Proposed Policy Change -- 5/50 rule

Rationale:
The goals of the rules established for groups are to provide activities for students that are rewarding, to provide leadership opportunities and guarantee that students are a fundamental part of the decision making process, and that students are not prejudiced against in favor of non-students.

Current language:
Student groups are student activities with an active membership of at least 5 MIT students and at least 50% MIT students, including standing and ad hoc committees of the MIT student governments. The activity’s president and treasurer, or corresponding officers, must be registered MIT students.

Funded student groups are student activities with an active membership of at least 5 MIT students and at least 50% MIT students. The activity’s president and treasurer, or corresponding officers, must be registered MIT students. These activities can be directly linked to an MIT program, existing student group, or an academic department. The sponsoring party of such a group is able to provide the basic support necessary to ensure success of the group. Non-sponsor-linked activities can be funded by student governments.

New language:
Student groups are student activities with an active membership of at least 5 MIT students. The activity’s president and treasurer, or corresponding officers, must be registered MIT students. The group’s quorum requirement must include a stipulation that at least half the members voting on any given issue must be students. This rule may be appealed and an exception granted if it is felt to be particularly deleterious (e.g., for cross-campus groups). In addition, provisions must be in place to assure that students are not prejudiced against.

Funded student groups are student activities fulfilling all the requirements listed for basic student groups above. These activities can be directly linked to an MIT program, existing student group, or an academic department. The sponsoring party of such a group is able to provide the basic support necessary to ensure success of the group. Non-sponsor-linked activities can be funded by student governments.