoint a proxy, **who must be a member of their constituency**, by written request submitted to the Vice President or the presiding officer.

2. Amend Article V, Section C, Point 5, by defining a new two-part standard for legislation passage

5. Unless specified otherwise in the Constitution or Bylaws, an article of legislation shall pass **only if those votes cast in favor exceed those votes cast against, and if the amount of the total votes cast minus abstentions meets a quorum.**
~~a majority of those voting members present vote in its favor.~~

3. Amend Article V, Section C, Point 6, to indicate that legislation that fails due to loss of voting quorum is automatically entered on to the net GCM agenda.

6. When the amount of the total votes cast minus abstentions does not meet a quorum, but a quorum is present at the meeting, the pending article of legislation shall be tabled and included as old business on the agenda for the next General Council Meeting.

4. Amend Article V, Section C, Point 7, to limit the set of motions for which abstentions may impact quorum only to those motions where substantive business is being considered:

7. Points 3 through 6 of this Section shall apply to all Main or Principal Motions, as defined in Robert's Rules of Order, and shall not apply to other types of motions.

5. Re-number Article V, Section C, Point 7, as Point 8

8.~~7.~~ The Council may vote to temporarily suspend the process described in Article V, Section C, Point 1, allowing immediate action on a legislative item. Doing so shall require a majority vote of the full Council. This suspension shall only be used when following the prescribed legislative process can be shown to substantially diminish the utility of the vote due to external factors.

IV. Council Budgeting Procedures

Resolved by the Graduate Student Council in meeting duly assembled, that the following changes be made to the GSC Bylaws:

- 1. Amend Article VI, Section 1 by re-labeling it Section A and add clarifying definitions to financial terms listed in Points 2, 3, and 4:**

Article VI. Finances

A. 4. Financial Structure

The official financial structure of the Council is described by the Budget, which covers a single Institute fiscal year. Institute accounting is on a cash basis, and thus the Budget consists of the following:

- 1. A beginning-of-year reserve**
- 2. Cash inflows : Any cash inflow which does not have any prior stipulations on how it can be used. General revenue can be categorized as:**
 - 1. General Revenue (R_t) :**
 - 1. Known Revenue: The amount of this revenue is known prior to the budgetary process of the next fiscal year. Such revenues should be reported exactly in the beginning of the year budget meeting.**
 - 2. Flexible Revenue: The amount of this revenue is flexible and fluctuates based on the circumstances. Examples of such revenue is Career Fair Proceeds and GradRat Royalty Shares. In the beginning of the year, such revenue should be calculated based on a 3 year average formulation. The average of the projected revenue for the past three years ($R_{avg,t}$) is calculated and adjusted for the inflation by the Consumer Price Index for all Urban Consumers (CPI-U) for the June of the current calendar year,**

as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This index is denoted by CPI_t here. Thus, the 3 year average is calculated using the formula below:

$$R_{avg,t} = \frac{CPI_t}{3} \times \left(\frac{R_{t-1}}{CPI_{t-1}} + \frac{R_{t-2}}{CPI_{t-2}} + \frac{R_{t-3}}{CPI_{t-3}} \right)$$

In case of more than one flexible revenue, the average of each of the revenues is calculated using the above formula. The total of all the average revenues are calculated using the formula below:

$$All_R_{avg,t} = \sum R_{avg,t}$$

4. 2. Line item income: Any cash inflow that is designated for a specific line item by different offices or groups across campus. The executive committee is responsible for reporting this number to their best judgment during the budget meeting and the council shall not vote on those.

3. 2. Cash outflows: The cash outflows are subdivided into line items, with the line items grouped by committee. For each committee, the "committee subtotal" is the sum of all line items grouped into the committee.

4. 3. An end-of-year reserve: The end-of-year reserve is equal to the beginning-of-year reserve plus inflows minus outflows, and must not be negative.

The end-of-year reserve is equal to the beginning-of-year reserve plus inflows minus outflows, and must not be negative. Outflows are subdivided into line items, with the line items grouped by committee. For each committee, the "committee subtotal" is the sum of all line items grouped into that committee.

2. Amend Article VI, Section 2 by re-labeling it Section B:

B. ~~2.~~ Budget Validity

A Budget is valid if it has been passed by the Council and covers the current fiscal year. If there is no valid Budget, then funds may be disbursed only if all of the following hold:

- 1.** The funds can be assigned to a line item in the Budget that was most recently valid (the “previous Budget”)
- 2.** The disbursement is not opposed by any member of the Executive Committee, after having received reasonable notice
- 3.** The total of all funds disbursed in this manner in a given fiscal year does not exceed 1% of the total expenditures in the previous Budget

3. Amend Article VI, Section 3 by re-labeling it Section C:

C. ~~3.~~ Financial Procedure

Except as provided in the preceding section, all funds disbursed must be assigned to a line item in a valid Budget. The line item must accurately describe the purpose of the disbursement, and the disbursement must be authorized by a chair of the relevant committee. In general funds disbursed to a given line item must not exceed that line item. The Treasurer may, however, authorize disbursements to a line item exceeding the line item by up to 10% of the committee subtotal, and the Executive Committee may authorize disbursements exceeding the line item by any amount. Under no circumstances, however, may the committee subtotal be exceeded.

4. Amend Article VI, Section 4 by re-labeling it Section D:

D. ~~4.~~ Legislative Process

The first Council meeting of the fiscal year is the Budget Meeting, unless, at the Treasurer’s request, the President has designated an earlier meeting as the Budget Meeting instead. The Budget is subject to the legislative process described in Article V, Section C, and thus must be first presented at the meeting preceding the Budget Meeting. At the Budget Meeting, the Budget is the first item on the agenda, and the presiding officer shall not be the President or the Treasurer. The Budget is passed in the following manner:

- 1.** Revenue and the beginning-of-year reserve represent the professional opinion of the Treasurer, and are not voted upon
- 2.** Each representative is given an opportunity to object to any number of line items. If no objection is raised regarding a given line item, it is approved automatically without a vote
- 3.** The remaining line items are approved either individually, or in groups of any size. The following rules apply:
 - i. Line items may be approved at the original amount or at a lower amount, but not at a higher amount
 - ii. A majority vote is required to approve a line item individually, while a two-thirds vote is required to approve a group of line items

5. Amend Article VI, Section D, Point 4 by revising the reference the budget criteria:

- 4.** The end-of-year reserve is set to the appropriate amount without a vote. After the Budget is passed, it is may be modified by legislation, provided that the modified Budget still meets the criteria established in **Article** Section **VI.B** A, above.

4. Insert new Section E authorizing and describing the mid-year budget rescoping process:

E. Mid-year budget re-scope

The executive committee may re-scope the budget. The budget validity and legislative process shall be the same as Article VI.2 and VI.4 respectively.

The process consists of two parts:

- a. Re-evaluation of the line items and the committee sub-totals for better use of the unused funds.**
- b. Reporting the actual cash inflow of the flexible revenues and adjustment for reserve fund as explained in Article VI.F, below. After**

the adjustment of the reserve fund, if the actual cash inflow is still more than the beginning-of-year estimation, then the excess funds shall be distributed. However, if the actual cash inflow after the adjustment for the reserve fund is less, then the line item budgets shall be adjusted for the budget to meet the criteria in Article VI.A.4. In special cases, executive committee can withdraw funds from the reserve fund according to Article VI.F.3.

4. Amend Article VI, Section 5 by re-labeling it Section F, striking Point 2 and 3, and inserting a new Point 2, and re-labeling the old Point 4 as Point 3. The new Point 2 provides greater detail on the decision tree for adding to or withdrawing from the Reserve Fund:

F. 5. Reserve Fund

The Council maintains a dedicated Reserve Fund, separate from the other accounts used for the day-to-day operations of the Council. Its purpose is to smooth excessive variation in cash inflows from outside the Institute. The Reserve Fund is governed by the following mechanism:

1. The Reserve Fund balance shall never exceed 15% of the Previous Budget cash outflows.

~~2. Between September 30 and November 30, the GSC Treasurer obtains a written confirmation from the Career Fair Treasurer the dollar amount of the GSC's share in the proceeds that the Career Fair has generated in the current year. This amount is noted as PCF_t , where t designates the calendar year in which the current legislature began. The average of Career Fair proceeds to the GSC for the past three years ($PCFAVG_t$) is calculated and adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), using the following formula:~~

~~$CPI_t = CPI_t$ is the CPI-U for June of the current calendar year, as determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.~~

~~2011 2012 2013 2014~~

~~$PCFAVG_t = CPI_t * (PCF_{t-1}/CPI_{t-1} + PCF_{t-2}/CPI_{t-2} + PCF_{t-3}/CPI_{t-3})/3$~~

~~3. Depending on the proceeds that the Career Fair has generated in the current year, two situations can arise:~~

1. The proceeds (PCF_t) exceed or equal the average of Career Fair proceeds to the GSC for the past three years, adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index ($PCFAVG_t$). In this case, the Treasurer must transfer the following sum to the Reserve Fund, by March 31 at the latest: $50\% * (PCF_t - PCFAVG_t)$, or $15\% * (\text{"Previous Budget" cash outflows}) - \text{current Reserve Fund balance}$, whichever is less.

2. The proceeds (PCF_t) are below the average of Career Fair proceeds to the GSC for the past three years, adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index ($PCFAVG_t$). In this case, the Treasurer can withdraw up to: $50\% * (PCFAVG_t - PCF_t)$, or the current Reserve Fund balance, whichever is less. The funds withdrawn can only be used towards approved Budget items.

2. Depending on the actual cash inflow of all the flexible revenues in the current year, two situations can arise:

1. **The actual cash inflows ($All R_t$) exceed or equal the average of all the flexible revenues to the GSC for the past three years, adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index ($All R_{avg,t}$). In this case, the Treasurer must transfer the following sum to the Reserve Fund, by March 31 at the latest: $[50\% \times (All R_t - All R_{avg,t})]$, or $[15\% \times (\text{Previous Budget cash outflows}) - \text{current Reserve Fund balance}]$, whichever is less.**

2. **The actual cash inflow ($All R_t$) is below the average of all the flexible revenues to the GSC for the past three years, adjusted for inflation by the Consumer Price Index ($All R_{avg,t}$). In this case, the Treasurer can withdraw up to: $[50\% * (All R_t - All R_{avg,t})]$, or the current Reserve Fund balance, whichever is less. The funds withdrawn can only be used towards approved Budget items.**

3. 4- Special disbursement:

If the Executive Committee wishes to withdraw funds from the Reserve Fund outside or in excess of the provisions of Article

VI.5.3, and only after those provisions have been met, a special Council Meeting must be called and a resolution for funds withdrawal shall be approved by a 1/2 vote of the full Council. To be valid, the resolution should be publicized at least two weeks prior to the Council meeting and contain:

- i. The current balance of the Reserve Fund,
- ii. The total amount to be withdrawn, which shall not exceed 5% of the “Previous Budget” cash outflows, or the current balance of the Reserve Fund, whichever is less.
- iii. The approved Budget line item(s) towards which the funds will be used, and the rationale as to why these cannot be funded through normal inflows. This special disbursement can only take place at most once per annual term of the GSC.

V. Vice-Presidential Duties

1. Amend Article I, Section B by inserting references to various Vice-Presidential duties listed throughout the Bylaws but not previously included in Article I's description of the position:

B. Vice-President

The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence and ~~coordinate all nomination decisions and~~ **chair all the elections of GSC members. The Vice-President shall also be the Chair of the Nominations Board as described in the Article II.D.2 of the GSC Bylaws. After every Funding Board application cycle, the Vice-President shall be part of the Funding Appeals Board as described in the Article II.D.3 of the GSC Bylaws.** The Vice-President shall be responsible for maintaining a record of the activity of Council representatives, **including attendance to the General Council Meetings, Council representative participation in at least one GSC committee, and recall council representatives as in Article III.C.5 of the GSC Bylaws. The GSC Vice-President shall be responsible for collecting reports from the** and Institute **Representatives and organizing the Orientation for Institute Representatives before October 15.**

VI. Election of Council Representatives

1. Amend Article III, Section A by creating Points 1-5 that formalize GSC collaboration with departmental and living group-based student constituency organization; that specify how the Council reps positions for constituencies without governing student groups will be handled; and that elaborate on Vice-Presidential responsibilities in overseeing the nominations process for Council Representatives positions:

A. Nominations for Council Representatives

1. Eligible graduate students may become Council Representatives only by one of the following pathways:
 - i. Being elected to fill an opening by the governing student organization of a departmental or living group constituency, OR;
 - ii. Being appointed by the Council after submitting an application to fill an opening for a departmental or living group constituency for which there is no identifiable governing student organization, OR;
 - iii. Being appointed by the Council after submitting an application to fill an opening for an at-large constituency
2. Departmental constituencies with openings are defined in Article III.2.1.1 of the Constitution. Living group constituencies with openings are defined in Article III.2.1.2 of the Constitution and Article III.B of these Bylaws. At-Large constituencies with openings are defined in Article III.2.1.3 of the Constitution. A complete and specific list of departmental, housing, and at-large constituencies with Council openings shall be regularly maintained on the GSC website.
3. Graduate students may be elected or appointed to fill a Council opening for a term of service. A term of service shall have a duration of one calendar year. All graduate students who are incumbent Representatives are eligible for election or appointment to consecutive terms of service as long as they remain members of the graduate student body. Graduate students who are incumbent Representatives for constituencies that are At-Large or without a governing student organization, and who wish to be appointed to a consecutive term of service will not be required to submit a new application, but they must send written confirmation to the Vice-President by September 15, and they are subject to other requirements and selection processes that may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.

4. For constituencies without a governing student organization, Council openings may only be filled by appointment by the Council. Members of the graduate student body must submit a complete application to the Council in order to qualify for appointment to fill such a Council opening. An application shall include a written nomination and documentation of a sufficient number of supporting signatures from other members of the graduate student body. Any member of the graduate student body may submit a nomination, including self-nominations, for a Council opening for constituencies without a governing student organization. The period for receiving written nominations, for a Council opening for constituencies without a governing student organization for membership shall open begin on September 15, and shall close on September 30 October 8. The GSC Vice-President shall be responsible for ensuring that all students are made aware of the opening beginning and ending of the period for receiving these of nominations for Council openings representatives and all other relevant procedural related information by September 15. Nominees shall submit signatures from twenty members, or 20% (which ever whichever is less), of their constituency, to the Vice-President. Graduate students nominated for a Council opening Nominees shall be members of their constituency associated with the opening. The Vice-President shall be responsible for informing students about the status of their appointment applications.

B. Housing Representatives

Each of the following on-campus graduate living groups shall have one representative: Ashdown House, Eastgate, Edgerton House, NW30 (also known as The Warehouse), Sidney-Pacific, Tang Hall, and Westgate.

2. Amend Article III, Section C by inserting new language assigning distributed responsibility for electing new Council representatives:

C. Election of Council Representatives

1. The governing student organizations of departmental and living group constituencies shall be responsible for determining the election processes for filling Council openings for their respective constituencies. The Vice-President shall coordinate with the governing student organizations of departmental and housing constituencies to determine the dates of elections to fill those constituencies' Council openings. The governing bodies shall submit to the Council the name(s) of the representative(s) elected, and no further signatures shall be required. The Secretary shall be

responsible for informing the graduate student body about such Council elections.

2. The Vice-President shall be responsible for validating the fairness of such elections, and the Council may refuse to recognize the results of any such election by a simple majority vote, if the Vice-President issues a determination that any such election has not been fairly conducted.
3. For ~~departmental and living group nominees~~, constituencies without a governing student organization if there are more nominees on October 4 9 than places openings available under Article III of the Constitution elections shall be held among members of that constituency. The GSC Officers shall be responsible for ensuring the fairness and validity of these elections. The Officers may receive assistance in conducting the elections from departmental student groups, departmental administrators, or other individuals or groups deemed by the Officers to be sufficiently neutral. Elections shall be completed by October 15 23, and the results of the elections shall take effect on the first Council meeting on or after October 15 23. If, for constituencies without a governing student organization, the number of nominees on October 9 is less than or equal to the number of available Council openings, the openings will be filled by appointment in the order in which applications are received. Appointments must be confirmed by a simple majority vote of Council.
4. For ~~The~~ off-campus constituency's Council openings and at-large nominees, if there are more nominees on October 1 than places available under Article III of the GSC Constitution, member selection shall be by equal chance lottery to be held by the GSC Officers. shall be filled by the co-Chairs of the Off-Campus subcommittee of the Housing and Community Affairs committee.
5. For at-large representative nominees, the positions shall be filled in the order in which applications are received.
6. ~~Members of a constituency may nominate for unfilled positions representing that constituency after October 1st. Those positions shall be filled in the order in which applications are received.~~

D. Notification of Council Representatives

Students shall be notified of their Council representatives by October 22, and within one week of when any future positions are filled as described in Article III. Section C.

E. Recall of Council Representatives

Council representatives shall be recalled automatically if they fail to attend three ~~consecutive~~ meetings without giving sufficient reason in writing to the Vice-President or their designate.

VII. Re-lettering Article IV

- 1. Amend Article IV by separating nomination procedures and election procedures for GSC Officers into Sections A and B:**

Article IV. Election of Officers

A. Nomination Procedures

1. All MIT graduate students are eligible to run for GSC office.
2. Nominations for officer positions will open at the March meeting and will remain open until one week before the elections. A nomination consists of a nomination vote by a Council member and a second by another Council member. Both the nomination and the second may be carried out orally at the meeting or as signed statements at any other time the nominations are open. A sliding ballot will be maintained throughout the elections, which will be carried out in the order of President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. Any unsuccessful candidate may run for one of the remaining positions without any further nomination procedure. In the event that no one is nominated for a position at the time the nominations close, the nominations will reopen during the April meeting prior to the elections. An up-to-date list of the nominees will be kept at the GSC office and will be publicized a day prior to the closing of the nominations. The GSC shall encourage anyone remotely interested in a position to seek nomination, and will allow nominees to withdraw at any time without negative implications.
3. The GSC Secretary will inform all relevant graduate student groups about the nomination and election procedures one month prior to the elections. The secretary will also send to these groups a list of eligible voters and directions outlining the procedure by which a graduate student may become an eligible voter. The executive committee will decide which graduate student groups will be considered relevant.
4. All candidates shall prepare a statement of purpose within two days of their nomination which will be posted at the GSC office. The Council will sponsor an informal coffee hour on the day the nominations close during which graduate students will have the chance to meet the candidates and ask any relevant questions.

B. ~~5.~~ **Election Procedures** will be as follows:

1. All candidates for a position will give a speech of no more than five minutes.
2. The Council will have the chance to ask questions of the candidates. All questions will be addressed to all the candidates and will be answered in the following order: the first question will be answered first by the first candidate, second by the second candidate, etc.; the second question will be answered first by the second candidate, second by the third candidate, etc., and the first candidate will answer this question last.
3. 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.
4. After officer elections there shall be a transition period in which the officers-elect will be instructed in the responsibilities of their office. The first Council meeting held after officer elections shall be a joint meeting of the officers-elect and outgoing officers, at the end of which the newly elected officers shall begin their term of office. A transition period will also be observed after the election of Committee representatives, although newly elected representatives shall have sole voting privileges from the beginning of their term. Outgoing representatives are urged to continue their participation until their term officially ends, and to attend the first meeting after the new term begins.