



Constitution Committee Meeting

Minutes from August 3, 2009

1 Constitution

We're going to identify points of contention and then come back to things for discussion after going through the Constitution.

1.1 Preamble

"to provide ourselves with services which would otherwise not be provided": clarify/what does this mean? This is about things such as SCEP's violations week.

1.2 Article I: Membership

Eliminate "the" in "undergraduate student body of the MIT" in Membership. Friendly.
What is Registrar's definition of "undergraduate?" Ours should match that.

1.3 Article II: Organization and Structure of the Undergraduate Association Government

Judboard—is this functioning the way it is intended right now? Should this collapse into Judboard and ElectComm together? Randomized Judboard?

1.3.1 Section 1: The Undergraduate Association Senate

Senate should be the "sole" legislative body. Friendly.
Needs to be clearer that Senate is a policy legislative body—to include resolutions, bills. Friendly.
"Representative" should be a word in this section. Friendly.

II.1.2

- Needs to say "any area." Friendly.
- Does "Association" mean full student body or ua-all? In this first part means government (specify government everytime we mean government), here means all of student body. Change to "ten percent of the undergraduates." Friendly.
- What does "proper function of student body" mean? Happiness of students.

II.1.4: What does "jurisdiction" mean? Thinks it means we have the role of the ASA then we give it to the ASA? This is confusing. We want this to be the charge of this power to the Senate which then delegates this to the ASA.

II.1.6



- Make Vice Speaker. Friendly.
- Include General Officers and staff assistants? No, just Speaker and Vice Speaker should be in Constitution. Friendly.

II.1.7: Where is “when necessary” specified? Ideas is that committee reports be approved by Senate and that Senate can charge committees, tell them their doing it wrong. Senate votes to make SCEP do things while SCEP can just do things. We should clarify this to match these sentiments.

II.1.8: Exec should be able to create temporary Ad Hoc committees until Senate can approve. Exec already can through acting when Senate is not around.

II.1.9: Change to “this Association, its subsidiary organizations, and its committees and subcommittees.” Change to “Invested Reserve” in word. It should stay at a minimum of \$5K as legislation passed previously suggests, and that should be written here. Friendly.

1.3.2 Section 2: The Undergraduate Association Executive Committee

II.2.1

- Clarify “Executive Committee.” Friendly.
- Define “timely manner.” This is rarely abused, so not an issue.
- Change “all acts of Senate and of the Undergraduate Association” to “all acts of the Undergraduate Association government.” Friendly.
- Need to break into the three sections. Subsections are sentences 1-2 and 4, 3 and 6 and onward, and 5 goes elsewhere. Friendly.
- Make “new and existing initiatives.” Friendly.
- Cut maintaining of scheduling because in Bylaws. Friendly.
- ExecComm should be able to modify its governing documents when Senate is not in session subject to Senate approval, as is everything. Friendly.
- Cut last sentence of II.2.1. Friendly.

ExecComm can change its own bylaws, but Senate can overrule them. Friendly.

II.2.3

- Cut the AVP’s in II.2.3. Cut after “Treasurer,” but include an “and.” Friendly.
- “Executive Officer” is a term here to be referenced elsewhere. It can be given meaning in the context of this document.



- “Executive Officers” and “Executive Committee” should have Class Councils, chairs, etc. “Additionally, the Executive Committee shall be...” in II.2.3. Friendly.

Add to Executive Bylaws that Speaker, VS are ex officio members of Exec.

II.2.4 should be in the Constitution. The P, VP, SG, T, Speaker, VSspeaker should all be in here?
Coming back to this. II.2.4: President

- II.2.4.c should change “or” to “and.” This is ambiguous. Friendly.
- Change “emergency” to “special” everywhere, like in II.2.4.e. Friendly.
- II.2.4.f should be “State of the Undergraduate Association” because this is the language used. Friendly.
- II.2.4.g is Kaplan and Princeton or DormCon, Panhel, etc. This should be about external to the MIT or to the UA. A new clause about the latter?
- II.2.4.h should be in Treasurer *if* Treasurer put in this document. Friendly.
- Cut AVP’s from i and CCC from i. Make it SG, T, and other executive officers in Bylaws. Friendly.
- In i, get rid of sixth regular Senate meeting, make before close of Senate. The language in Senate Bylaws is good, it should be determined there. People shouldn’t be introduced at last meeting. Say see Senate Bylaws for this. Friendly.
- Capitalize president in j. Should Speaker be here? Yes, because Senate approves. Involve VP, too? No, that makes it 6 and even. This needs to be here because it’s high level and is president’s job. We want it high up so Finboard can’t remove it. President should see his job in one place. Friendly.

II.2.5: Vice President

- Chief Operating Officer is strong and correct and assist the President is correct. Friendly.
- This is good.

1.3.3 Section 3: The Undergraduate Association Judicial Review Board

Specify outgoing President must appoint everywhere so that there are no questions. Friendly.

Cut part about UA NomComm and the slate. Friendly.

Specify “advertise to the undergraduates.” Friendly.

Lowercase “t” for “term of membership.” Friendly.

We should fix “sixth” Senate meeting everywhere to something that has more meaning now that Senate can meet every week. Friendly.

Judboard should be sworn in at end of last Senate meeting with Exec, Senate officers. Friendly.



Association in 2 should be “undergraduate student body.” Friendly.

SAO doesn’t want to get rid of Judboard. They want these sorts of things in more organizations.

In purpose, want to cut Class Council elections because it’s implicit with UA. Friendly.

Fix “reserve” to “reverse.” Friendly.

Change “Bylaws of the UA Senate” to “constitution and other governing documents.” (Do this everywhere.) Friendly.

Want to change “intent of” to “the letter and intent.” Friendly.

Capitalize Constitution. Friendly.

3/4 vote of Senate to access the reserve should be put in II.3.1.a to make consistent with legislation passed. Friendly. Now in Constitution no matter what we pass. Bylaws and Constitution are what we say they are. Friendly.

In 1.c, make “any member of this Association.” Friendly.

Powers and Responsibilities

- Record in archives and on website. Friendly.
- Senate can pass legislation to change the rules for Judboard but can’t overrule Judboard.

4.b: Constitution, governing documents, or legislation. Friendly.

Judboard is bad–Judicial Review Board is better; let’s use that in all places. Friendly.

Cut Senate because it is part of the Association. Friendly.

Cannot talk to a member of this Association outside of Judboard.

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

Cut all of Section 4. Friendly.

1.4 Article III: Order of Succession

1.4.1 Section 1: General Order of Executive Succession

Okay.

1.4.2 Section 2: Emergency Order of Executive Succession

Okay.



1.5 Article IV: Committees of the Undergraduate Association

1.5.1 Section 1: General Regulations Concerning UA Committees

Censure should be an internal acknowledgement. Friendly.
Appoint vice-chairmen as well as chairmen? Maybe.

Committee picks chair, President has option of presenting that chair or one of his own choosing, Senate approves. Friendly.

Without committees picking, president approves. Friendly.

4 And other governing documents.

7 should be the Treasurer and kill second sentence. Friendly.

Clarify 8 who cannot chair UA committees.

1.5.2 Section 2: Unity of Standing Committees

Okay. Somewhere we must note that chairs are up for renewal every term.

1.5.3 Section 3: Ad hoc Committees of the Undergraduate Association

Charter should be made by proposer of the committee in the legislation in 3.2.

Change Speaker to President in 3.

1.6 Article V: Elections and Referenda

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

Fairness should be specified in objectives in 1.

Campaign Rules Board? Should it just be all of ElectComm? Cut “Additionally” sentence in a. Should we install them? No, cut last sentence of 2.a.

2.c. all governing documents should be mentioned: “Constitution and governing documents.”

1.6.2 Section 2: Referenda

Changing fifteen to “fifteen academic days” in 2.1 and 2.2.

1.7 Article VI: Vacancies and Removals

1.7.1 Section 1: Vacancies

Point to where it is for Speaker and Vice Speaker in Vice Chair.

1.7.2 Section 2: Removals

Should be covered by a JudBoard member. Friendly.

Majority needed to impeach P and VP? 2/3 (what is needed to suspend the bylaws), 3/4?

In 3, remove all but SG and T. Friendly.



Senate not always representative of classes, should they be allowed to remove class councils? No. Friendly.

1.8 Article VII: The Archives and Records of the Undergraduate Association

Good.

1.9 Article VIII: Legislation of the UA Senate

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

Veto during meeting? No, needs more time, might need to check something. Friendly.

2. One copy only to UASG for archiving. Also must be “publicly archived” on the website. Friendly. Cutting c because redundant. Also, no a or b. Friendly.

Cut “when otherwise hampered in his duties for such a period of time” from 2. Friendly.

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

Okay.

1.10 Article IX: Amendments

1.10.1 Section 1: Amendments by the UA Senate

Okay.

1.10.2 Section 2: Amendments by the Undergraduate Association

Okay.

1.11 Article X: Ratification, Transition, Precedence

Okay.

1.11.1 Section 3: Order of Precedence

Bylaws of Exec should be on same level as Bylaws of Senate. Friendly.

2 Closing

We will come back to controversies later: Tentatively 10 am to 2 pm on Saturday, August 15.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Denys
UA Secretary General