

# Computer Science House Constitution

Computer Science House Constitution Committee

Proposed: February 22, 2016

## **Article I Introduction**

### **Section 1.A Name**

The name of this Special Interest House shall be Computer Science House.

### **Section 1.B Derivation of Authority**

The Computer Science House shall recognize that it receives its right to function as a Special Interest House from the Department of Residence Life in conjunction with the Residence Halls Association.

### **Section 1.C House Objectives**

The objectives of Computer Science House are:

1. To enhance the education experience of its members.
2. To offer students educational programming with an emphasis in computers.
3. To provide a variety of services for its members, the RIT campus, and the Rochester Community.
4. To provide a friendly and comfortable living environment in the residence halls.

## **Article II Constitutional Structure**

### **Section 2.A House Charter**

The House Charter is a document drafted by the department of Residence Life, setting down the guidelines within which this House operates and from which it derives its authority.

### **Section 2.B Constitution**

The House Constitution is written and maintained by the House and defines the major aspects, goals, and governing structure of the house. It is reviewed annually by the Department of Residence Life. The House Constitution is comprised of two sections: articles and by-laws. Articles define the major aspects of the House. A by-law may expand on rules outlined in an article, but they must never contradict a Constitutional article.

### **2.B.1 Non-Semantic Changes**

There are two methods for non-semantic change to the Constitution. A Maintainer may approve any proposed change that does not affect the meaning of the document. Alternatively, the change may be presented to the House for discussion followed by an Immediate Vote. A quorum of fifty percent of the Total Number of Possible Votes is required for passage.

### **2.B.2 Semantic Changes**

Any semantic change to the Constitution requires the change to be proposed in writing for discussion at a House Meeting. Any modifications made due to the discussion are added to the written proposal and the modified proposal is posted in the House during the week. The final proposal is presented the following week and ballots are distributed for a ballot House vote as described in 5.B.2. The ballots are collected for a minimum of a forty-eight hour period. A quorum of two-thirds of the Total Number of Possible Votes must cast ballots for the vote to be official. A vote equaling or exceeding two-thirds of the number of votes cast is required for the change to be placed into the constitution. The Constitution may be overridden by an immediate House vote as described in 5.B.3. There must be a quorum of eighty-five percent of the Total Number of Possible Votes for the vote to be official. A vote equaling or exceeding ninety percent of the number of votes cast is required for the override to take effect.

## **Section 2.C Maintainers**

### **2.C.1 Maintainer Qualifications**

Maintainers must be Active or Alumni in good standing.

### **2.C.2 Maintainer Expectations**

Maintainers are expected to:

- Review changes to the Constitution for grammar, spelling, and internal consistency.
- Keep a public record of changes to the Constitution.
- Participate in discussion of proposals.
- Facilitate the creation of new changes to the Constitution by other members.
- Be knowledgeable about the Constitution.

Failure to meet any of these expectations is grounds for revocation of Maintainer status by the Executive Board.

### **2.C.3 Maintainer Resignations**

Maintainers may resign at any time by notifying the current Executive Board and Maintainer group.

### **2.C.4 Maintainer Term**

Maintainer status lasts until it is resigned, or until it is revoked by Executive Board vote. If a Maintainer no longer satisfies 2.C.1, they lose Maintainer status.

### **2.C.5 Maintainer Selection**

Any member may nominate a qualified member for Maintainer status to the Executive Board for consideration. The Executive Board may choose to approve or reject the nomination by Simple Majority vote.

## Article III Membership

There are five major types of membership available to Computer Science House. Each carries different qualifications, expectations, and privileges. When describing the different memberships available, the following terms are used:

**Qualifications:** What qualifications an applicant needs to apply.

**Selection:** The process by which an applicant gains membership.

**Expectations:** The duties and responsibilities of House members.

**Privileges:** The benefits offered to House members.

**Evaluations:** The process by which a member is reviewed and assessed.

**Resignations:** The process by which a member terminates House membership.

**Term:** The length of time the membership lasts.

### Section 3.A Introductory Membership

#### 3.A.1 Introductory Membership Qualifications

Introductory Membership is open to all students at the Rochester Institute of Technology.

#### 3.A.2 Introductory Membership Selection

Applicants notify the House of their interest in membership by submitting an application to the Evaluations Director. They must then undergo the selection process as defined in Section 4.B.

#### 3.A.3 Introductory Membership Expectations

Introductory members are expected to meet all the requirements of the Introductory Process, as described in 4.A.5.

#### 3.A.4 Introductory Membership Privileges

Introductory members receive the right to use Computer Science House facilities, to attend House functions, and to have housing priority over all persons who are not Computer Science House members.

#### 3.A.5 Introductory Membership Evaluations

Introductory members are evaluated on their performance during the introductory period. The introductory evaluation process is described in 4.A.6.

#### 3.A.6 Introductory Membership Resignations

Introductory members may resign by submitting the request for termination of membership to the Chairman, or Evaluations Director in writing before the completion of the introductory process.

#### 3.A.7 Introductory Membership Term

Introductory membership shall last until the end of the introductory process, at which time active membership is granted or membership is revoked.

## **Section 3.B Active Membership**

### **3.B.1 Active Membership Qualifications**

Active Membership is open to all students currently enrolled at the Rochester Institute of Technology who have passed the Introductory Evaluation and their most recent Membership Evaluation.

### **3.B.2 Active Membership Selection**

Qualifying members may self-select into Active Membership by paying dues to the Financial Director and notifying the Evaluations Director.

Any Alumni Member in bad standing (3.C.2) may become an Active Member by notifying the Evaluations Director of their intent to participate, who will bring them up for vote at the next Evaluations meeting. If a majority is in favor of the return, the Alumni is reinstated as an Active Member with Off-Floor status effective immediately. The decision will be announced at the following House meeting.

### **3.B.3 Active Membership Expectations**

Active members are expected to be active participants in the House as defined in Section 4.D.

### **3.B.4 Active Membership Privileges**

Active Members receive the right to:

- Vote on all issues brought before the House
- Reside on the House
- Hold an Executive Board office on the House
- Use Computer Science House facilities
- Attend Computer Science House functions
- Receive priority for available housing on the House when returning from cooperative education
- Guaranteed housing in compliance with the Residence Life policies regarding Special Interest Houses and the Housing Selection Process (if they have On-Floor status)

Active Members currently on co-op forfeit their right to vote on house issues, and likewise do not count towards quorum. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Evaluations Director.

### **3.B.5 Active Membership Evaluations**

Active Members are evaluated semi-annually through the Evaluation Process as described in Section 4.C. Failure of the Evaluation Process could result in the member being asked to find alternative housing as soon as possible in accordance with all applicable Residence Life policies regarding room changes.

### **3.B.6 Active Membership Resignations**

An Active member may resign by submitting, in writing, the reason for resignation to the Chairman, or Evaluations Director. Instead of forfeiting membership, Active members who resign may elect to become Alumni defined in 3.C.2. The resignation will take effect immediately and an announcement will be made at the following House Meeting.

**3.B.7 Active Membership Term**

Active Membership shall last until the member: resigns, fails the Evaluation Process, or changes membership status.

**Section 3.C Alumni Membership****3.C.1 Alumni Membership Qualifications**

Alumni Membership is open to all former Active members of Computer Science House who passed at least one Membership Evaluation and departed for reasons other than revocation of House Membership.

**3.C.2 Alumni Membership Selection**

Active members who depart house (i.e. resign) after passing the current operating session's Membership Evaluations are considered to be Alumni in good standing.

Active members who depart house without passing the current operating session's Membership Evaluations are considered to be Alumni in bad standing. This may be appealed to the Executive Board in order to pursue a different outcome.

**3.C.3 Alumni Membership Expectations**

There are no expectations associated with the Alumni Membership status.

**3.C.4 Alumni Membership Privileges**

Alumni Members shall receive the right to:

- Use Computer Science House facilities
- Attend Computer Science House functions

**3.C.5 Alumni Membership Evaluations**

Alumni Members are not subject to any evaluation.

**3.C.6 Alumni Membership Resignations**

There are no resignations associated with Alumni Membership status.

**3.C.7 Alumni Membership Term**

Alumni Membership shall last indefinitely or until the member chooses to pursue Active Membership.

**Section 3.D Honorary Membership****3.D.1 Honorary Membership Qualifications**

Honorary Membership is open to a person whom the House feels has contributed great personal effort to the House and is deserving of House recognition.

### **3.D.2 Honorary Membership Selection**

Any House member may nominate a candidate for Honorary Membership by submitting the name in writing to the Evaluations Director. The Evaluation Director then begins the Honorary Membership Selection Process as defined in 4.B.3

### **3.D.3 Honorary Membership Expectations**

Honorary Members are encouraged to remain in contact with the House.

### **3.D.4 Honorary Membership Privileges**

Honorary Members may advise in all issues brought before the House, use Computer Science House facilities, and attend Computer Science House functions.

### **3.D.5 Honorary Membership Evaluations**

Honorary Members are not subject to formal evaluations.

### **3.D.6 Honorary Membership Resignations**

An Honorary Member may resign by submitting in writing the reason for resignation to the Chairman. The resignation will be read at the following House Meeting and become effective at that time.

### **3.D.7 Honorary Membership Term**

Honorary Membership shall last until the member resigns.

## **Section 3.E Advisory Membership**

### **3.E.1 Advisory Membership Qualifications**

Advisory Membership is open to all members of the Rochester Institute of Technology professional, academic, or administrative staff.

### **3.E.2 Advisory Membership Selection**

The Executive Board may open nominations for Advisory Members. The candidates then participate in the Advisory Selection Process as defined in 4.B.4

### **3.E.3 Advisory Membership Expectations**

Advisors are encouraged to offer advice and assistance to the House in any capacity the Advisor is able to help. Advisors are also encouraged to meet the House members and occasionally attend House activities.

### **3.E.4 Advisory Membership Privileges**

Advisory Members may advise in all issues brought before the House, use Computer Science House facilities, and attend Computer Science House functions.

### **3.E.5 Advisory Membership Evaluations**

Advisors are not subject to formal evaluations.

### **3.E.6 Advisory Membership Resignations**

An Advisor may resign by submitting in writing the reason for resignation to the Chairman. The resignation will be read at the following House Meeting and become effective at that time.

### **3.E.7 Advisory Membership Term**

Advisory Membership shall last until the member resigns.

## **Article IV Executive Board**

The Executive Board is the main governing body of the House. Its purpose is to provide leadership and direction for the House, to oversee the day-to-day operations of the House, and to initiate and organize programs and projects for the House. It is composed of the seven permanent directors and the Chairman.

There is one permanent directorship for each major aspect of the government of the House and each one is chaired by an Executive Board member. Ad-hoc directorships are created on an as-needed basis. They are generally very task oriented and are chaired by a House member. A directorship has some jurisdiction in its area of interest and often is responsible for the day-to-day decisions regarding its area of interest. Any large expenditures or large effect decisions must be brought before the entire House

### **Section 4.A Members of the Executive Board**

#### **4.A.1 Chairman**

#### **4.A.2 Voting Members**

- Evaluations Director
- Social Director(s)
- Financial Director
- Research and Development Director
- House Improvements Director
- Operational Communications Director
- House History Director

#### **4.A.3 Non-Voting Members**

- Ad Hoc Directors

#### **4.A.4 House Secretary**

### **Section 4.B Closed Executive Board**

Closed Executive Board Meetings are open only to the Chairman, Voting Members of the Executive Board, and those with the express permission of the Executive Board. A closed Executive Board meeting may be called at any time by any member of the Executive Board. However, the Chairman and at least two-thirds of the Voting Members must be present for the meeting to be called.

## **Section 4.C Responsibilities**

### **4.C.1 Responsibilities of the Executive Board**

- a. To hold a weekly meeting specific to their responsibilities and submit notes to the House.
- b. To meet, as an Executive Board, at least weekly during the standard operating session, as defined in Section 2.A to discuss and report the operations of the House.
- c. To report pertinent information to House members at the following House Meeting.
- d. To maintain records of the goals defined by each previous Executive Board.
- e. To act as a Judicial Board as defined in Article VI.
- f. To review major projects, as defined in Section 4.D, presented to them by the Evaluations director.
- g. To make the final vote regarding conditionals and appeals as defined in 4.C.2.
- h. To publish a document at the end of each semester to all Members stating Houses accomplishments of that semester.
- i. To review and update the Constitution at the end of each standard operating session, as defined in Section 2.A. The constitution should remain up to date with current practices.

### **4.C.2 Responsibilities of the Chairman**

- a. To preside over Executive Board and House Meetings.
- b. To exercise general supervision over the operations of the Executive Board.
- c. To exercise general supervision over regular House activities.
- d. To act as a liaison to the academic and administrative departments at RIT.
- e. To act as a part of a Judicial Board as defined in Article VI.
- f. To cast tie-breaking vote in a split decision in an Executive Board vote.

### **4.C.3 Responsibilities of the Evaluations Director**

- a. To preside over Evaluations Meetings.
- b. To exercise general supervision over Evaluations operations.
- c. To oversee the screening, interviewing, and acceptance or rejection of prospective House members.
- d. To oversee the Semi-Annual Evaluations of current House members.
- e. To collaborate with the Residence Life Advisor to determine room change selection and any changes of membership residency.
- f. To act as a part of a Judicial Board as defined in Article VI.
- g. To prepare the House for Open Houses, tours, and special events.



**4.C.4 Responsibilities of the Social Director**

- a. To preside over Social Meetings. House members are encouraged to bring ideas for social events to the meetings for discussion.
- b. To exercise general supervision over Social operations.
- c. To oversee the organization, initiation, and execution of House activities and events.
- d. To ensure that there is a variety of activities for House members to participate in throughout the academic year.

**4.C.5 Responsibilities of the Financial Director**

- a. To preside over Financial Meetings. House members are encouraged to bring ideas for fund-raising activities to the meetings for discussion.
- b. To supervise financial administrators and transactions involving house projects.
- c. To maintain financial and inventory records of House capital and assets.
- d. To plan and enforce a House budget.
- e. To oversee House finances and generation of House funds.
- f. To publish a semesterly House financial statement.
- g. To supervise the collection of semesterly House dues.
- h. To oversee the planning and execution of fundraising events.

**4.C.6 Responsibilities of the Research and Development Director**

- a. To preside over Research and Development Meetings. House members are encouraged to bring ideas for projects to the meetings for discussion.
- b. To exercise general supervision over Research and Development operations.
- c. To oversee the planning, organization and construction of technical projects for the House's benefit.
- d. To collaborate with the Operational Communications Director in an attempt to fulfill the House's need for technical equipment.
- e. To provide seminars and tutorials to educate House members in technical areas.

**4.C.7 Responsibilities of the House Improvements Director**

- a. To preside over House Improvements Meetings.
- b. To exercise general supervision over the House Improvements operations.
- c. To oversee the organization and construction of physical improvements to the House.
- d. To oversee the general maintenance of the appearance of the House.

**4.C.8 Responsibilities of the Operational Communications Director**

- a. To represent the Root Type Persons at Executive Board Meetings and at House Meetings.
- b. To report the status of the House computer systems and network to the Executive Board and House members.

**4.C.9 Responsibilities of the House History Director**

- a. To preside over House History Meetings.
- b. To exercise general supervision over the House History operations.
- c. To maintain, uphold, and promote house traditions.
- d. To collaborate with the Social Director(s) to ensure that all the Active, Alumni, and Advisory Members are informed of upcoming events.
- e. To oversee the production and distribution of a semi-annual newsletter.
- f. To oversee the creation of a yearbook outlining House events for the year.

**4.C.10 Responsibilities of the House Secretary**

- a. To ensure that minutes are recorded and posted for Executive Board Meetings.
- b. To ensure that minutes are recorded and posted for House Meetings.
- c. To oversee the maintenance of Executive Board records and documents.
- d. To provide administrative assistance to the Executive Board.
- e. To oversee the maintenance of the Activities Information Centers.
- f. To record all votes cast during House Meetings and Open Executive Board Meetings.

**4.C.11 Responsibilities of Ad Hoc Directorships**

- a. Ad-Hoc Directorships are responsible for the task for which they were created.
- b. Any responsibilities budgets or finances for the Ad-Hoc Directorship are placed upon the assigned director.

**Section 4.D Qualifications****4.D.1 Qualifications to be the Chairman, Evaluations Director**

- a. Candidates must be Active Members during the term of office.
- b. Candidates must reside on floor during the term of office.
- c. Candidates must have at least one full semester of House membership as an Active Member.
- d. Elected or selected candidates may not hold two simultaneous voting Executive Board positions, and must therefore resign their current position or decline a second position should they be elected or selected to a second voting position.

**4.D.2 Qualifications to be the Social Director(s), Financial Director, Research and Development Director(s), House Improvements Director, House History Director**

- a. Candidates must be Active Members during the term of office.
- b. Candidates must have at least one full semester of House membership as an Active Member.
- c. Elected or selected candidates may not hold two simultaneous voting Executive Board positions, and must therefore resign their current position or decline a second position should they be elected or selected to a second voting position.

**4.D.3 Qualifications to be the Operational Communications Director**

- a. Candidates must be a current Root Type Person By-Law V
- b. Candidates must be a current Active Member.
- c. A Root Type Person cannot be the director if they currently hold any other Executive Board Position.

**4.D.4 Qualifications to be the House Secretary or an Ad Hoc Director**

- a. Candidates must be Active Members.

**Section 4.E Selection****4.E.1 Dual Directorship**

Social and Research and Development are the only voting Executive Board positions that allow for Dual Directorship. If two candidates elect to run as a Dual Directorship, their names are placed together on a single line of the election ballot. If they are also nominated as a normal directorship or as a dual directorship with another House member, their votes are not cumulative. Each different nomination must be a separate entry on the election ballot. Non-voting Executive Board positions (i.e. Ad-Hoc Directors) are not restricted to single or dual directorship.

The following special cases cover the operation of a dual directorship:

- If one of the members in a dual directorship resigns the directorship, or for any other reason ends the term of office, the other member in the dual directorship must also step down and the office becomes vacated. The vacated office is then handled like any other vacated office; see Section 4.F.
- During an official Executive Board Vote, each dual directorship member's vote counts for one-half vote in the tallying of votes. The members of the dual directorship need not vote the same way in a vote.
- A member of a dual directorship may not hold any other Executive Board position.
- When attendance requirements call for the dual directorship position to be present, both dual directorship members are to fulfill the requirements.

**4.E.2 Selection of the Chairman, Evaluations Director, Social Director(s), Financial Director, House Improvements Director, House History Director, Research and Development Director(s)**

- a. The opening of the Executive Board position(s) is announced at a House meeting and nominations for the position are taken for a minimum of a seventy-two hour period. Any House member may nominate any eligible member or pair of members where appropriate for a Directorship.

- b. The candidates meeting the qualifications of the office they were nominated for, will be notified of their nomination. Each candidate is given a minimum of twenty-four hour period to accept or decline the nomination. A list of all nominees who have accepted their nominations will be posted shortly thereafter.
- c. Each candidate will be given an equal amount of time before the House to present their platform of candidacy.
- d. Ballots will then be distributed and voting will be open for a minimum of a forty-eight hour period. The Ballots will list, in random order, all of the candidates for a given office with a means to indicate the selection of one of the candidates. In addition, an area will be provided to indicate a write-in selection of a candidate.
- e. At the end of the voting period, the Chairman will terminate voting by collecting the ballot box and the votes shall be counted as stated in 5.B.1.
- f. The winners are determined via the process described in 5.B.1. A quorum of fifty-percent of the number of all members eligible to vote is required for the election to be official. All winners are notified of their election. If the position is currently vacant, the winner immediately assumes office. If not, the winner will assume office at the end of the current term (Section 4.H). Any office whose winner declines the election, or whose winner was a write-in candidate who does not fulfill the requirements of the elected office, shall have their votes redistributed in the same process as a loser in 5.B.1.

#### **4.E.3 Selection of the Operational Communications Director**

- a. A candidate for the Operational Communications Directorship shall be chosen by the current Root Type Persons.
- b. The candidate is given a minimum of twenty-four hours to accept or decline the nomination.
- c. The candidate is presented to the Executive Board for approval. This Executive Board meeting is closed to the Executive Board Members, Root Type Persons, and House members with explicit invitation from the Executive Board.
- d. All current Executive Board Voting Members must be present during the discussion and voting period unless that member is a candidate for the position, in which case the member is absent and their vote is abstained. A simple majority Executive Board vote, as described in 5.C.1, is taken to determine whether the candidate is selected for the position.

#### **4.E.4 Selection of Ad Hoc Directors**

- a. When the Executive Board or a group of House members feels an Ad-hoc Directorship is necessary, they present their plans to the Executive Board and the Executive Board decides by simple majority vote whether directorship status is granted.
- b. When the Ad-Hoc Directorship is granted status, a director is appointed, and duties, budgetary, and membership considerations are defined.

#### **4.E.5 Selection of the House Secretary**

The Executive Board may choose to select a current voting Executive Board member, or to select any interested Active member, as House Secretary. The selection process can be an informal appointment, or follow an election process similar to other voting Executive Board positions.

## Section 4.F Resignations

An Executive Board Member may resign by submitting in writing the reason for resignation to the House Chairman. The resignation will be read at the following House Meeting and become effective at that time. The office will become vacant and the selection process for a new member will begin at that time. The duties and responsibilities of a vacated office are assumed by the Chairman or by an Active member that is appointed at the Chairmans discretion until the new member takes office. The vote of a vacated Executive Board position shall be cast as an abstention in all Executive Board matters where this vote is required to be cast.

## Section 4.G Impeachment

- a. Impeachment of any Executive Board Member may be initiated by petition, in writing, consisting of a minimum number of signatures of current House members equaling or exceeding one-third the Number of Possible Votes as defined in 5.A.1.
- b. The impeachment petition is then presented at an Executive Board Meeting. The member(s) initiating the petition present their case to the Executive Board. The Executive Board then questions the accused member of the allegations.
- c. The Executive Board votes on the impeachment petition, with all voting members present except the accused member who must be absent and whose vote counts as an abstention, to determine if the allegations stated in the petition are legitimate grounds for impeachment. If the majority of Executive Board votes are negative, the petition and impeachment proceedings are dismissed. This vote may be overridden by an impeachment petition consisting of the grounds for impeachment and a minimum of number of signatures of current House members equaling or exceeding two-thirds the number of all House members currently eligible to vote.
- d. If the majority of the Executive Board votes are positive, or the negative vote was overridden, the petition is presented at the following House Meeting and the accused and accuser(s) again present their cases.
- e. Ballots will then be distributed and a secret ballot House vote shall be held for a minimum of a forty-eight hour period to determine whether or not the member should be removed from office. Votes shall be collected and counted as described in 5.B.2.
- f. A quorum of two-thirds of the Total Number of Possible Votes is necessary for the vote to be official. A vote equaling or exceeding two-thirds the number of all ballots cast is necessary for the accused officer to be removed from office. If a quorum cannot be reached after two attempts, or the percentage of affirmative votes does not equal or exceed the minimum, impeachment proceedings are dismissed.
- g. If the percentage of affirmative votes equals or exceeds the minimum the impeached officer is relinquished of their position and any benefits thereof and this position is treated like any other vacated position. A new selection and interim duty fulfillment procedure is followed similar to that of a resignation; see Section 4.F.
- h. House Secretary can be impeached according to the above process, or may be dismissed by a Simple Majority vote of the Executive Board.

## Section 4.H Term

- a. The Election Process for the following year's Executive Board members shall begin in the middle of Spring semester.

- b. The newly selected officers shall begin their terms on June 1 of that year and their terms shall end on May 31 of the following year.
- c. The term of an officer will be abbreviated due to resignation, impeachment, failure of the evaluation process, or change in membership status.
- d. Officers elected or selected during the course of the year due to an abbreviated term of the previous officer shall hold office until the end of the normal term.
- e. When the task of an Ad Hoc Directorship has been completed, the directorship dissolves. When an Ad Hoc Director resigns, the directorship dissolves and must be reinstated with a new director.

## **Section 4.I Appeals**

Decisions made by the Executive Board may be appealed and overturned. To initiate an appeal, a member must have the support of three voting members of the Executive Board, or a petition with the signatures of one-third of Active Members. After the appeal is presented, a Simple Majority vote is held by the Executive Board whether or not to overturn and reevaluate the decision. If the vote passes, the Executive Board may discuss and make a new ruling by another Simple Majority vote.

## **Article V Voting**

This section outlines the different types of votes and ballots used to make House decisions and defines relevant terminology.

### **Section 5.A Definitions**

#### **5.A.1 Total Number of Possible Votes**

The sum of the number of Active members eligible to vote (i.e. not on co-op)

#### **5.A.2 Total Number of Votes Cast**

The Total Number of Votes Cast is defined as the total number of votes received for every voting option minus the number of abstentions.

#### **5.A.3 Quorum**

A Quorum is defined by the minimum number of votes cast required for a vote to be official. It is a fraction or a percentage of the total number of possible votes. Any member present for an Immediate Vote or given a ballot who does not explicitly cast their vote is counted as an Abstention. A Quorum is reached if the Total Number of Votes Cast plus the number of Abstentions is equal to or exceeding the minimum number of votes required.

#### **5.A.4 Proxy Ballot**

A Proxy Vote is defined as any ballot that was cast by one member on behalf of another member. Any member may cast a Proxy Vote for another member who is unable to actually participate in the vote. A Proxy Vote must be explicitly written down and signed by the member not in attendance. The count of all Proxy Vote must be recorded and announced in all votes. Proxy Votes are only permissible where explicitly stated, at the discretion of the person chairing the vote.

#### **5.A.5 Abstention**

An Abstention is defined as a vote indicating a neutral position in the vote. A means to abstain must always be provided in a vote. Abstentions are counted towards a Quorum, but not towards the Total Number of Votes Cast used to determine if a vote passes or not.

#### **5.A.6 Vote Counters**

Vote Counters are the chairperson of the vote, and two randomly selected members.

### **Section 5.B Types of Voting**

#### **5.B.1 Alternative Vote**

**5.B.1.A Method of Vote** Votes are cast on paper ballots, which provide a means to indicate every possible option in the vote. A ballot is then distributed to each House member eligible to cast a vote and collected in the designated ballot box for a pre-specified length of time. At the end of the voting period, the person chairing the vote collects the ballots, closing the voting period. The Vote Counters then tally the results.

Voters rank the options by placing a '1' by their first choice, a '2' by their second choice, and so on, until they no longer wish to express any further preferences or run out of options.

**5.B.1.B Voting Period** For constitutional modification, candidate selection, and officer removal votes, the voting period must be at least forty-eight (48) hours in length. For any other type of vote, the voting period must be at least twenty-four (24) hours. The minimum length of the voting period may be explicitly lengthened, but never shortened, in the text describing the actual vote.

#### **5.B.2 Balloted Vote**

**5.B.2.A Method of Vote** Votes are cast on paper ballots, which provide a means to indicate every possible option in the vote. A ballot is then distributed to each House member eligible to cast a vote and collected in the designated ballot box for a pre-specified length of time. At the end of the voting period, the person chairing the vote collects the ballots, closing the voting period. The Vote Counters then tally the results.

**5.B.2.B Voting Period** For constitutional modification, candidate selection, and officer removal votes, the voting period must be at least forty-eight (48) hours in length. For any other type of vote, the voting period must be at least twenty-four (24) hours. The minimum length of the voting period may be explicitly lengthened, but never shortened, in the text describing the actual vote.

#### **5.B.3 Immediate Vote**

**5.B.3.A Method of Vote** The person chairing the vote will state all possible ways to vote, then call out each possibility one at a time. The chairing member will count the number of members casting their immediate vote for that possibility.

**5.B.3.B Voting Period** An immediate vote lasts as long as it takes for all votes to be tallied.

#### **5.B.4 Secret Immediate Vote**

**5.B.4.A Method of Vote** The person chairing the vote will state all possible ways to vote, then call out each possibility one at a time. Votes are kept anonymous. The chairing member and Vote Counters will count the number of members casting their immediate vote for that possibility.

**5.B.4.B Voting Period** A secret immediate vote lasts as long as it takes for all votes to be tallied.

#### **5.B.5 Batch Vote**

When a Batch Vote is called for by the chair, a subset of the voting docket may be amended to a single vote. A Two-Thirds Immediate Vote is required to allow a Batch Vote to take place. If the call for Batch Vote passes, the subset may then be voted on, otherwise the docket remains unchanged.

### **Section 5.C Number of Votes Required**

The Number of Votes Required refers to the numbers required to achieve a quorum and for a vote to pass. Below are listed four standard votes. Numbers for non-standard votes are defined in the section describing the actual vote.

#### **5.C.1 Simple Majority**

In a Simple Majority Vote, a Quorum is reached if the Total Number of Votes Cast is equal to or exceeds one-half the Total Number of Possible Votes. An option in the vote passes if the number of votes cast for that option is larger than the number of votes cast for every other option individually.

#### **5.C.2 Fifty Percent**

In a Fifty Percent Vote, a Quorum is reached if the Total Number of Votes Cast is equal to or exceeds one-half the Total Number of Possible Votes. An option in the vote passes if the number of votes cast for that option exceeds fifty percent of the Total Number of Votes Cast.

#### **5.C.3 Two-Thirds**

In a Two-thirds Vote, a Quorum is reached if the Total Number of Votes Cast is equal to or exceeds two-thirds the Total Number of Possible Votes. An option in the vote passes if the number of votes cast for the option equals or exceeds two-thirds of the Total Number of Votes Cast.

#### **5.C.4 Three Tiered**

When voting on a set of three choices where each choice can be ranked in a definite order, a selection for either the lowest or highest option will only pass if the votes cast for that selection exceed fifty percent of the Total Number of Votes Cast. If neither the highest or lowest selection exceeds fifty percent, the middle option will then automatically be passed. In a Three-Tiered Vote, a Quorum is reached if the Total Number of Votes Cast is equal to or exceeds two-thirds of the Total Number of Possible Votes.

#### **5.C.5 Alternative**

The winning option is selected outright if it gains more than half the votes as a first preference. If not, the option with the fewest number of first preference votes is eliminated and their votes move to the second preference marked on the ballot papers. This process continues until one option has half of the votes and is elected.

### **Section 5.D Ties Between Vote Options**

#### **5.D.1 With Pass/Fail**

If the number of votes cast for the pass option equals the number of votes cast for the fail option, then the vote has failed.



**5.D.2 With Multiple Options**

If multiple options may pass, a tie does not present a problem. If only one option may pass, then the vote must be recast or tabled at the discretion of the person chairing the vote. In the event of a tie in an Executive Board vote, the Chairman may cast the tie-breaking vote.

**Article VI Judicial**

The Executive Board may approve (by simple majority) a request (from a member) for a Judicial proceeding when an official clarification of the Constitution or By-Laws is required, there is a conflict among House Members, or a House interest needs resolution.

**Section 6.A Formation of a Judicial Board**

A Judicial Board is made up of the Chairman, the Evaluations director, and an additional voting member of the Executive Board chosen by a majority vote among the Executive Board. If either the Chairman or Evaluations Director are deemed biased or unfit for a position on the Judicial Board, they will be replaced by another voting member of the Executive Board by means of a simple majority vote amongst the remaining Executive Board members.

**Section 6.B Judicial Investigation**

The Judicial Board will be responsible for making all necessary inquiries into the matter of the request brought to the Judicial Board.

**Section 6.C Judicial Ruling**

The Judicial Board may present an official ruling following the Judicial Investigation. This ruling may be appealed in the same manner as an Executive Board decision Section 4.I.