

The Constitution of Next House

(Draft, as presented by the Constitutional Committee on November 19, 2000)

Article I - Governing Bodies

The Government of Next House shall consist of four main governing bodies. They are the Executive Council, the House Council, the Judicial Board, and the General Assembly.

- A. Executive Council: The Executive Council shall be responsible for administering the functions of the House Government.
- B. House Council: The House Council shall be responsible for legislative and representative procedures of the house.
- C. Judicial Board: The Judicial Board shall be responsible for enforcing the rules of the house and running elections.
- D. General Assembly: The General Assembly shall oversee the actions of the previously enumerated bodies and approve changes to this document and the house budget.

Article II - Membership

Section 1: Executive Council

The Executive Council shall consist of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and the Chairs of all permanent Committees as defined in the bylaws.

Section 2: House Council

The House Council shall consist of one elected representative from each residential wing of Next House as defined in the bylaws.

Section 3: Judicial Board

The membership of the Judicial Board shall be determined by the procedures outlined in the Judicial Code.

Section 4: General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be composed of any and all current M.I.T. undergraduate residents of Next House as defined by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Article III - Functions and Responsibilities of Governing Bodies

Section 1: Executive Council

The Executive Council, in conjunction with the House Council, shall have the sole responsibility of taxing residents and dispersing house funds. Other specific duties are as follows.

- A. President: The President shall be responsible for:
 - a. Presiding over all Executive and House Council meetings;
 - b. Assigning House Council Representatives to committees;
 - c. Representing Next House to all outside bodies;
 - d. Reimbursing individuals for approved house-related expenditures in conjunction with the Treasurer;
 - e. Setting the Agenda for all Executive Council and House Council meetings;
 - f. Calling votes at all Executive Council and House Council meetings.
- B. Secretary: The Secretary shall be responsible for:
 - a. Announcing all open Executive Council and House Council meetings to the General Assembly;
 - b. Taking minutes of all open Executive Council and House Council meetings and distributing them to the General Assembly;
 - c. Maintaining all non-financial records of Next House;
 - d. Counting votes at all Executive Council and House Council meetings.
- C. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be responsible for:
 - a. Preparing a preliminary budget for the joint Executive Council and House Council Budget meeting;
 - b. Reimbursing individuals for approved house-related expenditures in conjunction with the President within a week of the request baring unusual circumstances;
 - c. Maintaining the financial records of the house;
 - d. Providing a report of budget allocations spent to date to any resident requesting such information.
- D. Committee Chairs: The Chairs of permanent Committees shall be responsible for running their respective committees and following duties as delineated in the bylaws.

Section 2: House Council

The House Council shall consist of eight Wing Representatives, one from each residential wing of Next House.

- A. Definition of Wings: The residents of these wings shall be defined as the residents of the following rooms:
 - a. Second West; rooms 201-230;
 - b. Second East, rooms 231-276;
 - c. Third West, rooms 301-330;
 - d. Third East, rooms 331-376;
 - e. Fourth West, rooms 401-430;
 - f. Fourth East, rooms 431-476;
 - g. Fifth West, rooms 501-531;
 - h. Fifth East, rooms 532-576.
- B. Residency: Each Wing Representative must be a resident of the wing that he represents.
- C. Responsibilities: Each Wing Representative shall be responsible for:
 - a. Representing the interests of their respective wings to the House Council;

- b. Attending all House Council meetings, or sending a voting proxy and notifying the Secretary of the proxy's name at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting;
- c. Serving on at least one house Committee, including the Committee to which the president assigns him;
- d. Reporting Executive Council and House Council activities and upcoming events to their respective wings;
- e. Following through with duties on the committee to which he is assigned.

Section 3: Judicial Board

The Judicial Board shall be administered according to the Judicial Code or the relevant section of the bylaws should a Judicial Code not exist.

Section 4: General Assembly

The General Assembly shall be responsible for voting on matters brought to a House vote and overseeing the actions of the other governing bodies of Next House.

Article IV - Terms of Office

Each member of the House Council and the Executive Council shall serve from the time of their installation until their terms end as described in the bylaws.

Article V - Impeachment

Section 1: Executive Council Officers

- A. Petitioning Procedure: A member of the Executive Council may be brought to an impeachment vote if one-fourth of all members of the General Assembly sign a petition for such a vote. The completed petition must be filed with the Judicial Board, and must include the charges upon which the impeachment vote is being taken.
- B. Trial: The Judicial Board shall hold a trial, open to all members of the General Assembly, within a week of the filing of such a petition. The trial shall include an opportunity for the officer in question to address the charges made, as well as an opportunity for any resident to speak regarding the officer's performance. The time and place of this meeting shall be made public knowledge to the General Assembly at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- C. Vote: Immediately following the trial, an impeachment vote shall be held by secret ballot and administered by the Judicial Board. In order for said vote to be binding, one-fourth of all members of the General Assembly must cast votes. If two-thirds of those casting votes vote to impeach the officer, the officer shall be removed from office immediately.

Section 2: Wing Representatives

- A. Petitioning Procedure: A Wing Representative may be brought to an impeachment vote if one-fourth of the residents of the wing that he represents sign a petition for such a vote. The completed petition must be filed with the Judicial Board, and must include the charges upon which the impeachment vote is being taken.
- B. Trial: The Judicial Board shall hold a trial, open to all residents of the wing that the Wing Representative serves, within a week of the filing of such a petition. The trial shall include an opportunity for the officer in question to address the charges made, as well as an opportunity for any resident to speak regarding the representative's performance. The time and place of this meeting must be made public knowledge to the residents of the relevant wing at least 48 hours prior to the beginning of the meeting.
- C. Vote: Immediately following the trial, an impeachment vote shall be held by secret ballot. In order for said vote to be binding, one-half of all members of the wing must cast votes. If two-thirds of those casting votes vote to impeach the representative, the representative shall be removed immediately.

Article VI - Vacancies

The President shall appoint an interim officer in the case of any vacancy. Within two weeks of the vacancy, an election for the vacant office shall occur in accordance with the procedures delineated in the bylaws. Should the office of the President become vacant, the Secretary shall act as President and appoint an interim Secretary. Once the election for President is completed, the Treasurer shall resume his duties as Secretary.

Article VII - Amendment

Section 1: Constitution

Any amendment to this constitution shall be approved first by a two-thirds vote of House Council. Once the House Council approves of the amendment, two-thirds of one-fifth of the General Assembly must approve of the amendment at a General Assembly meeting.

Section 2: Bylaws

Any amendment to the Bylaws shall be approved first by a majority vote of House Council. Once the House Council approves of the amendment, a majority of one-eighth of the General Assembly must approve of the amendment at a General Assembly meeting.

Section 3: Judicial Code

Any amendment to the Judicial Code shall be approved first by a majority vote of House Council. Once the House Council approves of the amendment, a majority of one-eighth of the General Assembly must approve of the amendment at a General Assembly meeting.