



COLUMBIAESC

ENGINEERING STUDENT COUNCIL

In Engineering Student Council, 20 February 2017
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Amendment to the Engineering Student Council's Constitution

WHEREAS the Engineering Student Council (ESC) undertakes a wide variety of student initiatives that often surpass the duration of any particular Council's tenure;

WHEREAS ESC believes that the administration may not fully grasp council's commitment to particular initiatives because future councils will experience annual institutional memory turnover;

ACKNOWLEDGING that ESC wishes to communicate to the administration our ongoing commitment to certain initiatives that hold particular importance to students at Columbia;

And **WHEREAS** there is a need for an institutional methodology for ensuring the continued support of certain initiatives;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following amendment to the ESC constitution shall be accepted and included in *Article IV: Functions of the Council* following *Section I: Resolutions* and preceding *Section II: Referenda*:

Section II. Continuing Resolutions

- A. The Council may pass continuing resolutions which bind future sessions of Council to continue working on particular issues facing the student body of SEAS and the university as a whole.
- B. Requisite Content
 - a. Continuing resolutions must begin their titles with "Continuing Resolution..." Any resolution with this designation shall be subject to the rules enumerated in this section of the Constitution;
 - b. Continuing resolutions must specify a date of expiration not exceeding ten years. The timeline enumerated by a continuing resolution shall be the shortest time period deemed appropriate;
 - c. Continuing resolutions may specify additional conditions under which they would expire;

- d. Continuing resolutions must specify the position within council responsible for delegating or ensuring the continued support of an initiative;
 - e. Continuing resolutions must enumerate how and when the designated aforementioned member of council will communicate progress on the initiative.
- C. Amendments to continuing resolutions
- a. A member may offer a friendly amendment and it may be accepted by the member making the motion;
 - b. If a friendly amendment is not accepted by the drafter of the resolution, an amendment may be offered to the Council, voted upon, and approved by a 2/3 majority vote.
- D. Passage and repeal
- a. A 2/3 majority vote is required to pass a continuing resolution;
 - b. A 1/3 plurality vote is required to repeal a continuing resolution.
- E. Passing of Responsibility
- a. The full duty and responsibility enumerated within a continuing resolution may be temporarily passed from one member of council to another consenting member of council. This must be done in a session of the general body;
 - b. The member of council assuming responsibility must acknowledge consent before the council and the Vice President of Communications must affirm that the responsibility has been passed;
 - c. The Vice President of Communications must update the record to reflect the passage of responsibility via the agenda, and an addendum to the continuing resolution as presented on the website;
 - d. The record will be updated by adding an addendum to the continuing resolution using the following language: “RESPONSIBILITY PASSED to *member of council* UNTIL *date of next election of council*”;
 - e. Any such passage of responsibility shall expire with the turnover of council;
- F. Communication of Continuing Resolutions
- a. Following the passage of a continuing resolution, the author of said resolution must communicate its contents to the Vice President of Communications;
 - b. The Vice President of Communications shall ensure that all continuing resolutions are easily found on the website;
 - c. The Vice President of Communications shall also ensure that all continuing resolutions are communicated to the Columbia Elections Board prior to any election for members bound by active continuing resolutions.
- G. Enforcement
- a. The member of council enumerated by the continuing resolution must, in good faith, promote the initiative and report on progress to the Council to the best of their ability so long as the continuing resolution has not expired;

- b. Any member of the Council enumerated by a continuing resolution found not to be promoting the relevant initiative in good faith shall be deemed eligible for impeachment so long as the continuing resolution has not expired;
- c. Any member of the Council enumerated by a continuing resolution who fails to report to the Council with the designated frequency outlined in said resolution shall be deemed eligible for impeachment so long as the continuing resolution has not expired.