

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, enhance student life, elevate student voices, and advocate on behalf of the student body of 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. Enrolled students of the MIT-WHOI Joint Program are considered *de facto* members of this organization.
2. Any MIT student, significant other of an MIT student, or alumni/ae are eligible to become a member of this organization. One may declare themselves a member of this organization to the board if they have attended at least one event or meeting funded or facilitated by this organization in the preceding or current term.
3. MIT community members whose status does not fall under clauses 1-2 may apply for membership. The governing board decides on membership applications in a closed session based on whether a person's membership will actively support the organization's purpose.
4. The membership of those who are not MIT-WHOI Joint Program students must be renewed at the start of every academic year.
5. The membership of this organization will at all times contain at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students.
6. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement.
7. If this organization charges any monetary dues, there will be exceptions made for students who cannot afford these dues.
8. A member can be removed with the approval of two-thirds of all the other

members. The member to be removed will be given the opportunity to speak at the meeting at which the vote takes place.

Article III: Board of Representatives

1. This organization will have a governing board made up of eight student representatives, and from the representatives, a president, vice president, and treasurer shall be elected, who constitute the officers of the board.
 - 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 board and membership.
 - b. Vice President
 - i. The vice president shall be responsible for oversight of the regular and reoccurring responsibilities of the governing board.
 - ii. The vice president shall ensure regular communications with and support for appointees, "czars", and ad hoc committees of the organization.
 - iii. In the president's absence, the vice president shall preside over meetings of the board.
 - iv. Should the president resign or be removed, the vice president shall be acting president until an election for a replacement can be held.
 - c. 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 the 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.
 - d. 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.
 - e. All officers of this organization must be distinct persons and MIT-WHOI Joint Program students.
2. Elections:
 - a. Elections for board members should occur in September of each year. The exact dates and procedures of the election shall be determined by the outgoing student representatives. Quorum for elections is one-third of those eligible to vote.
 - b. Any student in the MIT-WHOI Joint Program who is a 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 the 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. Student members may run for departmental and at-large positions but, if elected, may only accept one.
 - f. 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 general body meeting after the election.
 - g. Elections may be held through electronic means.
3. Selection of Officers
- a. Selection of president, vice president, and treasurer shall occur at the first meeting of the newly elected board of Joint Program student representatives.
 - b. Quorum for elections is two-thirds of board members.
 - c. A representative is elected by majority vote of the board.
 - 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 the outgoing student representatives.
4. Removal
- a. Officers may be removed from office, but not the board, by a vote of no confidence with support from two-thirds of the board.
 - b. Board members may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the members.
5. If a board member resigns or is removed prior to the end of their term, an election shall be called by the remaining board members to replace them, by the second general body meeting after their resignation. The newly elected board member serves for the remainder of the term.

Article IV: General Body Meetings

- 1. General body meetings shall be held at least once a month.
- 2. General body meetings shall be presided over by the president of the board of representatives unless they are absent, and in that case, the vice president shall preside.

3. General body meetings shall be open to all members. Board members, with the consultation of the President, may invite applicable, outside non-voting parties to participate.
4. Meetings may be held in person or online.
5. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of all board members present.
6. Quorum for a meeting shall be half the governing board or one-quarter of the total student members.

Article V: Ad-hoc student committees and appointees

1. The board of representatives may convene ad-hoc student committees and create appointee positions (also called "czars") to address defined issues of student interest, represent the student body in pre-defined venues, carry out delegated powers of the board, and/or support the enhancement of student life.
2. The board of representatives sets the purpose and guidelines for the work of ad-hoc committees and appointees upon founding. Neither the board nor the committee/appointee may violate the purpose or guidelines laid out by the board when the position was founded. The board may amend the purpose and guidelines with a majority vote.
3. Each ad-hoc committee shall consist of a chair and a flexible number of committee members that are determined by the board of representatives.
4. Ad-hoc committee chairs, members, and appointees are selected separately by the governing board. All members are eligible for the aforementioned positions.
5. Student committee chairs and appointees shall regularly report to the governing board/the Vice President.
6. The Vice President shall be considered a non-voting member *ex officio* of all ad-hoc committees.

Article VI: 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 VII: ASA Governance 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 ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Article VIII: Revisions

Version 1.0 [approved October 25, 2002]

Version 2.0 [updated January 25, 2004]

Version 3.0 [updated April 18, 2013]

Version 4.0 [updated July 26, 2017]

Version 5.0 [ratified October 16, 2022]