Boston Intercollegiate Government Charter

The Voice of the Student Body of the Greater Boston Area

PREAMBLE

We, the undergraduate student governments of the colleges and universities of the Greater Boston Area (GBA), shall work on a nonpartisan basis to represent the GBA student population by collaborating with one another to resolve common issues and enact positive change. To these ends, we shall encourage civic responsibility among our fellow students; advocate to city, state, and federal officials about issues concerning undergraduate students; and serve as a resource for other college and university student governments to organize our combined efforts in the accomplishment of the aims set forth in this Charter. Accordingly, our respective governments, through representatives assembled in the City of Boston, who have exhibited their full powers in good and due form, do ordain and establish the Boston Intercollegiate Government (BIG).

ARTICLE I: Membership

I. The founding member institutions of the BIG shall be the undergraduate governments of Boston College, Boston University, Emmanuel College, Harvard College, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston;

II. Membership in the BIG shall be open to all undergraduate governments within the Greater Boston Area whose student leaders are willing and able to carry out the duties and responsibilities described in this Charter;

III. Membership shall be granted to the undergraduate government of any such college or university upon petition to the General Assembly, subject only to a supermajority vote;

IV. Member institutions that are in violation of this Charter may be removed by a supermajority vote of the Assembly;

V. Any subsequent references to “member institution[s]” (or the like) in official documents of the BIG shall be construed to describe the undergraduate student government of the college or university in question;

ARTICLE II: General Assembly

I. Structure

   A. Each member institution shall have two Representatives in the BIG General Assembly, selected by their respective internal processes;

1. Only Representatives may vote in the General Assembly or any of its constituent committees;

2. Representatives who are in violation of this Charter may be removed by a supermajority vote of the Assembly;

3. If a Representative is removed from the General Assembly, the undergraduate government in which they are enrolled may appoint a replacement pursuant to Article II, Section I.A;

B. The General Assembly shall be led by the leadership team as prescribed by Article II, Section II of this Charter;

C. The activities of the General Assembly shall be divided amongst committees, both of standing and ad-hoc predicate, as prescribed by Article II, Section III of this Charter;

II. Leadership

A. The leadership team of the General Assembly shall be composed of the BIG Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Committee Directors;

1. The Chair and Vice Chair must be Representatives in the General Assembly in order to hold their respective positions;

B. The BIG Chair shall be responsible for leading the overall activities of the BIG and representing the BIG to local, state, and federal officials and governing organizations;

C. The BIG Vice Chair shall be responsible for presiding over all meetings of the General Assembly, establishing the agenda for General Assembly meetings, and supporting the work of the BIG Chair;

D. The BIG Treasurer shall be responsible for executing all financial transactions formally approved by a resolution of the General Assembly;

E. The Committee Directors shall be responsible for managing the activities of their committees and interfacing with the Vice Chair regarding General Assembly agendas;

F. Members of the General Assembly leadership team shall faithfully execute all directives as mandated by resolutions of the General Assembly;

G. Members of the General Assembly leadership team shall retain the right to vote in

committees and in votes of the General Assembly;

H. Members of the General Assembly leadership who are in violation of this Charter may be removed by a supermajority vote of the Assembly;

III. Activities

A. Standing Committees shall be the permanent, subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly;

1. The Standing Committees of the General Assembly shall be the Committee on Governmental Affairs, Committee on Public Relations, Committee on Intercollegiate Affairs Committee, and Committee on Rules;

2. Membership in Standing Committees shall be decided upon a rolling basis, so as to not prohibit Representatives from changing Committee membership, so long as such changes are not arbitrary or done to unduly influence the passage of particular legislation;

a) All Representatives not serving on the leadership team shall be members of no less than one committee;

B. Ad-hoc committees of the General Assembly shall be instituted when needed by a resolution of the General Assembly, and may be dissolved by a subsequent resolution or in accordance with the provisions of the establishing resolution;

C. Committee membership shall consist of Representatives from the General Assembly, who may appoint non-voting committee staff to aid committee operations;

D. Each committee shall appoint a Committee Director to lead their respective activities;

1. Directors shall be nominated by a majority of their respective committees and subsequently confirmed by a supermajority vote of the General Assembly;

2. Directors shall be members of the General Assembly or duly-appointed, non-voting members of the BIG;

E. The General Assembly may, through a duly enacted resolution, create non-binding advisory councils. The composition, responsibilities, and other characteristics of the councils shall be described in such resolutions;

ARTICLE III: Amendments

I. Representatives may propose amendments to this Charter, subject to a supermajority vote of the General Assembly;

ARTICLE IV: Ratification

I. This Charter shall come into force upon certification that the undergraduate student governments of Boston College, Boston University, Emmanuel College, Harvard College, Northeastern University, and the University of Massachusetts Boston have ratified this Charter.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, the members of the Boston Intercollegiate Government have signed the present Charter in the City of Boston the thirteenth day of June of the year two thousand and twenty.