



EGS

Engineering Graduate Society
of McMaster University

**MCMMASTER ENGINEERING
GRADUATE SOCIETY**

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ENGINEERING GRADUATE SOCIETY
OF MCMMASTER UNIVERSITY**

VERSION 3 - Proposed

AUGUST 30, 2021

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Definitions and Acronyms

Term	Definition
Ad hoc Committee	A committee of Representatives formed by the Council to address a specific aspect of affairs of the EGS.
AGM	Annual General Meeting
Council	Comprised of all elected Representatives.
Council Meeting	A formal gathering of Representatives when quorum is met.
Department	A department or school belonging to and defined by The Faculty of Engineering at McMaster University.
EGS	Engineering Graduate Society at McMaster University.
Executive	One Council Member that is appointed to a position on the Executive Committee.
Executive Meeting	A formal gathering of Executives when quorum is met.
External Committee	A committee chaired by an external society on which the EGS holds one or multiple seats.
General Member	A Graduate Student in the Faculty of Engineering.
FRC	Faculty Representative to the GSA Council
GSA	Graduate Students Association
Honourary Member	A person who is bestowed this title by Council.
Regular Meeting	An informal gathering of Representatives with no quorum.
Representative	A graduate student elected to represent their Department.
Standing Committee	A committee of General Members formed once per Term.
Term	Calendar year commencing on July 1 st to June 30 th .

1 Mandate

- 1.1. Through this Constitution, the Engineering Graduate Society is created and defined as a body to represent and enact the will of Graduate Students in the Faculty of Engineering at McMaster University.
- 1.2. The Society shall be mandated to:
 - 1.2.1. Represent the interests and opinions of Graduate Students in the Faculty of Engineering to the Faculty and University authorities.
 - 1.2.2. Support Engineering Graduate Students and facilitate access to available resources in order to minimize and address any collective or personal issues during their graduate studies, according to established procedures.
 - 1.2.3. Organize events for Engineering Graduate Students to enrich the quality of their academic career at McMaster University, including but not limited to professional, academic, personal and social development events.
 - 1.2.4. Strive to enrich the Engineering Graduate experience at McMaster University through academic, and social, and professional development events.

2 Membership

- 2.1. All Graduate Students enrolled in participating schools and departments of the Faculty of Engineering at McMaster University shall be General Members of the Society.
- 2.2. All General Members are entitled to the rights and privileges associated with Membership.
- 2.3. Honourary Membership may be bestowed by Council on persons who's actions further the goals and vision of the Society, with all the associated rights and privileges.

3 Council

- 3.1. The Engineering Graduate Society Council shall be the legislative body of the Society, convened to write and alter By-Laws, appoint Society representatives, adopt advocacy positions, and discharge all authorities granted to it by Society Constitution, By-Law, Policy, or policies of other organizations.
- 3.2. The Council shall be comprised of elected Representatives from each Department.
- 3.3. All members of Council must be General Members of the Society for the entirety of their appointment.
- 3.4. The term of Council shall be from July 1st to June 30th of the following year.
- 3.5. Members of Council shall serve until the end of the term of Council, the end of Society membership, or until removal by recall, non-confidence or By-law.
- 3.6. A regular meeting of Council shall be held no fewer than once per month.
 - 3.6.1. Quorum must be met to commence with the meeting.
- 3.7. An emergency meeting may be called by two Representatives
 - 3.7.1. Emergency meetings may only be called on specific business
 - 3.7.2. Quorum is not required at an emergency meeting
 - 3.7.3. All business decided at an emergency meeting must be ratified at the next regular meeting of Council

4 Executive Committee

- 4.1. The Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Officers of the Society.
- 4.2. Officers of the Society shall be:
 - 4.2.1. The President
 - 4.2.2. The Vice-President External

- 4.2.3. The Vice-President Internal
- 4.2.4. All other Officers as defined by By-Law, who shall number no fewer than five persons.
- 4.3. All Officers shall be current Representatives for the duration of their term, and be elected by Council.
- 4.4. The Term of the Executive Committee shall align with that of Council.
- 4.5. The Executive Committee shall:
 - 4.5.1. Coordinate and administer the policies, activities and other day-to-day affairs of the Society.
 - 4.5.2. Prepare recommendations for any matter to be debated upon by the Council, and ensure the execution of any decisions made by Council.
 - 4.5.3. Report its activities and decisions to the Council.
 - 4.5.4. Enforce the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies of the Society.
 - 4.5.5. Amend and adopt Policies with a simple majority, and Bylaws with unanimous approval, of all Officers.
 - 4.5.6. Promote the Society to the McMaster community and communities external thereof.
- 4.6. A meeting of the Executive Committee may be called by any Officer
 - 4.6.1. Quorum of an Executive Committee Meeting shall be defined by By-Law.

5 Annual General Meetings

- 5.1. There shall be one Annual General Meeting (AGM) within the last four months of every Society Term.
- 5.2. Each Officer shall provide a report on the activities and accomplishments under their portfolio during that Term.
- 5.3. The President shall present the goals of the Society for the upcoming Term.
- 5.4. Quorum of an Annual General Meeting shall be met with the following:
 - 5.4.1. No fewer than 3% of, or 40 General Members, which ever is greater.
- 5.5. The Annual General Meeting may conduct any business of the Society, subject to the following restriction:
 - 5.5.1. Approval by Council must be given to debate motions concerning the expenditure of funds, alteration of fees, or adoption of policy stances.

6 Elections

- 6.1. Elections processes shall include the appointment of Department Representative to Council, Referenda, and Plebiscites.

- 6.2. Promotions of Elections must begin no later than two weeks before the closing of polls.
- 6.3. Call for nominations of Representatives shall be made to the General Members of each Department at least two months prior to the end of each Society Term.

7 Recall

- 7.1. Recall of a Representative will occur as a result of one of the following:
 - 7.1.1. A petition of the higher of 50 General Members from their Department or 40% of all of the Department's General Members presented to the President.
 - 7.1.2. A unanimous minus one vote of Council.
- 7.2. General Members who had been previously Recalled are eligible to stand for reelection.

8 Referenda and Plebiscites

- 8.1. A Referendum is to be called for the purpose of consulting the General Members on Society affairs with a binding result.
- 8.2. A Referendum is to be called as a result of one of the following:
 - 8.2.1. Upon a majority vote of the Council.
 - 8.2.2. A petition of 10% of all General Members presented to the President.
- 8.3. The Referendum shall pass if 50%+1 of ballots are cast in favour.
- 8.4. The results of the Referendum are binding on the Society provided that a quorum of no fewer than 10% of General Members cast ballots.
- 8.5. A Plebiscite is to be called for the purpose of consulting the General Members on Society affairs with a non-binding result.
- 8.6. A Plebiscite shall be called upon a vote of Council.
- 8.7. The publication of Referenda and Plebiscites shall occur no later than two weeks before polls close.

9 Constitutional Amendments

- 9.1. Amendments to the Constitution shall require an affirmative vote of 60% in Referendum.
- 9.2. A Referendum to amend the Constitution can be called by the following:
 - 9.2.1. A majority vote of the Council.
 - 9.2.2. A petition of 10% of all General Members presented to the Council.

- 9.3. Quorum in a Constitutional Referendum shall be no fewer than 20% of General Members.

10 Interpretation

- 10.1. In the event of a conflict between the Constitution and a set of Bylaws, the Constitution shall take precedence.
- 10.2. Interpretations of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies of the Society shall be made by the Administrative Officer, with the advice of the President and Vice-Presidents.