

The Constitution of WHOI Student Organization

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the MIT/WHOI Student Organization is to encourage interaction between MIT students and the Woods Hole community, and to enhance student life in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology–Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (MIT-WHOI) Joint Program. The MIT-WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied Ocean Science and Engineering is a joint venture between the two institutions to pursue excellence in oceanographic research and education. MIT students in this program are often based in Woods Hole, which is over 80 miles from Cambridge. Beyond creating a student community at WHOI, this group will help keep WHOI-based students in touch with each other and with those based at MIT.

Article II: Membership

1. Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of this organization. One is considered a member of this organization in any given academic term if he/she has attended at least one club activity and one meeting in the preceding or current term.
2. The membership of this organization will at all times contain at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students.
3. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement.
4. If this organization charges any monetary dues, there will be exceptions made for students who cannot afford these dues.

Article III: Officers

1. This organization will have two officers and six board members making up the 8-body Student Representatives for the WHOI Student Organization:
 - a. President
 - i. The president shall be the official representative of the group to any other organization and to MIT.
 - ii. The president will preside over all meetings.
 - iii. The president is responsible for determining when meetings are and publicizing this to the group.
 - b. Treasurer
 - i. The treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the group.
 - ii. The treasurer shall be required to make sure the student group

operates within the guidelines and rules set forth by Association of Student Activities, funding bodies, the Student Activity Office, and any other pertinent MIT or outside group.

- iii. The treasurer shall decide, with consultation of the president, if any members shall be given financial signatory or other status.
- iv. Should the president resign or be removed, the treasurer shall be acting president until an election for a replacement can be held.
- c. The eight board members will consist of three at-large representatives and one representative from each of the five Joint Program disciplines, of which one will serve as President and one will serve as Treasurer.
- d. All officers of this organization must be distinct persons and MIT students.

2. Elections:

- a. Elections of officers should occur in September of each year. The exact dates and procedures of the election shall be determined by the outgoing student representatives and the WHOI Academic Programs Office (APO). Voting must be held in person and via electronic means. The outgoing representatives must tally the vote with a representative from APO. Quorum for elections is one-third of the membership.
- b. Any member of this organization is eligible to run for office.
- c. A representative from each of the 5 departments in the MIT-WHOI Joint Program is elected by winning the most votes from the current students in their department. If the student with the most votes declines to serve, the position goes to the person with next highest number of votes.
- d. Three at-large representatives are elected on a separate ballot. The at-large representatives are the 3 members who win the highest number of votes, and if any of them decline, the position goes to the person with the next highest number of votes.
- e. The term of office runs from September 15th of the year elected through the next year. Power is handed over from the old to the new Student Representatives at the first meeting after the election.

3. Selection of Officers

- a. Selection of President and Treasurer shall occur at the first meeting of the newly elected Student Representatives.
- b. Quorum for elections is 6 of the 8 Student Council members.
- c. A representative is elected if he or she wins the most votes of the Student Council members.
- d. If more than two people are running and no one wins a majority, then the person with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballot and votes are recast.
- e. If there is a tie, a random drawing will be held by an official in APO with an outgoing student representative present.

4. Removal: Officers and Student representatives may be removed by a two-thirds

vote of the members.

5. If an officer or representative resigns prior to the term end, an election may be called by the remaining officers to replace him or her with the consult of APO.

Article IV: Meetings

1. Meetings shall be held at least every month.
2. Meetings shall be presided over by the President, unless he/she is absent, and in that case the Treasurer shall preside.
3. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of all members present.
4. Quorum for a meeting shall be half the governing board or one-quarter of the total student members.

Article V: Amendments

1. Amendments shall be presented by any member of the organization.
2. Amendments shall be voted on via electronic means.
3. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be one-third of all members of the organization.

Article VI: ASA God Clause

The WHOI Student Organization agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Article VII: Revisions

Version 1.0 [approved October 25, 2002]

Version 2.0 [updated January 25, 2004]

Version 3.0 [updated April 18, 2013]