

Resolution to Add MIT EECS GSC Representatives to the Executive Committee of the MIT EECS GSA

Sponsor: Stephen M. Hou*

Approved by the Executive Committee on May 9, 2006 (14 for, 0 against, 0 abstaining).

Approved by a General Body Meeting on May 11, 2006 (20 for, 0 against, 2 abstaining).

Motivation

Each academic department and graduate living group is allotted representatives on the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC). The selection of these representatives is governed by the GSC, though its officers may receive assistance from the associated departmental student groups or living group governments in the case of contested nominees (Article III, Section C, Part 1 of the Bylaws of the GSC). Some groups, such as the Graduate Association of Aeronautics and Astronautics (GA³) and the Sidney-Pacific Graduate Community, have given their associated representatives an explicit voice within the groups' government structures. Currently, the EECS Graduate Students Association (GSA) and the EECS departmental representatives to the GSC ("EECS GSC reps") are formally unaffiliated. Creating a link between the two will help both groups carry out their respective missions. EECS GSA can bring the needs of the department to the attention of the general MIT graduate community by way of the EECS GSC reps; likewise, EECS GSA can aid the EECS GSC reps disseminate relevant information back to their constituency. EECS GSA can assist in organizing and publicizing events funded by money EECS GSC reps receive specifically for EECS events.

I propose granting the EECS representatives to the GSC *ex officio* membership on the EECS GSA Executive Committee ("ExecComm"), which shall be accomplished by amending the Bylaws of the EECS GSA, in accordance to

Details

Multiple positions

Issue: "What if an EECS GSC rep is already on ExecComm because he/she is an EECS GSA officer or committee chair? I thought that wasn't even allowed because Article IV, Section 3 of the Constitution of the EECS GSA says that no one can hold two EECS GSA positions simultaneously."

Since the GSC representatives are governed by the GSC, the office of EECS GSC rep is not considered an EECS GSA position, so a person may be an EECS GSC rep and an officer or committee chair simultaneously without violating the Constitution. However, such a person should be entitled to only one vote on ExecComm.

*shou@mit.edu

Automatic membership

Issue: “What if the EECS GSC reps don’t want to be on ExecComm?”

There is no advantage of being an EECS GSC rep to the GSC without having contacts with EECS GSA. If a rep chooses not to attend EECS GSA meetings, that would only hurt his/her ability to act as a representative of the department. Furthermore, being a part of ExecComm does not create an unreasonable burden of responsibility on the part of the rep.

Nevertheless, the reps should have the right to give up the privilege of being on ExecComm in writing.

Removal from ExecComm

Issue: “Can the EECS GSC reps be (individually) removed from ExecComm?”

EECS GSA does not have the power to remove an individual from the office of EECS GSC rep, but should have the power to remove a particular rep from ExecComm in a manner consistent with the impeachment and removal procedures for Officers and Committee Chairs. Officers and Chairs can be impeached, via a motion supported by any three members of ExecComm or the appropriate committee, and subsequently lose their office, via approval of two-thirds of ExecComm and two-thirds of attendees at the next General Body Meeting (Article VI, Section 5 of the Constitution of the EECS GSA). It is hoped that such provisions are invoked sparingly.

Consistency with GSC regulations

Consultation with former and current GSC officers determined that the amendment is consistent with GSC regulations. The EECS GSC reps are governed by the GSC, which is not bound by the EECS GSA Constitution or Bylaws. The amendment does not abridge the rights and power of, nor adds responsibility to, EECS GSC reps without their consent, and does not interfere with an individual’s right to be, and hold office as, an EECS GSC rep.

Issue: “Who is eligible to be an EECS GSC rep?”

From the GSC’s perspective, any EECS graduate student should be able to become an EECS GSC rep, regardless of their participation in EECS GSA. The amendment does not restrict this eligibility in any way.

Issue: “Are there GSC regulations against giving EECS GSC reps *ex officio* status within EECS GSA?”

No. As long as an EECS GSC rep has the right to relinquish any additional rights and responsibilities conferred by EECS GSA (which the amendment provides), there is no problem with giving EECS GSC reps *ex officio* membership on ExecComm.

Issue: “What is EECS GSA allowed and not allowed to do in terms of recruiting EECS GSC reps?”

EECS GSA can, and in fact is encouraged to, help recruit EECS GSC reps. However, EECS GSA may not control which individuals actually become EECS GSC reps if there are other individuals who, independently of EECS GSA, successfully complete the GSC procedures of becoming EECS GSC reps, though GSC officers may receive assistance from EECS GSA and other EECS student groups in the case of contested nominees (Article III, Section C, Part 1 of the Bylaws of the GSC). The amendment and the rest of the EECS GSA Constitution and Bylaws are silent about the issue of EECS GSA involvement in the appointment or election of EECS GSC reps.

Legislation

Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws of the EECS GSA describes the powers and membership of the Executive Committee. It currently reads:

Section II-3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the EECS GSA, have overall coordination of nominations, finances, and budgets not delegated to other committees, prepare an agenda for each General Body Meeting, and may deal with all matters pertinent to the Association. The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, Chairs of Standing Committees and other persons appointed (and removable) by the Association through the passing of legislation. The Executive Committee shall convene at the call of the President, or at the request of two of its members.

Be it enacted that, effective immediately, the middle sentence of that section shall be deleted and replaced by the following four sentences:

The Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers, Chairs of Standing Committees, other persons appointed (and removable) by the Association through the passing of legislation, and, should they not already be members of the Executive Committee, the EECS departmental representatives to the MIT Graduate Student Council (“EECS GSC reps”). An EECS GSC rep shall have the right to relinquish his or her membership on the Executive Committee for the current term of office in writing to the Officers. Any three members of the Executive Committee shall have the ability to call for the removal of an EECS GSC rep from the Executive Committee. Removal shall require the approval of two-thirds of the Executive Committee followed by the approval of two-thirds of the Members voting at the next General Body Meeting such that quorum is met.