

# Constitution Committee Meeting

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*Monday, July 20, 2009*

Expectations:

- Weekly meetings Monday 5:30—if you miss, get your info to Paul and Bennie
- Everyone will be expected to write a section of the report in small groups
  - People who know LaTeX: Liz Denys, Cinjon Resnick, Paul Baranay, Mike Bennie
- We will fully document all changes—not just a diff—what the change is and explanation of why other than spelling mistakes
- Minutes are going to be recorded by idea flow instead of transcripts
- Proposing changes by hand vote—simple majority for now, later we will perfect this.
- Everyone here is part of some constituent body—you should be getting back to constituency with changes and such
- [ua.mit.edu/committees/constitution](http://ua.mit.edu/committees/constitution) and the wiki
- We will try to get some type of schedule—minutes will likely be “due” by Wednesday
- Anonymous topics—send to [ua-constitution-chairs@mit.edu](mailto:ua-constitution-chairs@mit.edu)
- Let’s be careful not to get too bogged down in details
- We don’t just want to fix negatives, but also improve on positives. We’re only as strong as our weakest link.
- Preparation: Read over document, mark up changes you see. In the future, email them the night before.
- Right now, we’re going to look at UA Constitution, Exec Bylaws, Senate Bylaws, Class Council Constitution, Committee guiding documents, ASA Bylaws

Class Council Constitution:

- We need to fix spelling changes. Friendly.
- We should renumber the constitution to be like our constitution. Friendly.
- How Class Council currently works:
  - Generally, councils don’t know it exists/don’t follow it as a result
  - However, does seem like there’s a good mentoring system between the councils
  - A class council advisor, currently seems to be from the SAO (this started two years ago)
  - Freedom is good for appointing that advisor.
- Doughnut Stand: Can we vote to strike since it doesn’t exist? Yes: stricken. Should something else exist?
- Should money roll over? Yes, friendly. After senior year, rolls over into alumni account. Yes. This is where it’s currently... we need to learn more about this. We could keep putting it there, put it

in the Senior Gift account, give to younger classes. We will look into this alumni association fund later. Let's confirm with 09 council about what actually happens.

- We need to find out what Alumni Association says about what the money should go to after graduation—we should possibly put this in our constitution if we like where this goes.
- Put some money to a joint Class Council events fund?
  - Would it be good for Councils to save money in case of recession? Money now rolls over.
  - We should encourage this so all councils work together.
  - Would benefit younger councils to learn how things are done well.
  - Why do different councils (ignoring seniors) get different amounts? Term differences? We should investigate this.
  - How many joint events would we want? Should returning Class Councils be required to throw an event to recruit?
  - We want to ideally have this joint fund go towards an “orientation” event from the 3 older years and one other event.
- Create a President's council of the four presidents. Friendly.
- People are not allowed to go in the red, ever. Class Councils should not be allowed to go in the red.
- Save some money towards Alum Association? No.
- Should we require a certain number of events each term?
  - Not clothing distribution, something that people don't just pass through.
- There are a lot of Senior Class Council issues not in this document at all.
- RingComm (34.13)
  - Should P, VP, S, T be members of RingComm?
    - Criteria for RingComm vs. criteria for Class Council is different.
    - Members are currently chosen arbitrarily by a process decided by the specific Class Council
    - Major options:
      - Class Council on it intrinsically and they pick it
      - Class Council can't be on it and picks it
      - Some other body picks it
      - Run for RingComm
      - Pick up to n members to be on RingComm from Class Council—this will create fights
      - President is (according to Constitution) ex officio member of RingComm (and all committees of the class)
      - Elect RingComm chair and VP and they pick rest of committee and class council could be on.
  - We should codify some advisor rule and the selection process.
  - Members getting free rings? Codify this.

- Where does money going to RingComm members come from? If money comes from Balfour, less bad. If it comes from Student Life Fee, probably should not get free rings because it's coming from Student Life Fee.
    - Maybe put in a remark about ethics?
    - Can get SAO to enforce the contract so that they specifically get free rings.
    - Can cut out and leave nothing, say can get rings for free, say can't get rings for free
    - No one wants to codify that they should get free rings.
    - Everyone wants an ethics clause. This would bind RingComm to it.
  - We need to reword 34.13.A.4: should make it more closely follow the spirit: we need to publicize RingComm elections
  - Class Council should not pick chairs—it should be elected by RingComm?
    - Class Council picking would make better “slate” and would create less quarreling.
  - Class Council should be able to pull people off RingComm—codify vote required—two-thirds should be needed.
  - All references to Finboard should be changed to UA Treasurer with SAFO.
  - Do we like 34.13.A.7? Is this too strong a penalty? We don't think it's too steep on a whole. We could let someone else pick the RingComm... It should stay in some fashion but with different penalties.
  - We need to get rid of the Council external to the officers?
  - Negotiation—how often does this happen?
- Composition of the Class Council
  - It's an event planning committee, so why have social chairs?
  - 8 people is good number for planning events.
  - We need a treasurer because of purchase orders, we need someone to run the meeting, and we need someone to record, and keep a VP. Maybe have 4 members at large elected in addition?
  - This wouldn't change much functionally. We likely don't do this.
- Class Council should be defined as Class Officers as is currently. Should be able to make committees, but the Council idea is dead.
  - Striking 34.34. Friendly.
  - Changing 34.33 to say executive body. Friendly.
  - Ability to act on behalf of class? “The Council shall represent the class.” Friendly.
  - Put in UA Constitution that Senate is the only legislative body so Class Councils cannot legislate nor can others. Alternate wordings for 34.32.
  - Some reordering should happen.
- New election for members, how to replace, all of 34.40
- Permanent Class Council? Should it be the same as Senior Class Council? Likely not. Get more information from Alumni Association.

Queue? Not at this point.

Reevaluate topics at later dates? Yes, so we don't have to figure things out immediately. The schedule will reflect this.

We will email about scheduling restrictions.