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#### Vice-President

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#### Treasurer

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# Graduate Student Council

## of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### 63.gsc.12: Amendment to the Bylaws concerning the Election of Council Representatives

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 a simplification in the procedure by which Council representatives are elected
3. The need to bring the Bylaws in agreement with current practice, decides to amend the Bylaws as follows:

1. The Constitution defines that Council Representative terms last a year. As the Bylaws currently stand, incumbent Council Representatives who wish to serve a consecutive term need to submit a written confirmation to the Vice-President stating their intent to continue serving. This requirement is currently not enforced and its enforcement could cause a sharp decline in Council membership. Provisions are added to bring the Bylaws in line with the current practice of automatically renewing the terms of incumbent Council Representatives as long as there are no challengers for a position. Therefore, Article IIIA.3 is amended as follows:

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~~, however they may be subject to other requirements and selection processes that may be specified elsewhere in these Bylaws.

2. The Constitution defines that Council Representative terms begin on October 15<sup>th</sup>. To bring the Bylaws in line with the current practice of accepting nominations and appointments to Council Representative positions

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# Graduate Student Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

throughout the year, provisions are being added to this effect, simplifying the process and removing mention to any specific dates, other than the October 14<sup>th</sup>, which is mandated by the Constitution. Therefore, Article IIIA.4 is amended as follows:

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 shall begin on September 15, and shall close on October 8.~~ Written nominations may be submitted throughout the year, with all terms ending on October 14. The GSC Vice-President shall be responsible for ensuring that all students are made aware of the ~~beginning and ending of the period for receiving these nominations for Council openings and all other~~ relevant procedural information ~~by September 15.~~ Nominees shall submit signatures from twenty members, or 20% (whichever is less), of their constituency, to the Vice-President. Graduate students nominated for a Council opening shall be members of the constituency associated with the opening. The Vice-President shall be responsible for informing students about the status of their appointment applications.

3. The Constitution defines that Council Representative terms begin on October 15<sup>th</sup>, but the Bylaws, as they stand, list October 22<sup>nd</sup> as the deadline for elections, thereby allowing for the possibility that some Council Representatives have not yet been elected to replace Representatives whose terms have elapsed. Nomination and election dates are edited to bring the Bylaws in line with the Constitution and with current practice. Furthermore, provisions are added to clarify the circumstances by which elections in constituencies without a governing student organization could be held. Therefore, Article III.C is amended as follows:

1. The governing student organizations of departmental ~~and~~ living group constituencies and constituencies associated with specified at-large positions shall be responsible for determining the election processes



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for filling Council openings for their respective constituencies. The Vice-President ~~shall~~ can 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.~~

- 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.
- For constituencies without a governing student organization, ~~and for nominees for at-large positions associated with a specified constituency,~~ students who are incumbent representatives in such positions will automatically be considered nominees for these positions unless they specify otherwise on or before October 1. If there are more nominees on October ~~9~~ 1 than 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 ~~23~~ 15, and the results of the elections shall take effect on the first Council meeting on or after October ~~23~~ 15. If, for constituencies without a governing student organization, the number of nominees on October ~~9~~ 1 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.~~
- The off-campus constituency's Council openings shall be filled by the co-Chairs of the Off-Campus subcommittee of the Housing and Community Affairs committee.
- ~~For a~~ At-large representative seats nominees without a governing student organization, the positions shall be filled in the order in which applications are received. will be subject to the process defined in Point 3, with the voting body being the Council.



# Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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

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