



Constitution Committee Meeting

Minutes from August 10, 2009

1 Senate Bylaws

Note: We changed Vice-Chair to Vice-Speaker last meeting.

1.1 Article II: Purpose

Reference the section in Constitution. Friendly.

1.2 Article III: Membership

In Section III.1.1, “the Speaker and the Vice-Speaker (VS) shall also be Senate representatives.” Friendly.

In Section III.1.1, Speaker and VS should not be allowed to be Senators. Allows for an extra impartial non-voting member to run meeting if Speaker not there. Represent Senate but cannot be Senators. Friendly.

In Section 1, 2. Include UAT abbreviation. Friendly.

Should we require committee chairs to come to Senate?

- Either have them have votes if required to come or make it they can be called into Senate within 48 hours.
- Some Senators are also chairs.
- Ex officio membership without required attendance? They should definitely be ex officio members so they can speak in closed session and make legislation. Friendly.
- Include ad hoc committees. Adding “ad hoc” into the last phrase of III.1.2. Friendly.
- Not required to come, but can get called into Senate within 48 hours. Friendly.

Section 3

- Elect Comm is not a standing committee, but one of Judboard.
- Clarify III.3.1.a to be Voting members, Speaker (S), and Vice-Speaker (VS).
- III.3.1.b Strike first sentence.
- III.3.1.a Should more absences be allowed? Add in word unexcused. Friendly.
 - More than two consecutive absences still seems right.



- Can send proxies.
- Maybe up the three absences. Clause for number of meetings. Percentages? More than 8, you get up to four absences; less than or equal to 8 meetings, 3 absences. Friendly.
- We should split up III.3.1.a. Friendly.
- III.3.1.b Does UAT need to be there? Funding legislation shouldn't come up on the spur of the moment. Might not be worthwhile all of the time.
- III.3.2.c change to "second or third" Senate meeting of each term. Friendly.
- III.3.3 Require them to hold study breaks? No. Encourage them if that will help, but not require.
- III.3.3.c Apply for money from Speaker. Friendly.
- III.3.4.d doesn't address off-campus, but they have no president.
- III.3.4.e should be "due process," as is currently stated, ambiguously so that Judboard has discretion.

Should we allow other gov't presidents to be ex officio members of Senate? Should they automatically be allowed to speak? This would mean we could call them in. We should keep them in. (No change.)

Also, fix minor errors, such as capitalization, everywhere.

1.3 Article IV: Procedures of the UA Senate

Proxies: Can the other Senator appoint the proxy like the constituent? Maybe. This should not excuse the Senator who the person is proxying for as one less absence.

Should only get proxy to count as excused if you have an excuse validated by the Speaker. We will come up with those modifications and put them in. Friendly.

IV.1.5 Amendments to bills exist, wanted to make attendance stricter—this is contradictory to absences. Should at least be in the case that you can't find the proxy. Should be able to exercise privilege if a proxy is sent. Strike "not sending a proxy." Friendly.

Section 2: S and VS shouldn't get votes.

IV.2.5 Okay use of Association. Friendly.

Make it members of "the Association or Senate shall have speaking privileges?" ie. ASA Graduate Student as a President. Friendly.

IV.3.1 "The Speaker may then take action as they see fit?" What if Speaker doesn't like motion? Senators can always motion to put something on the agenda. Also, overruling in IV.3.4.

IV.3.3 Change UA Publicity Chairs to UASG, who can then delegate as sees fit. Friendly.



IV.4.1: Higher quorum for emergency meeting to protect minority. Friendly. Want to make for emergency of “half of Senate” instead of “half of Senate present” or require 2/3 for quorum? Higher quorum easier to follow. Make quorum 2/3 for emergency meeting. Friendly.

The first IV.4.3 “another” after and in first sentence. Friendly.

The first IV.4.3 include Class Councils? No. Their budgets get approved by Senate, but that doesn’t mean they need to be here.

Renumber IV.4 so that the numbering is correct.

IV.4.3 Impeachment Proceedings: 3.a. We like this. 3.c. Change to Judboard. Friendly.

IV.4.4.g Finboard Chair should be required to come only if a Finboard Funded group. Friendly. The ASA should be notified for all student group requests. Friendly.

IV.4.4.h will be left to FPRC.

IV.5: Establish Ad Hoc comm of UA and make it all Senators. This is redundant. Cut section. Friendly.

IV.6: Should be elsewhere? Should discretionary minimum exist? For now, leaving. FPRC taking care of this. Should be also in Exec Bylaws as logical post FPRC. Have a separate document that’s thematic and easier to lookup—more indexable.

IV.7: P, VP, Speaker, VS, UAT, UASG, +1 person at discretion of Speaker with UAT chairing without an initial vote and overruling a tie or P, VP, S, VS, +3 person at discretion of Speaker. Conclude: P, VP, S, UAT (chair), +3 person at discretion of Speaker. Chair as treasurer is the only friendly change at this time.

IV.8: Higher quorum because lots of key legislation gets passed with too few people. Quorum to be 1/2. This should be where emergency quorum should be stated. Friendly.

1.4 Article V: The Undergraduate Association Standing Committees

Can we add Events as Administrative. Friendly.

History is becoming Administrative. Friendly.

Add in Class Councils to Standing Admin Comms?

- We could call them into Senate if we did.
- They don’t focus on policy or pushing the UA so it can better use policy.
- They’re not a committee.

See http://ua.scripts.mit.edu/ua/constcomm/index.php?title=Committee_Structure.

- We like this, but maybe not termed as subcommittees.



- Every committee not under someone as stated there is under P/VP explicitly, ie. there is no point person directly underneath the P/VP to handle the committee because one does not obviously exist.
- Vis a vis Special Projects: more of association by theme than sub committees, as sustainability is a special project.
- We don't want people to have to go to both meetings like CSL and Athletics—instead of Exec and Athletics. The meetings wouldn't have to be weekly. Delicate balance.
- Should UAT chair Finboard? We think no, but should have oversight. GSC structure of Finboard chair/Treasurer has created bias issues.
- We need to format this to be texted like a constitution. The drafting will occur over email.

1.5 Article VI: Officers of the Undergraduate Association Senate

Rename Section 1 to “Roles and Duties.”

Add in Senate Reps to Finboard and Exec.

Kill Sen Rep to Exec? We'll see.

Vote at first meeting to appoint Sgt at Arms and Parliamentarian.

Section 2: VS vs. S as current or past. They should both be “current or past.” Friendly. Members or voting members? Members, not required to be voting. Friendly.

VI.2.3.a make it 2/3 to be consistent. Friendly. Get rid of gross neglect? Maybe.

Need procedure for NomComm over summer. We have that with voting Exec.

Don't use slang like NomComm in official documents.

1.6 Article VII: Suspension and Amendment of these Bylaws

You suspend a specific a specific bylaw. Change it to suspend specific bylaws. You can still do all. Put in idea of (un)protected provisions.

Should be able to suspend agenda for new business. Prior notice requirements for amendments to governing docs should happen.

Suspending agenda should be unprotected.

There is a reason for “should” be used.

Protected might be simpler than unprotected. Individual protected ones will just create work arounds.

“2/3 of Senate” instead of “2/3 of Senate present.”

We will draft and compare so that this makes sense.



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2 Vice-Speaker

Should we have one? Yes, need an impartial Senate member who isn't an Executive Officer to run the meeting if the Speaker cannot be present or decides there exists bias on a specific part of the proceedings. We wouldn't want to need have a constituency lose a vote in the event of this by needing to run the meeting. However, they don't do a lot by their definition as Vice-Speaker. For now, keeping it.

Respectfully submitted,

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