

# Constitution of the Graduate Economics Association

## ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

1. Promote student well-being
  - (a) Represent the concerns of students on academic subjects, including curriculum and generals.
  - (b) Represent the concerns of students on issues of quality of life, including stipends.
2. Mediate information between the students and the faculty
  - (a) Provide a forum for faculty and administration feedback from the student body
  - (b) Maintain student awareness concerning important topics or changes in the department
3. Foster a sense of professional and personal community within the department
  - (a) Within the student body
  - (b) Between students and faculty
4. Increase department presence and student involvement throughout MIT
  - (a) Represent department interests to outside groups
  - (b) Inform department of Institute-wide events or issues

## ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

1. Any member of the MIT student community is eligible to become a member of this organization, and becomes a member by paying his/her dues, with exemptions being made to students who cannot afford these dues.
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 MITs Nondiscrimination Statement for membership, officer position, or in any other aspect

### ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

1. There will be at least five (5) officers in this organization:
  - (a) A 1<sup>st</sup>- President
    - i. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President shall be the official representative of the group to the Economics Department, to MIT and to any other organization
    - ii. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President shall be responsible for determining the time and location of meetings and publicizing this to the group
    - iii. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President will preside over all meetings
    - iv. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President can access organizational funds in the absence of the Social Chairs or with the consent of the Social Chairs.
    - v. The 1<sup>st</sup> -President appoints at least one (1) President ex officio from amongst the GEA members.
    - vi. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President appoints the MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) Representative(s) from amongst the GEA officers.
    - vii. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President appoints a president of elections. This president of election shall not stand as a candidate in the elections.
    - viii. The 1<sup>st</sup>-President is elected by GEA members from amongst all GEA members
  - (b) A 2<sup>nd</sup>-President
    - i. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-President assists the 1<sup>st</sup>-President in his/her duties.
    - ii. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-President fulfills all presidential duties in the absence of the 1<sup>st</sup>-President
    - iii. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-President shall maintain a record of the proceedings of all meetings.
    - iv. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-President is elected by GEA members from amongst all GEA members
  - (c) A 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair/Treasurer
    - i. The 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair shall be responsible, with the 2<sup>nd</sup>-Social Chair, for organizing social activities on a regular basis

- ii. The 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair shall be responsible for keeping the finances of the group
  - iii. A signature by the 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair is required for all checks/vouchers of the group, unless he/she confers this duty to another GEA officer
  - iv. The 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair is elected by GEA members from amongst all GEA members
- (d) A 2<sup>nd</sup>-Social Chair
- i. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-Social Chair shall be responsible, with the 1<sup>st</sup>-Social Chair, for organizing social activities on a regular basis
  - ii. The 2<sup>nd</sup>-Social Chair is elected by GEA members from amongst all GEA members
- (e) President(s) ex officio
- i. Advise and help the other officers in the fulfillment of their duties
  - ii. Represent the interests of thesis writers in the economics department
  - iii. Appointed by the 1<sup>st</sup>-President from amongst former 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-Presidents who are still members of the GEA
- (f) MIT Graduate Student Council (GSC) Representative(s)
- i. Make the GEA aware of Institute-wide students issues
  - ii. Represent the views of the GEA to the GSC
  - iii. Selected among elected officers in accordance with GSC selection regulations (the number of Representatives shall be based on the size of the graduate student body)
2. Officers (a) through (e) must be distinct persons and MIT students
3. Elections:
- (a) Elections of GEA officers shall occur shortly before the conclusion of every Spring semester
  - (b) Any member of the GEA is eligible for election
  - (c) Every member of the GEA exercising his/her voting right selects two (2) Presidents and two (2) Social Chairs

- (d) The candidate for President(Social Chair) to receive most votes and to accept a position has the right to decide whether to take the position of 1<sup>st</sup>- or 2<sup>nd</sup>-President(Social Chair); the candidate for President(Social Chair) to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of votes and to accept a position takes the remaining position.
  - (e) In the case of a tie for the highest number of votes for President(Social Chair) between two candidates accepting a position, the president of election tosses a coin in the presence of the concerned candidates to decide which of the two candidates has the right to choose the position of 1<sup>st</sup>- or 2<sup>nd</sup>-President (Social Chair)
  - (f) In the case of a tie for the highest number of votes for President(Social Chair) between more than two candidates who would accept a position, the election for President(Social Chair) is recalled, including only the candidates involved in the tie
  - (g) In the case of a tie for the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest number of votes for President(Social Chair), the candidate with the highest number of votes to accept a position has the right to decide whether to take the position of 1<sup>st</sup>- or 2<sup>nd</sup>-President (Social Chair). The election for the remaining position is recalled, including only the candidates involved in the tie who would accept the remaining position, with voters having now only 1 vote
  - (h) The President(s) ex officio is/are appointed by the 1<sup>st</sup>-President from amongst former 1<sup>st</sup>- and 2<sup>nd</sup>-Presidents who are still members of the GEA
  - (i) The MIT GSC Representative(s) is/are appointed from amongst newlyelected officers by the newly-elected 1<sup>st</sup>-President
  - (j) The term of office runs from June 1 until May 31 the following year
  - (k) Quorum for election is one half of the members of the GEA
4. Removal: Officers may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members

## ARTICLE IV: MEETINGS

1. Meetings of GEA officers shall be held at least every month
2. General meetings of GEA members shall be held at least once a term
3. Meetings shall be presided over by the 1<sup>st</sup>-President

4. All decisions in a General Meeting shall be made by a majority of all members voting
5. Quorum for a General meeting shall be one third of the members of the organization

#### ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

1. Amendments must be presented at least a week in advance
2. Amendments may be presented by any member of the organization
3. Amendments shall be passed by a majority of the members voting
4. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be two thirds of all members of the organization

#### ARTICLE VI: ASA GOD CLAUSE

The GEA 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.