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#### President

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#### Vice-President

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#### Nominations Board

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#### Secretary

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#### Publications & Publicity Board

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#### Treasurer

Lisa Guay

#### Funding Board

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### Staff



# Graduate Student Council

## of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

### 63.gsc.6: Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Council Meeting Procedures

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 flexibility in council meeting procedures
3. The need to bring the Bylaws in agreement with current practice,

decides to amend the Bylaws as follows:

1. There should be more flexibility in scheduling special Council meetings to allow Council to respond more quickly to new situations and information if the need should arise. Therefore, Article V.A.2 is amended as follows:

Special meetings of the Council may be called to consider a special item or items of business, by the President, by two members of the Executive Committee, by four Council members, or by petition of any ten graduate students. Special meetings must be announced at least ~~two weeks~~ one week in advance and may not take place within ~~two weeks~~ one week of a regularly scheduled meeting.

2. Because the members of Council change throughout the year, the conditions under which old resolutions may be reintroduced should be revised to prevent excessive reconsideration of previous decisions. Therefore, Article V.C.2 is amended as follows:

An item of legislation already voted upon by the Council may be reconsidered if one of the following holds:

- i. It is shown that there has been substantive change in either the wording of the legislation or related circumstances since the earlier vote
- ii. The number of abstentions in the earlier vote was large enough to affect the outcome of the vote
- iii. ~~Neither~~ The current set of ~~Council representatives nor~~ Council officers ~~were~~ was not in place when the earlier vote was taken.

3. Due to a 2005 amendment to the GSC Constitution, Roberts Rules of Order no longer govern Council operation, and the remaining distinction of "Main" and "Principal" motions as they refer to amendments to the Constitution or Bylaws is no longer useful. Therefore, Article V.C.5.ii is amended as follows:



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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.

4. Any voting member of Council should be able to motion to repeat a vote as a recorded vote, as who was on the winning and losing sides cannot be proven in the absence of a recorded vote. Therefore, Article V.C.8 is amended as follows:

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.

5. The Bylaws prescribe a very time-consuming and old-fashioned method for conducting recorded votes. Modern technology allows us to do the same procedure in a fraction of the time. Therefore, Article V.C.9 is amended as follows:

~~The Vice-President shall have the responsibility of calling the roll during a recorded vote.~~ "Recorded vote" shall be understood to mean any form of voting whereby each individual member's vote is recorded. The Secretary shall have the responsibility of ensuring that individual members' votes are entered into the minutes during a recorded vote.

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