



Constitution Committee Meeting

Minutes from August 15, 2009

1 Ironing Out Contentious Points

This is what we will be doing today. It will be annoying and difficult, but we need to do it.

2 Class Council Constitution

Ring Committee

- Should RingComm members be allowed free rings?
 - Free rings at some point comes from money paid for by other students or that should be benefitting other students, ie. the contract paid for by Student Life Fee, hikes in prices.
 - It's currently a big perk for lots of their time. Also, this is something institutionalized, do we really need to fight the battle?
 - The Committee is divided on this.
- Class Council should pick the Chair to avoid wasting time and creating issues. Friendly.
- The outgoing Freshman Class Council should select RingComm. Friendly.
- The (new) Sophomore Class Council should ex officio oversee or be members, depending on what we decide. Friendly.
- RingComm uses Class Council's account so they are more tied than we previously thought.
- Three person selection committee? No. Get rid of this, it's not currently used. Friendly.
- We will talk about the selection process with current Class Councils.
- We should set a date for the selection to be done by, in the form of last week before finals. Friendly.

Class Councils Constitution can be line-item vetoed, but needs Senate approval.

Chain of succession: Are we okay if the VP just takes over for the president? Yes, that is okay to us.

Issues with election in the Spring always, which doesn't happen with freshman class. We want to fix this so that it works. Every title needs to be fixed. Friendly.

Don't post minutes in a bulletin board, but they should be on their website not the board.

Social Chairperson: Should specify that there are one or two of these.



Publicity Chairperson: Should specify that there are one or two of these. Killing the name Publicity and newsletter chairperson to be just Publicity Chairperson.

Leave ExecBoard in? Yes. Formalize language to Executive Board. Also do not specify the number 6 in the 6 class officers here.

Should we codify voting for class councils? No need to, small enough body that they handle this well enough as stands.

Impeaching should be two-thirds of the full council with the person being impeached not receiving a vote. Concern that not everyone will be able to be there. Friendly, we will come up with the exact system later. Senate might not have a good perspective on this. The Senate majority needs to stand.

Change Newsletter to Publicity Committee everywhere.

Want to specify the commonly used special committees: include RingComm, Career Fair Comm, Senior Week, Senior Ball.

Take away all bulletin board references, but should always be on the website in those situations.

Use the term "policy" instead of "resolution" for Class Councils.

Change language to "determine the schedule."

Change "emergency" to "special."

Change Reg Day to Add Date in 34.70.

ElectComm should handle Special Procedures for Freshman Council section.

34.80: We will talk to alumni association.

34.91 change to Judboard.

Term limits? No.

3 Senate Bylaws

Excused absences: Separate from proxies. Finding a proxy does not excuse you. Non-emergencies more than 48 hours.

Can other senators specify proxy? Allow Speaker's discretion after Senator choosing, then dorm choosing. Make it clear to all governing bodies that the governing body can decide how they want to appoint proxies if the Senator does not choose.

Do we want Treasurer to have oversight of Finboard? Yes. We want to formalize this relationship which essentially exists anyway.



3.1 Committee Structure

Do we want CSL to be a committee overseeing other relevant committees Athletics, Dining (we're all okay with moving this under CSL should we restructure a lot), Housing (we're all okay with moving this under CSL should we restructure a lot), Orientation, Events. SAO won't be happy with events and the purpose is different—administrative not policy—though events is going to be fairly independent anyway because run partially by SAO. If not running in a race, can be on ElectComm. Make Judboard in charge of ElectComm (Friendly) and NomComm? Treasurer overseeing Finboard. Friendly. UASG overseeing CommComm and HistComm. Friendly. SCEP as the academic division. Special Projects overseeing Space Planning and Sustainability?

- This presents a clearer front to administrators, and we can hold more people responsible when things start to go wrong and fix it.
- Put NomComm under Judboard? Impartial. If NomComm screws up, no impartial Judboard to oversee impeachments and such. Is it an Executive Committee? If so, shouldn't go under Judboard. In theory, this would make Judboard a check. Maybe put it under UASG? It's administrative, and the main purpose of NomComm after appointments is to publicize and keep good historical records. We are friendly to codifying a relationship with Judboard. Should it stand on its own other than Judboard oversight? Don't want it as a Judboard Committee yet—want oversight of this Executive committee by Judboard.
- Special Projects having Space Planning and Sustainability oversight? For this, okay. Need to make Special Projects not Ad Hoc. Do we want to make those committees vice chairs of the “higher in the structure” committee? Or make them subcommittees? Basically, the committees underneath are standing issues, not demotions. They will be subcommittees. Friendly. Say “Sustainability Chair” not “Chair of Subcommittee on Sustainability.” Friendly to Special Projects overseeing Space Planning and Sustainability.
- Make things provisional upon approval of current chairs.
- Put Athletics, Dining, Housing, Events under Student Life?
- Put CIT Committee under UASG? They are administrative, work on both historical and public relations things, which is the Secretary's job. Friendly.
- How does this affect VP? Makes them more flexible to deal with the major issues going to the Comms, but does change job.
- Don't want Student Life, for instance, to be too overbearing. CSL would be talking about overall goals. Allows VP to tell CSL to make Dining happen if Dining doesn't happen.
- Think of the oversight as “consultants.” Friendly.
- We need to transition it and do it now.
- Need to find somewhere for NomComm. It's either under Judboard, UASG, or UAP. *



3.2 Special Budgetary Committee

Special Budgetary Committee: Make it P, T, Speaker, Senator, additional Senate Member. Friendly.

4 Constitution

Definition of an Undergraduate. Want to make sure it's our constitution and the registrar's so that people who MEng can remain an undergraduate before they graduate. We need to draft language that makes that work.

II.4.g: Make "external to MIT." Friendly.

Special Budgetary Meeting should decide Finboard overallocation. Friendly.

All removals: Majority of emphall Senators. Friendly.

5 4 versus 6

Need voting at least for Summer things.

It's strange that we don't include Secretary and Treasurer in Principal Officers because that's what people think about when they hear principal officers, and we've been moving to this.

Want equal representation of Exec and Senate. Do S and T straddle the line?

How do we present ourselves as an organization? We present ourselves as six. Mostly friendly—this will be recommended.

Delineating roles of Speaker and Vice Speaker in Senate Bylaws and roles of Secretary and Treasurer in Exec Bylaws. Writing the Constitution as 6.

Respectfully submitted,

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