

# Engineering Student Council Constitution

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(Sidney Perkins, VP Policy)

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## Preamble

We the students of Columbia Engineering establish this Engineering Student Council. The Engineering Student Council will strive to represent all the interests of the diverse Engineering Student body and that of the University as a whole, to improve student life, and to foster communication amongst students, faculty and administrators, and alumni throughout Columbia University.

## Article I: Name and Representation

- A. The name of this organization is the Engineering Student Council, hereafter referred to as the “Council” or “ESC.”
- B. The Council shall represent and be responsible to all current undergraduate students of Columbia Engineering (SEAS).
- C. All undergraduate students of SEAS shall hereafter be referred to as “the student body”.

## Article II: Membership and Responsibilities

### Section I: General Body Membership and Responsibilities

- A. The Council shall be comprised of the following members:
  - a. Executive Board
    - i. The Student Body President
    - ii. The Vice President, Policy of the Council
    - iii. The Vice President, Communications of the Council
    - iv. The Vice President, Finance of the Council
    - v. The Vice President, Student Life of the Council
  - b. The University Senator
  - c. The At-large Representatives
    - i. The Academic Affairs Representative
    - ii. The Student Services Representative
    - iii. The Sustainability Representative
    - iv. The Campus Affairs Representative
    - v. The Professional Development and Alumni Affairs Representative
    - vi. The Combined Plan 3-2 Representative
    - vii. The Student Groups Representative
    - viii. The Technology Representative
    - ix. The Representative for Gender Identity and Sexuality Issues
    - x. The Representative for First Generation and Low Income Issues
    - xi. The Representative for Racial Diversity and Inclusivity
    - xii. The Representative for Disability and Accessibility Issues
    - xiii. The International Student Representative
  - d. Class Councils
    - i. The President of each undergraduate class
    - ii. The Vice President of each undergraduate class
    - iii. The two Class Representatives from each undergraduate class

- B. General Body member responsibilities
  - a. Members are responsible for reporting their proceedings and progress to the Council;
  - b. Members are responsible for maintaining and seeking adequate representation on their standing committees or subcommittees, as necessary;
  - c. Attendance
    - i. Every member of the Council must attend weekly general body meetings;
    - ii. Council members must attend their required committee and/or class council meetings, as defined by their position;
    - iii. Council members are expected to attend and volunteer at Council events.
  - d. Members are responsible for maintaining proper documentation of progress and activities to foster yearly transitions.

## Section II: Executive Board Responsibilities

- A. The Student Body President shall
  - a. Serve as the primary spokesperson and representative of the student body;
  - b. Maintain relations with the administration, faculty, alumni, other student councils and governing boards, and members of the Morningside Heights community;
  - c. Set the strategic goals of the Council throughout the year in accordance with the interests of the student body and contingent upon approval by the Council;
  - d. Ensure adequate Council representation on relevant committee, advisory board, and/or administrative meetings;
  - e. Be accountable for the proceedings and progress of the Council;
  - f. Chair the weekly Council meetings and Executive Board Meetings;
  - g. Calibrate the formalities of the Council proceedings when s/he deems it appropriate<sup>1</sup>.
- B. The Vice President, Policy of the Council shall
  - a. Lead the pursuit of policy initiatives in accordance with the needs of the student body;
  - b. Oversee all sub- and ad hoc policy committees of the Council, policy representatives, and precipitated initiatives;
  - c. Chair the Policy Committee;
  - d. Maintain and perform regular reviews of the Constitution;
  - e. Function as the Parliamentarian during moderated caucus<sup>1</sup> when established by vote of the Council.
  - f. Ensure Council representation on student advisory committees.
- C. The Vice President, Communications of the Council shall
  - a. Facilitate communication between the student body, the Council, and the administration;
  - b. Chair the Communications Committee;
  - c. Keep complete and accurate records of Council activity from all Council and Executive Board meetings and present such records to the Council and to the

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<sup>1</sup> *Moderated Caucus* – Debate which is moderated by the Parliamentarian to prevent conflicts of speaking time. A speaking lists and limited speaking time for each person is usually implemented. This is as opposed to a free, speaking-out forum-style debate.

student body upon request. These records include but are not limited to attendance records, voting records, and weekly meeting minutes;

- d. Give adequate notification of all Council meetings and their associated agendas to Council members;
  - e. Ensure a current copy of this Constitution is available for public purview.
- D. The Vice President, Finance of the Council shall
- a. See to the correct and proper distribution of funds allocated to the governing boards of student activities, and for co-sponsorship with groups and activities approved by the Council;
  - b. Supervise the transactions of all Council accounts, be responsible for an accounting of all Council expenditures and be able to present a budget to the Council upon request;
  - c. Recruit and co-chair the Joint Council Co-Sponsorship Committee, the Capital Investment Fund, the President's and Provost's Fund and the Dean's Travel Fund (with the approval of the dean);
  - d. Chair the Finance Committee and oversee all precipitated ad hoc committees;
  - e. Ensure Council representation on all governing boards' and student organizations' matters on campus.
- E. The Vice President, Student Life of the Council shall
- a. Be the primary programmer for the Council's school-wide events;
  - b. Foster community by organizing events that directly benefit and serve the needs of the student body;
  - c. Chair the Student Life Committee;
  - d. Coordinate with the Class Councils for programming purposes.

### Section III. The University Senator's Responsibilities

- A. The University Senator shall
- a. Represent the interests of the student body in the University Senate;
  - b. Perform all duties outlined by the University Senate;
  - c. Regularly and promptly update the Council on all events in the Senate that have an effect on the student body;
  - d. Meet with the Executive Board monthly in order to provide details of and discuss all relevant actions of the Senate;
  - e. Report progress during biweekly meetings with the Student Body President;
  - f. Share all public documents internally within the Council in a timely manner.

### Section IV. The At-large Representatives' Responsibilities

- A. The Academic Affairs Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, students, and the administration on all issues concerning academics;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to academic affairs and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Ensure Council representation on the Committee on Instruction for SEAS;
  - d. Chair the Academic Affairs subcommittee when enacted.
- B. The Student Services Representative shall

- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, students, and the administration on all issues concerning student services;
  - b. Ensure Council representation on the Housing Advisory, Dining Advisory, and Student Health Advisory Committees, as well as other advisory committees as deemed necessary by the Executive Board;
  - c. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to student services and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - d. Chair the Student Services subcommittee when enacted.
- C. The Sustainability Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, students, and the administration on all issues regarding environmental sustainability;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body and environmental student groups with regards to Columbia environmental sustainability and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Ensure Council representation on relevant advisory committees, as deemed necessary by the Executive Board. These committees include but are not limited to the Housing Advisory, Dining Advisory, and Facilities Advisory Committees;
  - d. Chair the Sustainability subcommittee when enacted.
- D. The Campus Affairs Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, students, and the administration on all issues concerning campus affairs;
  - b. Ensure Council representation on the Lerner Advisory, Public Safety Advisory, Library Student Advisory Committee, University Event Management Advisory Committee, and other advisory committees as deemed necessary by the Executive Board;
  - c. Solicit feedback from the student body with regards to campus affairs and report the obtained information to the Council.
- E. The Professional Development and Alumni Affairs Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, the various SEAS pre-professional organizations, and the Center for Career Education;
  - b. Ensure Council representation at all Alumni organizations (Columbia Engineering School Alumni Association, Columbia Club, etc.);
  - c. Solicit feedback from the student body with regards to professional development and alumni affairs and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - d. Chair the Professional Development and Alumni Affairs subcommittee when enacted.
- F. The Combined Plan 3-2 Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, the administration, and the combined plan 3-2 population on all issues concerning 3-2 students;
  - b. Solicit feedback from the 3-2 population with regards to their student life concerns and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Ensure 3-2 student representation on the Junior and Senior Class Councils.
- G. The Student Groups Representative shall
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, engineering student groups, and the administration;

- b. Solicit and act on feedback from student groups with regards to issues facing them and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Represent the Council on the Activities Board at Columbia (ABC) and on the Interschool Governing Board;
  - d. Ensure Council representation on the other governing boards, if deemed necessary by the Executive Board.
- H. The Technology Representative shall
- a. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to student technological issues and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - b. Ensure Council representation on the Columbia University Information Technology (CUIT) Advisory committee;
  - c. Oversee and manage design of internal and external web presences for the Engineering Student Council;
  - d. Acquire Students Audio Visual Equipment Training, if requested by the Executive Board.
- I. The Representative for Gender Identity and Sexuality Issues
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, constituents, and the administration on all issues concerning gender identity and sexuality;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to issues of gender identity and sexuality and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Represent Council on the Senate Diversity Commission (pending appointment), Student Health Advisory Committee, Gender-Based Misconduct Task Force, Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board (pending appointment);
  - d. Chair the Gender Identity and Sexuality subcommittee when enacted, ensuring diverse representation of gender identities and sexualities within the subcommittee;
  - e. Provide a semesterly report of the state of gender identity and sexuality issues and the relevant initiatives pursued in said semester.
- J. The Representative for First Generation and Low Income Issues
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, constituents, and the administration on all issues concerning first generation and low income students;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to issues of first generation and low income students and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Represent Council on the Senate Diversity Commission (pending appointment), Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board (pending appointment);
  - d. Chair the First Generation and Low Income subcommittee when enacted, ensuring diverse representation of first generation and low income students within the subcommittee;
  - e. Provide a semesterly report of the state of first generation and low income issues and the relevant initiatives pursued in said semester.
- K. The Representative for Racial Diversity and Inclusivity
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, constituents, and the administration on all issues concerning racial diversity and inclusivity;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to issues of racial diversity and inclusivity and report the obtained information to the Council;

- c. Represent Council on the Senate Diversity Commission (pending appointment), Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board (pending appointment),
  - d. Chair the Racial Diversity and Inclusivity subcommittee when enacted, ensuring diverse representation of racial and ethnic identities within the subcommittee;
  - e. Provide a semesterly report of the state of racial diversity and inclusivity issues and the relevant initiatives pursued in said semester.
- L. The Representative for Disability and Accessibility Issues
- a. Facilitate communication between the Council, constituents, and the administration on all issues concerning disabilities and access;
  - b. Solicit and act on feedback from the student body with regards to issues of disabilities and accessibility and report the obtained information to the Council;
  - c. Represent Council on the Senate Diversity Commission (pending appointment), the Housing Advisory Committee, the Student Health Advisory Committee, and Facilities Committee, Multicultural Affairs Advisory Board (pending appointment);
  - d. Chair the Disability and Accessibility subcommittee when enacted, ensuring diverse representation of experiences with disability and accessibility within the subcommittee;
  - e. Provide a semesterly report of the state of disability and accessibility issues and the relevant initiatives pursued in said semester.
- M. The International Student Representative
- a. Solicit feedback and act on issues concerning international students in all areas of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences including, but not limited to, Career Education, Student Affairs, New Student Orientation Program, Housing, and Dining;
  - b. Continuously work with the International Students and Scholars Office to create an understandable system for international students in SEAS, addressing tax filing, visa status, work authorization, and other areas of concern for the international student population;
  - c. Collaborate with Center for Career Education representatives to improve resources for career development, including LionSHARE, to ensure a more efficient job search process for all international students;
  - d. Represent Council on the Senate Diversity Commission (pending appointment) and the Office of Multicultural Affairs' International Student Advisory Board (pending appointment) on a weekly basis;
  - e. Chair the International Student Issues subcommittee when enacted;
  - f. Provide a semesterly report of the state of international student issues and the relevant initiatives pursued in said semester.

#### Section V: The Class Councils' Responsibilities

- A. The President of each undergraduate class shall
- a. Serve as the primary spokesperson and representative of the class;
  - b. Set the strategic goals of the Class Council throughout the year in accordance with the interests of the class body and contingent upon approval by the elected Class

- Council;
- c. Oversee and be accountable for all proceedings and progress of the Class Council;
- d. Communicate school news and Council progress to the class on a regular basis;
- e. Coordinate with the undergraduate class councils, when necessary;
- f. Chair weekly Class Council meetings;
- g. Lead selection of extended members on the Class Council.
- B. The Vice President of each undergraduate class shall
  - a. Foster community by organizing events that directly benefit and serve the needs of the class;
  - b. Ensure the proper management of the class budget;
  - c. Assume the responsibilities of the Class President, if deemed necessary.
- C. The Class Representatives of each undergraduate class shall
  - a. Solicit and act on feedback from the members of the class with regards to class specific issues and report the obtained information to the class council;
  - b. Work with relevant bodies to resolve the issues that face the class.

### Article III: Committees

A committee is a subset of the Council that addresses specific, relevant issues of the student body and the wider university as a whole.

#### Section I: Committees

- A. Standing Committees under the Council
  - a. Standing committees are comprised of the following:
    - i. The Policy Committee
    - ii. The Communications Committee
    - iii. The Finance Committee
    - iv. The Student Life Committee
  - b. These committees shall be chaired by their respective Executive Board member;
  - c. The specific function and membership of these committees are described in later sections.
- B. Standing Joint Council Committees of the Council
  - a. Joint council committees are co-chaired by representatives from two or more of the student councils;
  - b. They are enacted when it is felt that a combined committee can increase Council efficiency and better serve the needs of the student body;
  - c. Standing joint council committees are comprised of the following:
    - i. The Joint Council Co-sponsorship Committee (JCCC)
  - d. Joint council committees shall function and be governed as specified in their specific guidelines and/or bylaws.
- C. Subcommittees under the Council
  - a. Subcommittees under the Policy committee
    - i. Any at large-representative is able to enact and chair a respective subcommittee, upon the approval of the Executive Board;
    - ii. The Vice President, Policy is ultimately accountable for all proceedings and progress of these subcommittees.

- b. Subcommittees under the Finance committee
  - i. Finance subcommittees are comprised of:
    - 1. The Project Grants subcommittee
    - 2. The Capital Investment Fund subcommittee
    - 3. The Travel Grants subcommittee
  - ii. The Vice President, Finance is able to enact and appoint a chair for the above subcommittees as deemed necessary;
  - iii. The Vice President, Finance is ultimately accountable for all proceedings and progress of these subcommittees.
- D. Ad-hoc Committees under the Council
  - a. Ad-hoc committees are enacted to address a specific issue that does not fall under the purview of an existing subcommittee;
  - b. They shall be established by a majority vote of the Council;
  - c. The chair shall be determined by the Executive Board and is responsible for reporting the proceedings and progress of the committee to the council.
- E. Establishment
  - a. Standing committees, joint council committees, and subcommittees are established via constitutional amendment;
  - b. Changes to the guidelines and/or bylaws of the joint council committees must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote
    - i. These changes are contingent upon approval by the other councils involved in the joint council committee.
- F. Meetings
  - a. All committee meetings are open to the public, unless determined otherwise by the chair(s);
  - b. Committees may be held jointly with other councils, as deemed necessary by the chair(s);
  - c. It is recommended that standing committees meet on a weekly basis;
  - d. The frequency of the subcommittee and ad-hoc committee meetings shall be agreed upon by the chair(s) and, if applicable, corresponding Executive Board member(s).

## Section II: The Policy Committee

### A. Members

- a. The Policy Committee shall be comprised of
  - i. An elected member from each Class Council<sup>2</sup>
  - ii. The Academic Affairs Representative
  - iii. The Student Services Representative
  - iv. The Sustainability Representative
  - v. The Technology Representative
  - vi. The Professional Development and Alumni Affairs Representative
  - vii. Half of the following (at their own discretion):
    - 1. The Combined Plan 3-2 Representative
    - 2. The Representative for Gender Identity and Sexuality Issues

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<sup>2</sup> *each Class Council* - Senior class representatives are excused from attending standing committee meetings unless otherwise asked by the committee to offer insight upon issues or ideas.

3. The Representative for First Generation and Low Income Issues
  4. The Representative for Racial Diversity and Inclusivity
  5. The Representative for Disability and Accessibility Issues
  6. The International Student Representative
- b. The University Senator is required to attend Policy Committee meetings if requested by the Vice President of Policy.
- B. Function
- a. Identify and pursue School- and University-wide policy initiatives in accordance with the needs of the student body;
  - b. Construct and present resolutions, proposals, and other policy-related documents to the Council.

### Section III: The Communications Committee

- A. Members
- a. The Communications Committee shall be comprised of
    - i. An elected member from each Class Council<sup>2</sup>
    - ii. The Technology Representative
- B. Function
- a. Facilitate communication between the students, councils, and administration;
  - b. Communicate with media to represent the Council and inform media on council proceedings;
  - c. Ensure proper development, maintenance, and accessibility of council documents;
  - d. Develop designs for council documents to provide the Council with consistent branding and aesthetics;
  - e. Ensure development and timely release of the End of Semester Report.

### Section IV: The Finance Committee

- A. Members
- a. The Finance Committee shall be comprised of
    - i. An elected member from each Class Council<sup>2</sup>
    - ii. The Student Groups Representative
- B. Function
- a. Distribute all available funding appropriately by considering both the needs of the activities and the service these activities provide to the SEAS students at large;
  - b. Co-sponsor activities supporting the interests of the SEAS students;
  - c. Review and vote on ESC specific funding and co-sponsorship applications;
    - i. Requests up to \$500 dollars may be approved by the committee through a majority vote.
  - d. Reviews grant applications for Travel Fund, Engineering Project Grants, and the Capital Investment Fund;
  - e. Ensure Council representation on the JCCC.

### Section V: The Student Life Committee

- A. Members
- a. The Student Life Committee shall be comprised of

- i. An elected member from each Class Council<sup>2</sup>
- ii. The Campus Affairs Representative
- iii. Half of the following (at their own discretion):
  - 1. The Combined Plan 3-2 Representative
  - 2. The Representative for Gender Identity and Sexuality Issues
  - 3. The Representative for First Generation and Low Income Issues
  - 4. The Representative for Racial Diversity and Inclusivity
  - 5. The Representative for Disability and Accessibility Issues
  - 6. The International Student Representative

B. Function

- a. Plan and organize events to promote the well-being and serve the needs of the student body;
- b. Coordinate with appropriate bodies to plan events for class-specific issues and for the university as a whole;
- c. Design and issue merchandise to the student body.

## Article IV: Functions of the Council

### Section I: Resolutions

- A. The Council may pass resolutions to reflect the opinion of the students of the Council to address the various issues facing the student body of SEAS and the university as a whole.
- B. The Council may pass joint resolutions with other councils or governing boards
  - a. If identical resolutions are passed by the participating bodies then said resolution is a Joint Resolution and will be denoted as such;
  - b. If the participating parties pass similar but not identical resolutions, the Policy Committee will work with their respective counterpart to rectify the differences between the two versions of the resolution and present a final version for approval.
- C. Amendments to resolutions
  - a. A member may offer a friendly amendment<sup>3</sup> 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 simple majority.
- D. A simple majority vote is needed to pass a resolution.

### Section II: Referenda

- A. A referendum is defined as a course of action to be voted upon by engineering students to which the council is bound to act upon;
- B. One of the following criteria must be satisfied for the Proposal of a Referendum
  - a. The Council requires a petition presented by a SEAS student and signed by 10% of the fully enrolled SEAS student body or 150 students, whichever is greater;
  - b. Upon presentation, the referendum must be ratified by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council.
- C. Procedure for Implementation

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<sup>3</sup> *Friendly Amendment* - A friendly amendment may be proposed via a "motion for a friendly amendment that..." followed by a description of the amendment. See Article V, Section III.A for motioning procedure.

- a. The referendum shall be included in the next general election vote;
  - b. No referendum may be proposed and voted upon by the public more than once every two semesters;
  - c. No referendum may be proposed to the council more than once every two semester.
- D. Procedure for Ratification
- a. Greater than fifty percent (50%) of the fully enrolled SEAS student body must vote yea or nay on the referendum;
  - b. A 2/3 majority vote is needed to pass the referendum.

### Section III: Funding and Cosponsorships

- A. Funding of Governing Boards
- a. The Council is responsible for allocating funds to the governing boards as deemed necessary and proper;
  - b. 'Funding at Columbia University' allocation process
    - i. The Council shall be represented in all funding decisions by the outgoing and incoming Presidents and Vice Presidents, Finance during this initial allocation process;
    - ii. The Council shall set policies for receiving further governing boards' allocations and appeals requests for the upcoming year during this period
- B. Joint Council Co-sponsorship Committee Funding
- a. In cases of JCCC funding, the allocations will be broken down according to the ratio of the student populations of the respective schools, whenever possible.
- C. Finance Committee Co-sponsorships and Funding
- a. Funding requests to the Finance Committee will be presented to the Council during weekly meetings.
- D. Approval
- a. JCCC and the Finance Committee may approve of funding allocations up to \$500 dollars
    - i. These decisions must be presented to the Council;
    - ii. Any member of the Council may challenge and revoke the approval via a simple majority Council vote.
  - b. The Council will vote and approve allocations of funds greater than \$500 with a simple majority vote.

### Article V: Procedural Guidelines

#### Section I: Meeting Procedures

- A. Scheduling
- a. The Council shall meet beginning the first full week of classes and shall continue meeting until the last full week of classes on a weekly basis with the exception of University holidays.
- B. Attendance
- a. Council members are expected to attend all general body and required committee meetings, according to their position;
  - b. If a member must miss a meeting, s/he is expected to inform the Vice President, Communications or appropriate committee chair, in advance.

### C. Agendas

- a. All Executive Board members, Class Presidents, At-large Representatives, and the University Senator shall submit written weekly reports prior to a deadline set by the Vice President, Communications;
- b. These shall be compiled into a meeting agenda that will be made available to the student body.

### D. Closed Meetings

- a. A meeting may only be closed to include only members of the council by the request of at least 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the council.

### E. Meeting Proceedings

- a. If 1/3 of the full council should believe that the use of Robert's Rules of Order would simplify a procedure not explicitly stated in our constitution, the council shall apply them until the end of the meeting in which a 1/3 vote is taken.
  - i. The Vice President, Policy assumes the role of Parliamentarian and enforces Robert's Rules.
- b. If a significant issue arises, where members of the Council desire to temporarily change Council formalities or direction from the President of the Council, an absolute majority (yeas outnumber all other votes) may be used to instate such changes.

## Section II: Motions and Voting

### A. Motion

- a. A motion can be made at any time during discussion;
- b. To proceed, the motion must be seconded by a council member.

### B. Voting Procedure

- a. The Council enters voting procedure upon a successful second to a motion to vote;
- b. Quorum<sup>4</sup> must be achieved in order to vote
  - i. In the case of a vote when quorum is not achieved due to abstentions, the council shall decide, with a 2/3 majority vote, whether to revote, table the issue for further evaluation, or reject the proposal.
- c. All votes shall be conducted by roll call unless otherwise motioned
  - i. Abstentions may be cast.

### C. Definitions

- a. A majority is defined when the number of yeas outnumbers the number of nays with 2/3 of the present voting members not abstaining.
- b. A 2/3 majority is defined when the number of yeas outnumbers the number of nays by a 2 to 1 ratio with 2/3 of the present voting members not abstaining.

### D. Eligible Voters

- a. All members of the Council except the Student Body President vote;
  - i. In the case of a tie, the Student Body President shall cast the deciding vote;
- b. Members are expected to abide by the conflict of interest policy.

### E. Conflict of Interest

- a. Conflicts are intended to be issues that would cause an individual to act, or give the

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<sup>4</sup> *Quorum* – completed when 2/3 of the total council membership is present. In order for a vote to be taken, a quorum of members must be present.

appearance of acting, in a manner that does not put the interests of the Council and its constituents first.

- b. It is the responsibility of the individuals on the council to disclose any connection they believe may present a conflict prior to any discussion or vote;
  - c. Recusal of Self
    - i. Those who have a conflict are encouraged to recuse themselves from the vote;
    - ii. A majority vote of the council can force a member of the council to recuse themselves from a vote;
    - iii. Quorum, if met before recusal, is not broken by recusal.
  - d. Post-Vote Disclosure
    - i. Should an existing conflict of interest be discovered after a vote has occurred, the Council may motion for a revote;
    - ii. The member(s) in question will be excused from the ensuing discussion, and the re-vote will be approved by a majority vote of the Council;
    - iii. If a re-vote is taken, the member(s) with the conflict is automatically recused.
  - e. Failure to Disclose
    - i. Should the Council determine that a member has failed to disclose a conflict relevant to the proceedings of the Council, a motion for that member to leave the room may occur;
    - ii. The Council will then discuss and vote on how to proceed with regards to the individual.
- F. Reconsiderations
- a. A motion to reconsider can only be made by a member who voted with the prevailing side and must be seconded by another member who also voted with the prevailing side.
  - b. A motion to reconsider can only be made within twenty-four hours of the decision to be reconsidered.
  - c. A motion to be reconsidered will be passed given a majority vote.

### Section III: Filling Vacancies and Elections

#### A. Election Procedures

- a. Council elections shall be run independently by the Elections Board;
  - i. The Council shall approve of the engineering representatives on the Election Board by a majority vote.
- b. Elections shall occur as specified in the Election Bylaws.

#### B. Interim Replacements upon Vacancies

- a. If a vacancy occurs, the Council shall internally appoint an interim replacement for the position until a general election can take place;
  - i. If a general election is to take place within the month, the position may remain vacant.
- b. Class Council Vacancies
  - i. Class President vacancies shall be filled by the current Class Vice President;
  - ii. If the Class Vice President declines, or if any other class council member position is vacant, the remaining class council forms a committee with two

- members of the Executive Board to interview and appoint a new member.
  - 1. Majority vote of the committee will determine appointment;
- iii. In the event that majority or all Class Council members resign, there will be a new election for the Class for which the Elections Board will be responsible.
- c. The Student Body President Interim Succession
  - i. In the event that the Student Body President is unable to perform his/her duties, the following steps are to be taken:
  - ii. The member of the Executive Board in the year of highest academic standing will take on the duties.
  - iii. If multiple members of the Executive Board satisfy the previous requirement, the member who has been elected to the ESC for the most years will take on the duties.
  - iv. If multiple members of the Executive Board satisfy both previous requirements, the member who held the higher position on Council the previous year will take on the duties.
  - v. If multiple members of the Executive Board satisfy all three previous requirements, succession shall be determined by a coin toss.
- d. All other position vacancies shall be filled on an interim basis by a majority vote of the entire Council membership.

#### Section IV: Formal Review and Impeachment

##### A. Formal Review

- a. The Executive Board is responsible for enforcing the Constitution and ensuring member accountability;
- b. The Executive Board is expected to exercise proper judgement before calling a member for formal review;
- c. Any of the following conduct may trigger a meeting with the Executive Board for formal review
  - i. Greater than two absences from a general body meeting;
  - ii. Greater than two absences from a required Committee Meeting;
  - iii. An abuse of membership privileges;
  - iv. Violating the duties set forth in this Constitution;
  - v. Acting in a manner which is willfully against the interests of the Council, the student body, and/or Columbia Engineering.
- d. Formal review will include a discussion with the involved member and a formation of a plan to avoid repetition of unwanted behavior;
- e. Should the formal review seem unsuccessful, the Executive Board will discuss how to proceed.

##### B. Impeachment<sup>5</sup> and Removal

- a. Grounds for impeachment include any conduct that could result in a formal review;
- b. Any member may motion for the impeachment of another member;
  - i. The impeached member must be informed of the motion for impeachment.

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<sup>5</sup> *Impeachment* – To charge and to call to account a member of the council for having committed an act which is willfully against the interests of the Engineering Student Council, CE, or that of his/her Council role. Debate and voting by the Council after impeaching a member can lead to his/her dismissal from the Council

- c. A special committee, made up one member from each of the four Class Councils and two other members of the Council, will be set up to review the impeachment;
  - i. They will present the case to the Council at least one week after the impeached member is informed.
- b. Removal of an impeached member from the Council shall be by a 2/3 majority vote
  - i. The vote will be closed and tallied by the President and Vice President, Policy of the Council;
  - ii. If the vote is to remove one or both of them, it shall be tallied by the Senior Class Council President and Vice President.

## Article VI: Amendments

### A. Constitutional Amendments

- a. Any elected member of the Council may propose a constitutional amendment as deemed necessary.
- b. One week after the amendment is proposed to the Council, the Council shall hold a majority vote to decide whether or not to entertain the proposal.
- c. If the proposal is entertained, this Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds majority.
- d. Approved amendments shall take effect at the start of the next year.
  - i. If the vote is unanimously in favor of the amendment, the amendment shall take effect immediately.

### B. Amendments addressing clerical changes in the constitution

- a. Any errors (limited to spelling and grammatical) in the Constitution or Bylaws may be changed without constitutional review.
- b. If any governing boards, student councils, or other governing bodies addressed by name in the ESC Constitution or Bylaws receive a name change, their name may be changed within the ESC Constitution without constitutional review.
- c. Any inconsistencies that result from constitutional changes that occurred in the previous constitutional review can be fixed without a constitutional amendment.
- d. Any such changes to the Constitution or Bylaws must be submitted to approval by the Executive Board.

### C. Election Bylaws

- a. The Election Bylaws are amended by the same process as the Constitution
- b. Any member of the Council may propose an amendment to the Elections Bylaws
  - i. Members considering changes are highly encourage to first discuss the changes with a member of the Elections Board

### D. Review

- a. It is the responsibility of the Vice President, Policy to bring forth the Bylaws for review.
- b. If necessary, a committee shall be formed to write any proposed changes.