

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION OF THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

*Last Updated: 04/24/2009 by Elizabeth Denys*

## **Preamble**

We, the undergraduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in order to improve the quality of our education, to provide ourselves with services which would otherwise not be provided, to express our views and represent ourselves before other groups whose decisions affect us, and to fairly and accountably allocate resources, which have been granted to us as a whole, do create a central body unto which legislative, executive, judicial, and representative powers are conferred.

The name of this organization shall be the Undergraduate Association (UA) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In order to insure that the Undergraduate Association continues to work on our behalf and in our interest, we have adopted this constitution to govern this Association.

## **Article I: Membership**

All undergraduate students of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shall be members of this Association. Further, this organization shall be empowered to act on behalf of the undergraduate student body of the MIT. Under this Constitution, an undergraduate is a person considered by the Registrar of MIT to be making adequate progress towards at least one undergraduate degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Students shall be able to hold office in this association provided that they qualify as an undergraduate as defined herein, and do not have definite plans or expectations to leave school or receive an undergraduate degree prior to the expiration of their term in office.

## **Article II: Organization and Structure of the Undergraduate Association Government**

The Undergraduate student government of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shall be organized into three structures that shall be responsible for the operation of this Association. These three divisions shall be the Undergraduate Association Senate (Senate), the Undergraduate Association Executive Committee (Exec), and the Undergraduate Association Judicial Review Board (JudBoard). These three bodies, along with their subsidiary organizations, shall collectively be known as the Government of the Undergraduate Association.

### Section 1: The Undergraduate Association Senate

1. The Undergraduate Association Senate shall be the legislative body of this organization. It shall enact legislation in order to facilitate the proper functioning of this Association and serve as a forum of discussion on behalf of the undergraduate student body.
2. The Senate may discuss any topic and make recommendations in an area that directly affects the MIT community. Additionally, it shall examine other areas if a majority of its members vote to do so or at the request of ten percent of this Association in the form of a written petition.

3. The Senate shall strive to protect the rights of students and serve to foster a sense of cooperation and communication between the segments of the MIT community.
4. The Senate shall have jurisdiction over all activities sponsored by a living group or other association of the undergraduates independent of a living group when those groups use facilities outside of a living group area.
5. The Senate shall enact Bylaws of the UA Senate to govern the specific procedures and guidelines under which it operates.
6. The Principal Officers of the Senate shall consist of a Speaker of the Undergraduate Association Senate (Speaker), a Vice-Chairman of the Undergraduate Association Senate (Vice-Chairman), and all official staff assistants appointed by the Speaker. Additionally, the General Officers shall include the Parliamentarian and the Sergeant-at-Arms of the UA Senate. Their powers and responsibilities shall be enumerated in the Bylaws of the UA Senate.
7. The Senate shall review UA committee policy recommendations, when necessary. Further, committee policies shall become UA policies with a majority vote of Senate.
8. The Senate, at its discretion, may create ad hoc committees which shall be governed by regulations described in Article IV, Section 3 of this Constitution.
9. The Senate shall have final authority over the allocation or reallocation of the financial resources of this Association and its subsidiary organizations. In addition, it shall require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to authorize the release of funds for expenditure from the Undergraduate Dues Reserve and Contingent (invested reserve).
10. The Senate shall not pass any ex post facto legislation.

## Section 2: The Undergraduate Association Executive Committee

1. The Undergraduate Association Executive Committee shall be the executive body of this Association. The UA Executive Committee shall be responsible for the execution of all acts of Senate and of the Undergraduate Association. The Executive Committee is also empowered to act in lieu of the Senate when it is out of session or unable to meet in a timely manner. The group serves to create and direct a strategic plan for the UA, coordinating, delegating and ensuring progress on new initiatives. This group shall also maintain the UA Schedule of Meetings and Events. All actions undertaken by the Executive Committee in lieu of Senate will be subject to subsequent review by the Senate at its next meeting. The Executive Committee in lieu of Senate may not amend the Constitution, Senate Bylaws or any other governing documents of the Undergraduate Association, or impeach members of the Undergraduate Association, or approve officials of the Undergraduate Association, or approve the Operating Budget of the Undergraduate Association. The Executive Committee in lieu of Senate may temporarily appoint officers, subject to review by the Senate at its next meeting." after, "the Executive Committee is also empowered to act in lieu of the Senate when it is out of session or unable to meet in a timely manner.
2. The Senate shall enact Bylaws of the UA Executive Committee to govern the specific procedures and guidelines under which the Executive Committee operates.

3. The Executive Officers of the Undergraduate Association shall include the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, the Class Council Coordinator, the Assistant Vice-President for Resource Development, the Assistant Vice-President for Public Relations, the Assistant Vice-President for Information Systems, the Executive Representative to the Dormitory Council, the Executive Representative to the Interfraternity Council, the Executive Representative to the Panhellenic Council, and the Assistant Vice-President for Orientation. Their powers and responsibilities shall be enumerated in the Bylaws of the UA Executive Committee. Additionally, the Executive Committee's General Officers shall include the President of each UA Class Council and the Chairmen of the UA committees and UA joint committees.

4. The President shall have the following duties and powers:

a. The President shall be the chief executive officer and general spokesman for this Association

b. The President shall have veto power over Senate legislation as described in Article VIII of this Constitution.

c. The President shall attend all faculty meetings or any other affairs which require his presence as a representative of the undergraduate student body.

d. The President shall serve as a voting member of the Corporation Joint Advisory Committee.

e. The President may call special meetings of the Senate at his discretion, in accordance with the Bylaws of the UA Senate.

f. The President shall be responsible for the execution of all acts of the Senate and of the Undergraduate Association. Further, he must inform the Senate of the state of this Association at the first meeting of both the fall and spring terms.

g. The President may determine the external groups with which this Association shall maintain relations. Such recognition shall be requirement for funds to be expended in conjunction with such groups. The Senate may overrule this decision with a two-thirds vote.

h. The President shall be responsible for the compilation of the UA Budget for each term. This budget shall be submitted to Senate for approval.

i. The President-elect shall appoint the Secretary-General, the Treasurer, Class Council Coordinator, Assistant Vice-President for Resource Development, Assistant Vice-President for Public Relations, Assistant Vice-President for Information Systems, Executive Representative to the Dormitory Council, Executive Representative to the Interfraternity Council, Executive Representative to the Panhellenic Council, and Assistant Vice-President for Orientation. The appointments shall require a two-thirds vote of approval by the Senate in each respective case to become effective. The President-elect shall make these appointments by the sixth regular Senate meeting of the spring term.

j. Each semester the president shall call and attend a meeting with the UA Treasurer, the UA Speaker, the Finboard Chairperson, and the Finboard Vice-Chairperson to determine the overallocation

percentage cap for that semester's funding period. This overallocation percentage cap shall be determined using data from past spending from the Student Activities Office.

5. The Vice-President shall have the following duties and powers:

a. The Vice President shall act as the chief operating officer of this Association and shall supervise the internal affairs of the Executive and the UA Office.

b. In the event that the President shall be temporarily unable to perform the duties of that office, the Vice-President shall assume the Presidency until such a time as the President is able to resume his duties. Written notification shall be sent by the President to both the Speaker and the Chairman of JudBoard at the occurrence of such an event.

c. The Vice-President shall attend events as specified in Article II, Section 2.4.c of this Constitution.

d. The Vice-President shall be responsible for assisting the President with the completion of his duties.

### Section 3: The Undergraduate Association Judicial Review Board

1. Membership:

a. The UA Judicial Review Board shall be the judicial organization of this Association. The membership of the JudBoard shall be chosen by the President from a slate of at least three and no more than nine candidates recommended by the UA Nominations Committee. The President shall appoint three of these candidates who shall each need the approval of the two-thirds of the Senate before they shall be allowed to sit on the board. Further, none of the JudBoard members shall be affiliated with any other Undergraduate Association governmental body.

b. One of the three JudBoard members shall be appointed as Chairman of that body by the President, with the approval of the Senate.

c. The Term of membership on the JudBoard shall be one year, beginning June 1st and ending May 31th. All members of the JudBoard shall be appointed by the out-going President before the sixth regular Senate meeting of the spring term. The JudBoard members shall be formally installed at the first Senate meeting of the fall term by the Speaker.

d. No person intending to run for office in UA elections may sit on the Judicial Board. Any member who shall obtain a petition for office shall immediately be replaced by appointment of the President. The appointment shall be pending until the approval of the UA Senate.

2. Purpose:

The purpose of this board shall be to interpret this Constitution, the Bylaws of the UA Senate, the Bylaws of the UA Executive Committee, and any other rules of this Association in cases of dispute between the bodies of this organization or its members. Additionally, this board shall hear complaints from members of this Association concerning the acts of its governmental bodies and act so that the situation is resolved. Also, this board shall oversee the creation and running of the UA and UA Class Council elections.

### 3. Powers and Responsibilities:

- a. This board shall have the power to reserve legislation or policies, brought to its attention, that it deems to be in violation of the intent of this Constitution or the Bylaws of the UA Senate.
- b. In order to carry out its duties, the board shall establish procedural rules which do not conflict with this constitution. These rules of operation shall become valid only after approval by a three-fourths vote of the Senate. In addition, any changes to these rules, either proposed by the board or the Senate, shall require a three-fourths vote of approval by the Senate.
- c. In order to carry out its responsibilities as listed in Section 2 of this Article, this board may request a report, either written or verbal, from any officer of this Association or the Senate.
- d. This board shall endeavor to render quick and faithful judgments and shall enjoy the cooperation of the other governmental bodies of this Association in executing its decisions.
- e. This board shall be responsible for the overseeing of the Election Commission, but its members shall not sit on the Commission and it shall further distance itself to offer a fair process to appeal Election Commission decisions.

### 4. Procedures of Operation:

- a. The rulings of this board shall remain uncontested and shall not be overturned by the veto of the President. Further, the bodies affected by the decisions of this board shall act on those rulings immediately.
- b. Each decision of this board shall be duly recorded and shall also include a constitutionally based rationale for its action. A copy of all rulings shall be transmitted to the Secretary-General for the archives.
- c. At no time shall an officer of this Association or the Senate collaborate with a member of this board on business of the Undergraduate Association. However, officers may seek advice on constitutional issues from JudBoard members.

### Section 4: The Order of the Knights of the Square Table of the Undergraduate Association

#### 1. Membership:

- a. The UA Knights will be the Honorary Branch of this Association and shall consist of members knighted by the UA Senate at the end of every Senate Session.
- b. The UA Knights will be led by a Supreme Commander elected every year by the UA Knights.
- c. Anyone knighted by the UA Senate shall remain permanently on the UA Knights Order.
- d. At the end of every Senate session Senate may knight up to five members of the Association to become knights of the Undergraduate Association.

## 2. Purpose:

The Purpose of this order is to recognize outstanding members of the Undergraduate Association. It has no other function except to serve as a purely advisory body.

## **Article III: Order of Succession**

### Section 1: General Order of Executive Succession

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Undergraduate Association President, the Undergraduate Association Vice-President shall succeed to that office. In the event of a vacancy in the office of the Vice-Presidency, the President shall immediately appoint a successor who shall become active upon the approval of a two-thirds majority of the Senate and installation by a member of the JudBoard at that Senate meeting.

### Section 2: Emergency Order of Executive Succession

1. In the event of simultaneous vacancies in the office of President and Vice-President, the Speaker shall temporarily assume the office of President and may appoint an acting Vice-President at his discretion. The Speaker shall then call for elections for the offices of President and Vice-President to be held within thirty days, unless regular elections are to be held within sixty days.

2. In the event of simultaneous vacancies in the offices of President, Vice-President, and Speaker, the Vice-Chairman shall call the Senate together at its next regularly scheduled meeting to elect interim officers to assume the duties of the vacant offices. These officers shall then act in accordance with the procedures as described in this Constitution and the Bylaws of the UA Senate and UA Cabinet.

## **Article IV: Committees of the Undergraduate Association**

### Section 1: General Regulations Concerning UA Committees

1. Certain major functions of this Association shall be entrusted to the Standing and ad-hoc committees of the Undergraduate Association. The Senate shall charter and grant proper powers to all committees.

2. The chairmen of all UA committees shall be responsible to the Executive Committee for the proper functioning of their committee. The chairmen or other officers may be impeached by a two-thirds vote of the Senate for gross neglect of duty, malfeasance, or other extreme violations of this Constitution, the Bylaws of the UA Senate, the Bylaws of the UA Executive Committee or any other rule governing their performance in this Association. They may further be censured by a majority vote of the Senate for the same reasons.

3. The election and appointment of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of all Standing committees of the Undergraduate Association shall not be considered valid without having received approval of the UA President and then the approval of a majority of the UA Senate. If the committee fails to select a chair, the UA President shall have the power to appoint one. Confirmation hearings shall be held at the UA Senate meeting immediately following the election of the officers. Further, the selections of all

Standing committee officers shall be overseen by a member of the Judicial Review Board who shall be responsible for insuring the fairness of the selection process.

4. A majority of the Senate shall be required to overturn or amend a decision of a UA Standing or ad hoc committee unless otherwise stated in this Constitution or the Bylaws of the UA Senate.

5. The bylaws of the UA Standing committees shall be established by each respective committee and shall become effective upon the approval of the President and ratification by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

6. Amendments to the bylaws of any UA committee shall require the approval of two-thirds of the respective committee plus a majority vote of the Senate, or a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

7. The authority to administer the financial assets and liabilities of this Association shall be vested in the UA Finance Board. It shall operate in accordance with its own bylaws and operating procedures as well as with this Constitution, and the Bylaws, codes, and resolutions of the Senate.

8. Unless otherwise specified in this Constitution or the Bylaws of the UA Senate, neither Executive Officers nor Principal officers of the Senate shall be allowed to chair any UA committee (exclusive of subcommittees and ad hoc committees). In addition, an individual may not chair more than one UA committee or subcommittee at a time. Under this subsection, a UA committee shall be defined as any committee enumerated in the Senate Bylaws. This rule may be suspended on an individual basis by a two-thirds vote of the Senate.

9. Certain committees of this Association shall be chartered to draft policy and/or execute programming to improve the quality of the student experience; these shall be known as Policy Committees. Other committees shall be chartered to fill functions necessary to the operation of the Association itself; these shall be known as Administrative Committees. The Senate, with recommendation from the President shall determine the characterization of each Standing Committee.

## Section 2: Unity of the Standing Committees

1. All standing committees of the Undergraduate Association shall report regularly to the UA Executive Committee and these reports shall be communicated to Senate. In addition, the chairmen of the standing Policy Committees of the Undergraduate Association shall report regularly directly to the UA Senate assembled. They shall be free to take actions and endorse policy as a UA Committee. These actions can be ceased or endorsed by the UA President and policy statements may be reversed or endorsed by a majority vote of Senate.

2. The UA standing committees shall be enumerated in the UA Senate Bylaws.

## Section 3: Ad hoc Committees of the Undergraduate Association

1. As per Article II, Section 1.8, the Senate may create ad hoc committees by a majority vote.

2. At the formation of such a committee, a procedural charter must be created by the Speaker and approved by a majority vote of Senate. This charter shall contain the following information: the name

of the committee, its purpose, the basic principles of its operation, any limitations on size or requirements for membership, and the period of its operation.

3. The Speaker shall recommend the chairmen of all ad hoc committees to the Senate, which shall appoint them with a majority vote. The Senate may replace them if it feels there exists cause to do so.

## **Article V: Elections and Referenda**

### Section 1: Election of Undergraduate Association Executive and Class Officers

#### 1. Objectives:

a. The objectives of the Undergraduate Association for its election process shall be high levels of participation, the ability to attract a sufficient number of highly qualified candidates, and the maintenance of orderly transition between the out going officers and the officers-elect.

b. The Undergraduate Association Election Commission shall be charged with the responsibility for executing the objectives expressed in this section and shall take all precautions to ensure that the election process is run in a fair, proper, and accurate manner.

#### 2. The Undergraduate Association Election Commission

a. The Election Commission shall consist of eight members of the Undergraduate Association, no more than two of which may be from the same living group, with one designated as Commissioner, all to be appointed by the UA President, with the approval of Senate. Additionally, one of the eight Commission members shall be appointed as Chair of the Campaign Rules Board, a subcommittee of the Election Commission, by the UA President, with the approval of Senate. The term of membership on the Election Commission shall be one year, beginning at the last Senate meeting of the spring term and ending at the last Senate meeting of the spring term of the following year. The Speaker shall formally install the Commission members at the last Senate meeting of the spring term.

b. No person intending to run for office in UA elections may sit on the Commission. Any member who shall obtain a petition for office shall immediately be replaced by an appointment of the UA President, with the approval of the Senate.

c. The Election commission shall be responsible for the execution and primary interpretation of the Election Code, and shall be empowered to enact any special rules governing the election process that do not conflict with this Constitution, the Bylaws of the UA Senate, or the UA Election Code.

d. It shall require a three-fourths vote of the Senate to overturn a policy of the Election Commission.

#### 3. Concerning the Undergraduate Association Election Code

The election code shall govern the election of the President, the Vice-President, the class officers, and any other office which this Constitution or the Senate requires. It shall also govern the process of advisory questions and referenda. Amendments to the UA Election Code shall require a three-fourths vote of the Senate.

## Section 2: Referenda

1. All decisions of the Senate shall be considered acts of this Association except that on petition submitted in writing by twenty percent of this Association within fifteen days of the enactment of such acts. The question shall then be posed to the Undergraduate Association as a whole as established in Article V, Section 2.2, of this constitution.
2. A question referred to this Association by the method of Article V, Section 2.1, shall be required by a referendum. The annulment of an act or decision of the UA Senate shall require a two-thirds majority of those voting, provided that the total number of ballots exceeds thirty percent of the membership of this Association. The referendum must occur within fifteen academic days of the submission of the petition.
3. Binding referenda may be introduced to the Undergraduate Association by a three-fifths vote of the Senate.

## **Article VI: Vacancies and Removals**

### Section 1: Vacancies

1. Vacancies in the offices of the President and Vice-President shall be handled as outlined in Article III, of this Constitution. Vacancies in class offices shall be handled as outlined in the Uniform Class Constitution of the Undergraduate Association.
2. Vacancies in the office of Secretary-General, Treasurer, Class Council Coordinator, Assistant Vice-President for Resource Development, Assistant Vice-President for Public Relations, Assistant Vice-President for Information Systems, Executive Representative to the Dormitory Council, Executive Representative to the Interfraternity Council, Executive Representative to the Panhellenic Council, or Assistance Vice-President for Orientation shall be governed by the same procedures for the original appointment process.
3. If a vacancy shall occur on the JudBoard, the President shall immediately appoint a new member who shall take office upon ratification by two-thirds of the Senate.

### Section 2: Removals

1. All impeachment proceedings brought before the Senate shall be chaired by a JudBoard member who is not the subject of the removal proceedings.
2. The President and the Vice-President:
  - a. It shall require a three-fourths majority, roll call vote of no confidence by the Senate, or a written petition signed by ten percent of the Undergraduate Association to hold a special recall election for either the President, the Vice-President, or both. At the submission of the petition or at the conclusion of the vote, the individual(s) in question shall temporarily surrender his (their) office(s) pursuant to the results of the special recall election as described in the UA Election Code.

b. A ruling stating misuse of power made by the JudBoard to remove the President, the Vice-President, or both, followed by a three-fourths, roll call vote of no confidence by the Senate shall be sufficient for impeachment.

3. The Secretary-General, Treasurer, Class Council Coordinator, Assistant Vice-President for Resource Development, Assistant Vice-President for Public Relations, Publicity Chair(s), Assistant Vice-President for Information Systems, Executive Representative to the Dormitory Council, Executive Representative to the Interfraternity Council, Executive Representative to the Panhellenic Council, or Assistance Vice-President for Orientation: It shall require a two-thirds vote of the Senate to remove an Executive Officer. The reason for removal must be based on malfeasance, gross neglect of duty, or other severe violations of Undergraduate Association rules and procedures.

4. The members of the UA Judicial Review Board:

It shall require a three-fourths vote of the Senate to remove a member of the UA Judicial Review Board. The removal of such a member must be based on gross neglect of duty, willful obstruction of the business of this Association, or other severe violations of the rules of this Association.

5. The UA Class Officers:

It shall require a two-thirds vote of the Class Council of the affected officer, and a majority vote of the UA Senate, or a two-thirds vote of the UA Senate to remove a class officer. Details for such a removal shall be contained in the Uniform Class Constitution.

### **Article VII: The Archives and Records of the Undergraduate Association**

It shall be the responsibility of the Secretary-General to ensure that an accurate account of the significant events of the Undergraduate Association governmental bodies shall be kept for future reference. Further, the Secretary-General shall endeavor to keep an accurate account of all membership roles of this Association's governmental bodies and any other records that the Senate deems as necessary.

### **Article VIII: Legislation of the UA Senate**

#### Section 1: Execution of the Legislation of the UA Senate

1. The Undergraduate Association Executive Committee is responsible for the execution of all Senate legislation and resolutions. Upon passage of legislation by the Senate, the following measures shall taken:

a. The Speaker shall within two days transfer all pertinent documents and information to the President.

b. The President shall then review such information in consultation with the UA Executive Officers. The President may then decide either to veto the legislation or act upon it.

1) If the President vetoes the legislation, it shall then be returned to the Speaker with a written explanation of why the veto was used. The Senate shall then reconsider the legislation at its next meeting. If it then passes by a two-thirds vote, the President must execute the legislation.

2) If the President decides to execute the legislation, he shall sign three copies of the document. He shall present one copy of the legislation to the Speaker for the records of the Senate and two copies to the Secretary-General for storage in the archives and for public display, respectively.

3) In either case, the President must return the legislation to the Speaker within seven days of its receipt. If the president shall not have acted on the legislation by either veto or signature, then the legislation shall be considered in effect and the Executive Committee responsible for its execution at the end of the seven days period.

c. The Secretary-General shall announce the passage of legislation that significantly affects the campus lifestyle through the most appropriate means available.

2. The President shall have the power to veto resolutions and general acts of the Senate and amendments to this Constitution. The power of the veto shall be transferable to the Vice-President only on the written authority of the President and only in such cases where the President shall be off campus for a period greater than seven days or when otherwise hampered in his duties for such a period of time.

#### Section 2: Archiving of the Legislation of the UA Senate

The Secretary-General shall be responsible for maintaining the records of the legislative acts of the Senate and its pertinent bodies. These records shall be accessible to the members of this Association.

### **Article IX: Amendments**

#### Section 1: Amendments by the UA Senate

Except as otherwise specified herein, this Constitution may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the Senate, but the motion to amend shall lie on the table for at least one meeting and no more than three meetings prior to enactment. The motion must appear on the agenda for the meeting.

#### Section 2: Amendments by the Undergraduate Association

Upon written petition by twenty percent of the members of the Undergraduate Association, the Senate must consider any amendment to this Constitution at its next regularly scheduled meeting. If the amendment is lost in the Senate, it must be presented to the Undergraduate Association as a referendum. The amendment shall become part of this Constitution if it receives a two-thirds vote and the ballots case exceed thirty percent of the membership of this Association.

### **Article X: Ratification, Transition, Precedence**

#### Section 1: Ratification

This Constitution shall be treated as an amendment to the previous Constitution of 1969 and shall be ratified according to the procedures established therein for amendments.

### Section 2: Transition

The Undergraduate Association Constitution of 1969, and all previous UA Constitutions under the Institute Committee, the General Assembly, and the UA Senate are hereby declared null and void, and shall be superseded by this Constitution. This Constitution shall become effective February 1, 1992.

### Section 3: Order of Precedence

In case of discrepancies between the constitutions and /or bylaws of the undergraduate student groups at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the following order of precedence, from highest to lowest, shall apply:

1. The Constitution of the Undergraduate Association
2. The Bylaws of the Undergraduate Association Senate
3. Constitutions and bylaws of equal status:
  - a. The Constitution of the Association for Student Activities
  - b. The Constitution of the Dormitory Council
  - c. The Constitution of the InterFraternity Council
  - d. The Constitution of the Living Group Council
  - e. The Constitution of the Panhellenic Association
  - f. The Uniform Class Constitution
  - g. The bylaws of the Standing Committees of the Undergraduate Association
4. The constitutions or bylaws of activities or living groups

Disputes not covered by this order of precedence shall be decided by the UA Judicial Review Board.