

# The Yale Computer Society (y/cs) Constitution

## I. Mission

We are Yale's Tech and Computer Science Organization. The Yale Computer Society exists to enrich the campus experience of Computer Science & Engineering and Entrepreneurship by inspiring, informing, and engaging Yale students regarding these topics. The Yale Computer Society shall provide a community at Yale for people to connect over their shared love of the different applications of computer science.

## II. Membership

To be eligible for membership in the Yale Computer Society, one must be a current student of Yale University in good standing. Should this not be true and you are wrongfully admitted, the Organization retains the right to void your membership, past and present. To retain your membership, you must be an active participant as one of the divisions defines. Membership will be retained during the vacation and recesses of the University, without penalty of inactivity.

The Organization must open the application at least once each Yale Academic Year, for at least one week's time.

## III. Structure

The Organization is governed by a board that oversees a number of divisions. Members of the Organization belong to at least one of these Divisions. Divisions are led by their respective **Division Head**. Underneath each division name are the different functions the members of the division can fulfill.

- I. y/cs Board
  - A. Upper Board
    - 1. President (**Division Head of Administrative Division**)
    - 2. Vice President
    - 3. Advisor(s)
  - B. Lower Board
    - 1. Director of Development (**Division Head of Development**)
      - a) Director of Catalyst Programming
    - 2. Director of Events (**Division Head of Events**)
    - 3. Director of Design (**Division Head of Design**)
    - 4. Director of Outreach (**Division Head of Outreach**)
    - 5. Community Leaders
      - a) Security Community Leader
- II. Divisions
  - A. Administration
    - 1. Board Members
  - B. Development

- 1. Dev Teams
  - a) Team Leads (**Leadership**)
  - b) Developers
- 2. Catalyst
  - a) Mentors (**Leadership**)
  - b) Mentees
- C. Events
  - 1. Event Division Members
- D. Outreach & Recruitment
  - 1. Outreach Division Members
- E. Design
  - 1. Design Division Members
- F. Communities
  - 1. Computer Security

#### **IV. Board Member Role Descriptions**

*President:* The President is responsible for external representation of the Yale Computer Society. They are responsible for creating new partnerships, representing the Organization to other groups, setting strategy of the Organization, and approving its new decisions. Should the decision be constitutional, final and unilateral say lies with the President, however they should consult their fellow Board members. They should be thinking at a high level about the Organization and the directions it should go.

*Vice President:* Responsible for ensuring the successful day-to-day operations of the Organization. Liaises with the other Directors to execute policy of the President. First consul for the President regarding decisions. The Vice President can be thought of as an extension of the President, executing their will.

*Director of Development:* Responsible for overseeing the tech development teams of the Organization. Must meet weekly with each of the team leads of Organization projects to ensure that they are adhering to their roadmap. Responsible for bringing updates to the Board and communicating policy changes to the team leads.

*Director of Design:* Responsible for coordinating design proposals within the Organization, whether it be marketing, product design or otherwise.

*Director of Events:* Responsible for organizing internal (only open to Organization members) events. These traditionally include key events like y/cs Kickoff and the y/cs Gala, but also team mixers and bonding activities.

*Director of Outreach:* Responsible for organizing pre-professional events and relationships relevant to the tech/computer science field for Organization members and the greater tech community.

*Treasurer:* Responsible for managing and overseeing the finances of the Organization.

*Community Leader:* Responsible for organizing events and meetings for your respective community. Must organize at least one event or meeting every month.

## **V. Division Responsibilities For Members**

- I. Administrative
  - A. Active Participant Requirements: Complete your role descriptions, detailed in Section IV.
- II. Development
  - A. Team Leads:
    - 1. Active Participant Requirements: Advance your project's success, as the Organization sees fit. Must be certified as active by your Division Head.
  - B. Developers
    - 1. Active Participant Requirements: Attend your teams' weekly meetings and contribute as your team lead instructs and expects. Must be certified as active by your Team Lead.
- III. Events
  - A. Active Participant Requirements: Attempt to contribute to division actions in good faith. Must be certified as active by your Division Head.
- IV. Outreach & Recruitment
  - A. Active Participant Requirements: Attempt to contribute to division actions in good faith. Must be certified as active by your Division Head.
- V. Design
  - A. Active Participant Requirements: Attempt to contribute to division actions in good faith. Must be certified as active by your Division Head.
- VI. Communities
  - A. Active Participant Requirements: Attend at least 1/3 of meetings for your respective community. Must be certified as active by your Division Head.

## **VI. Impeachment & No Confidence**

So long as one is properly completing their active participant requirements, they shall retain their role and membership in the Organization. Should someone violate their active participant requirements, their Division Head retains the right to remove them at any point, though this is traditionally done at the end of semesters.

If someone feels that they were removed unfairly, they can submit an appeal with the reason within 7 calendar days. The Administrative Board will vote by simple majority if the removal was fair at the next Administrative Board meeting.

However, it may be necessary for subordinates to remove a member of a higher position. This is known as **impeachment**.

The two valid reasons for impeachment are:

- I. Failing to complete the basic duties of the office, as outlined in Section IV.

## II. Failure to deliver your division responsibilities, as outlined in Section V.

Impeachment against an officer may be brought for any of these reasons, by any member of the Organization. It must be submitted formally to the highest, non implicated member of the Administrative Board.

A member is impeached should 2/3rds of the Administrative Board vote it so. Should a member be impeached, the President is responsible for replacing the role.

## **VII. Intellectual Property**

Projects under the Organization are the express property of the Organization, either originally or through formal donation. The Yale Computer Society follows a principle of "Stewardship". It is our duty to support the health of these projects for our time here at Yale, devoid of any individual ego or "ownership" over a project, in favor of a vision of "collective ownership" for the good of the Yale community. In this sense, projects should support the y/cs (the steward) while in turn the y/cs shall support them.

The Founder, defined as the original developer(s) of the application, who donated a product to the y/cs may withdraw their product from the Organization at any point should they feel the Organization is not doing a satisfying job. Upon written notice to the President and Director of Development, the Organization will cease any work performed with the product. This right expires upon the Founder's graduation or withdrawal from Yale College (or University). Re-admittance to the Organization is at the discretion of the board.

This "Founder" clause does not apply to projects that originated within the Organization. This is defined as projects Organization management originated, or were "green-fielded" (developed from scratch) within the Organization.

## **VIII. Order of Succession**

In the event the President cannot fulfill their duties or is otherwise removed, the order of succession is as follows:

1. Vice President
2. Director of Development
3. Vice Director of Development
4. Director of Events
5. Director of Outreach & Recruitment
6. Director of Design
7. Community Leaders, by community size

The president may temporarily or permanently abdicate their responsibilities at any point due to sickness or busyness, but must pass on control in this order. If the President is absent for more than 4 weeks (¼ a semester), they are relieved of duty, and succession ensues as listed.

### **IX. Amending this Document**

This document may be edited in any way at any time. Changes must be submitted in writing to the Administrative Board. 2/3rds of Administrative Board Members must vote to approve the change.

### **X. Transfer of Power**

At the end of each Yale Academic Year, who fulfills roles must be *redetermined*. Redetermination is the process whereby the person that fulfills a certain Organization role is decided on.

President and Vice President are the only roles redetermined by election.

The group facilitating the election processes, called the **Election Facilitation Committee**, must be impartial (i.e. not *running* or *applying* for ANY office in the Administration). This group should be assembled by the outgoing President and can consist of any Organization members since they merely execute the points in this document. Participating in this committee disqualifies you from applying or running for any other offices in that cycle.

To run for **President**, one must be either **an Administrative Board Member** or a **Development Team Lead** in active participant standing. Rising Seniors (graduating within the next Academic Year) may not run for President, unless there are no other alternatives. To run for **Vice President**, one must only be an active participant in the Organization. The President & Vice President must run together as a ticket; they win and lose together.

These two roles are determined via a popular vote of **active** y/cs members each Academic year. Tickets must be allowed to declare their platform equally in front of Organization membership. Polls must remain open for at least 1 (work) week. The winner is the person who achieves the majority of cast votes.

The Election Facilitation Committee must ensure that only eligible Organization members participate as well as count who was in the majority. In the event no candidate is able to achieve a majority, a runoff with the top two candidates will ensue until one of them achieves a majority of cast votes. Runoff elections must be open for at least 3 days.

The results of the Presidential and Vice Presidential Elections **must be announced before the last day of the Spring Finals**, traditionally at the Spring Gala.

**Other Administrative Board Members:** There are no restrictions on who can apply to these roles. Redetermined by application, as determined by the Board Selection Committee. Incumbent members can reapply, except the Director of Development (unless there are no other options). Details are below.

**The Incoming Board Selection Committee** is identified by the outgoing President. It should consist of 3 outgoing members of the Board and 2 incoming members. If the incoming or outgoing

members do not exist, a team lead shall be appointed in their place. If these members do not exist, active developers shall be elevated to the committee, at the discretion of the outgoing President.

This committee meets and considers candidates for the other incoming Administrative Board Member positions together. The committee votes on a candidate for each role by simple majority. In the instance of deadlock over a role (i.e. 2 votes for Candidate A, 2 votes for Candidate B, 1 vote for Candidate C), the Incoming President has the right to choose whomever they want. However, if the Board Selection Committee is able to reach a majority (i.e. 3 votes for Candidate A, 2 votes for Candidate B, 0 for Candidate C), that candidate is elevated.

**Other Division Leadership Roles:** Redetermined by merit / application. Primarily, this applies to team leads, who retain the right to elevate whoever they want to fill their post, however the Organization retains the right to remove them if they are not fulfilling their duties.

Upon the completion of the mandatory redetermination, all outgoing board members lose their roles and responsibility, effective immediately.

#### **XI. Dissolution**

The Yale Computer Society shall dissolve if it is unable to elevate an eligible member to the office of President.

In the event of the dissolution of the Yale Computer Society, all Organization funds should go to the Yale Computer Science Department.