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Graduate Student Council

of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

63.gsc.7: Amendment to the Bylaws concerning Committee functions

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 transparency in how committees conduct their business
3. The need for more flexible committee procedures
4. The need to bring the Bylaws in agreement with current practice,

decides the following:

1. The GSC Bylaws are amended as follows:
 - a. Committees should have written procedures governing their operation, including how subcommittees are formed and dissolved. Therefore, Article II.B is amended as follows:

~~Committees can establish their own internal operating procedures and must operate under the GSC Constitution and~~

~~Bylaws. Committees will have their own internal operating~~

~~procedures and must operate under the GSC Constitution and~~

~~Bylaws. These operating procedures will be in written form and~~

~~publicly available on the GSC webpage.~~ 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 to nominate representatives to relevant

Institute Committees, as specified in Article II, Section E.2 of these

Bylaws. ~~These subcommittees shall terminate with the committee~~

~~chairs under which they serve. Committees may form and~~

~~terminate subcommittees as deemed necessary by the~~

~~Committee.~~

- b. The Publications & Publications Board operates differently than currently described, and there should be flexibility for future changes that improve communication with graduate students. Therefore, Article



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II.G.4 is amended as follows:

~~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.~~

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 any official publications of the GSC. 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 be headed by the Secretary, who may employ an editor, webmaster, and other persons to assist in running the board.

- c. The Horton Fellowship Award for student life should be part of committee operating procedures and authorized in annual GSC budgets rather than stipulated in the Bylaws. Therefore, Article II.G.6 is amended as follows:

The Activities Committee is a standing committee concerned with the sponsorship, advocacy, financing, and organization of social activities for graduate students. ~~The Graduate Student Council has~~



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~~established the Horton Fellowship Award in honor of Edward L. Horton, a graduate student in Physics, who greatly contributed to graduate student life at the Institute until his untimely death in 1982. The Horton Award is presented to any student or group in the Institute community that fosters fellowship within the graduate student body. The Activities Committee will decide the award recipient. Any person or group in the Institute community will be eligible, and nominations will be publicly solicited, though in any year the Activities Committee may decide to give no award.~~

- d. The Irwin Sizer Award for educational improvements, Teaching Awards for excellent instruction in graduate student courses, and the Frank Perkins Award for excellence in advising should be part of committee operating procedures and authorized in annual GSC budgets rather than stipulated in the Bylaws. Therefore, Article II.G.7 is amended as follows:

The Committee on Academics, Research, and Careers is a standing committee concerned with the coordination of graduate student activity on academic matters. It shall also coordinate efforts to help graduate students with their professional development through activities such as a graduate student career fair. Graduate student members of Institute Committees which concern themselves with academic matters, especially the representatives to the Committee on Graduate School Policy, shall be encouraged to attend meetings of the Committee regularly and keep the Committee informed of the deliberations of those Institute Committees.

~~In honor of Irwin Sizer, Dean of the Graduate School from 1967 to 1975 and to encourage innovations and improvements in education at MIT, the Graduate Student Council Committee on Academic Projects and Policy established the "Irwin Sizer Award" for the most significant improvement to MIT education, which shall be accompanied by a \$200 cash award from the budget to the project or agency associated with the improvement. The Award Committee shall consist of the members of the Committee on Academics, Research, and Careers and nominations will be publicly solicited, though in any year the Committee may decide to give no award. To encourage excellence in the teaching of graduate students, the committee shall solicit nominations for Teaching Awards from the Graduate~~



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~~Student Body each spring. These awards are to be given to instructors (including graduate student teaching assistants) of H-level graduate classes. The recipients of the awards shall be chosen on the basis of the quantity and quality of the nominations. Recipients shall be chosen for teaching in all of the schools at the Institute where the nominations justify such an award.~~

~~In honor of Frank E. Perkins, Dean of the Graduate School from 1982 to 1995 and to encourage the advising of graduate students in research at MIT, the Committee has established the "Frank Perkins Award" for excellence in advising. The Committee shall solicit nominations publicly and choose the recipient on the quantity and quality of these nominations, though in any year the Committee may decide to give no award. The Committee may designate subcommittees for the selection of any of the above awards or any of its activities as long as these subcommittees are informed by the Committee and responsive to it.~~

2. Committees that do not currently have written operating procedures will develop such within two months of the above amendment passing and post them on the GSC website.

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