

# BYLAW 1

*A Bylaw providing for the rules of general governance and transaction of the affairs of the Carleton Computer Science Society.*

*Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Students of the School of Computer Science at Carleton University assembled in meeting as follows:*

## PREAMBLE

I'm not sure that margin notes belong in the preamble.

*Involuntary  
Membership*

- (1) We the Undergraduate Students of the School of Computer Science at Carleton University, for the purposes of greater social and academic cohesion for the duration of our time at Carleton University, do recognize the *Carleton Computer Science Society* and our membership therein;

*Academic  
Representative*

- (2) We further wish that the School of Computer Science do recognize *Carleton Computer Science Society* as our voice in terms of academic representation, and afford the *Carleton Computer Science Society* any and all privileges in relation to academic representation;

*Politically Neutral and  
Silent*

- (3) We further wish that the *Carleton Computer Science Society* remain neutral and silent in terms of political representation, with any student association which may exist from time to time, and in terms of social and political issues which may surface from time to time; and,

*Engagement of the  
Membership*

- (4) We further wish that the *Carleton Computer Science Society*, regardless of governance structures that may exist from time to time, do engage and respect the will of the membership, within the restraints set forth by the preamble.

## SHORT TITLE

- Short Title* (5) The Bylaws of the *Carleton Computer Science Society* may be henceforth cited as the *Consitution of the Carleton Computer Science Society*.
- Wait, all bylaws comprise the Constitution? (This is relevant later, for enacting/amending new bylaws, and for amending this Constitution.)

## DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS

- Definition of the Society Year* (6) The *Society Year* shall be defined as the period between *May 1st* of the current *Calendar Year* and *April 30th* of the subsequent *Calendar Year*.

## THE SOCIETY

- Name of the Society* (7) The Society shall be henceforth known as the *Carleton Computer Science Society*, and may be referred to as simply the *Society*.
- Objects of the Society* (8) The *Objects of the Society* shall be
- (a) to promote the social and academic values associated with the study of Computer Science at Carleton University;
  - (b) to provide services related to, but not limited to, socialization, academics and industry associated with the field of Computer Science; and,
  - (c) to maintain status as a departmental society of Carleton University, as per the *Accreditation of Student Organizations Policy*.
- This is a good thing, but the Policy on the Secretariat's site (which may be out of date) says "Memberships in accredited Student Organizations other than CUSA, GSA and RRRA shall be open to all members of the University community," which may contradict the Membership of the Society provisions. Also of note: except for CUSA, GSA, and RRRA, "incorporated societies" can't be accredited Student Organizations.
- Membership of the Society* (9) The *Membership of the Society* shall be all Undergraduate Students of the School of Computer Science at Carleton University, enrolled in a *Bachelor of Computer Science* or *Bachelor of Computer Science with Honours*, for the period of their enrolment.
- What about minors, double majors, etc.?
- Removal of a Member* (10) A *Member of the Society* may be removed by
- (a) submission of a letter requesting to be removed from the *Membership of the Society* to the *Chair* of the *Board of Directors*; or,
- By Request of the Member*

*By Petition of the  
Membership*

- (b) means of a *bona fide Petition*, on the grounds that the *Member of the Society* has contravened the *Students Rights and Responsibilities Policy* as amended and published by Carleton University, provided the petition is presented to the *Board of Directors* and ratified thereat by *two-thirds* of all Directors.

*Honourary  
Membership in the  
Society*

- (11) *Honourary Membership* shall be conferred upon any person who is not already a *Member of the Society* and who has not been removed previously as a *Member of the Society*, at a *General Meeting of the Membership*.

Was honorary membership meant to expire ever?

## MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERSHIP

*Annual General  
Meetings*

- (12) *The Society* shall hold an *Annual General Meeting*, within the last two weeks of each February of a *Society Year*, to
  - (a) present the financial outlook for the Society, including the Operating Budget as amended, and an audited statement of finances;
  - (b) hold a Question and Answer period with the *Membership of the Society*;
  - (c) ratify any amendments, enactments, or repeals of Bylaws; and,
  - (d) nominate *Candidates* for election to office of *President* or to the *Board of Directors*.

*Fall General Meeting*

- (13) *The Society* shall hold a *Fall General Meeting*, within the first two weeks of each October of a *Society Year*, to
  - (a) present and ratify the Operating Budget for the *Society Year*;
  - (b) fill any vacancies that may have occurred in the office of *President* or on the *Board of Directors*; and,
  - (c) hold a Question and Answer period with the *Membership of the Society*.

*Special General  
Meeting*

- (14) *The Society* shall hold a *Special General Meeting*, at the request of the *President*, to discuss business where time is of the essence.

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Composition of the  
Board of Directors*

- (15) The *Board of Directors* shall be composed of
  - (a) the *President of the Society*, acting as the *Chair* of the *Board of Directors*, *ex officio*;
  - (b) seven (7) *Directors* at-large, selected by and from the *Membership of the Society*, who may or may not hold *portfolio*;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(c) two (2) <i>Directors</i>, selected by and from the incoming first year students, and appointed by the <i>Board of Directors</i> on recommendation of the <i>President</i>;</li> <li>(d) the immediate <i>Past President</i>, or their designate, <i>ex officio</i>; and,</li> <li>(e) the <i>Associate Director of Undergraduate</i> of the School of Computer Science <i>ex officio</i>.</li> </ul>
<i>Quorum of the Board of Directors</i>	(16) <i>Quorum</i> shall be considered a majority of current <i>Directors</i> on the <i>Board of Directors</i> present in person.
<i>Rules of Order of the Board of Directors</i>	(17) The <i>Rules of Order</i> of the <i>Board of Directors</i> shall be recommended by the <i>Chair</i> and ratified by the <i>Board of Directors</i> , provided such rules are codified and written, and easily accessible to all of the <i>Membership of the Society</i> .
<i>Initial Meeting of the Board of Directors</i>	(18) The <i>Intital Meeting</i> of the <i>Board of Directors</i> shall be held within the first two weeks of May of a <i>Society Year</i> , and shall be to
<i>Transition of Authority</i>	(a) formally transition authority to conduct business to the new <i>President</i> and <i>Board of Directors</i> ;
<i>Ratify and Fill Portfolios</i>	(b) allow the <i>President</i> to recommend the number of <i>portfolios</i> , the duties of each, and a <i>Director</i> for each, and for the <i>Board of Directors</i> to ratify or amend the recommendations, provided a majority of <i>Directors</i> do not hold <i>portfolio</i> ; and, So there can be at most 5 (= $\lfloor 9/2 \rfloor$ ) directors with portfolios?
<i>Strike and Fill Committees</i>	(c) allow the <i>Board of Directors</i> to strike and fill <i>Committees</i> by and from the <i>Board of Directors</i> , provided the majority of <i>Directors</i> on a <i>Committee</i> do not hold <i>portfolio</i> .
<i>Minimum Portfolios</i>	(19) The <i>President</i> shall recommend at minimum a <i>Secretary</i> , to keep records of the <i>Board of Directors</i> and of the <i>Society</i> organized and archived, and a <i>Treasurer</i> , to aide in the creation of an Operating Budget and the audit of the finances.
<i>Minimum Committees</i>	(20) The <i>Board of Directors</i> shall strike at minimum a <i>Financial Oversight Committee</i> which shall meet prior to the <i>Fall General Meeting</i> to review and make recommendations on the Operating Budget for a given <i>Society Year</i> , and shall also meet prior to the <i>Annual General Meeting</i> for the purposes of conducting an audit of the finances.
<i>Approval of the Operating Budget</i>	(21) The <i>Board of Directors</i> shall review the recommendations of the <i>Financial Oversight Committee</i> in relation to the Operating Budget for a given <i>Society Year</i> , and make any such amendments as deemed necessary prior to the <i>Fall General Meeting</i> .
<i>Subsequent Bylaws</i>	(22) The <i>Board of Directors</i> may enact, amend, or repeal Bylaws further to this Bylaw, provided such documents

- Not in contravention* (a) do not directly or indirectly contravene any provision contained in the *Constitution of the Computer Science Society*; and,
- Purpose is to clarify* (b) seek to to clarify or detail an existing provision contained herein.
- So no bylaw may add anything really new... how does this interact with the Amending Procedure at the end?
- Execution of Documents* (23) A resolution of the *Board of Directors* or any other instrument shall be executed by the signature of the *President* and the *Secretary*.
- Minimum number of Meetings* (24) The *Board of Directors* shall meet no less than once a month, but shall not be required to conduct business.

## SELECTION AND REMOVAL OF THE PRESIDENT, PORTFOLIOS, AND DIRECTORS

- Selection of the President* (25) The *President* shall be selected, except in the case of a vacancy, by a plurality vote by and from the *Membership of the Society*, provided that the
- (a) successful *Candidate* was nominated by two *Members of the Society* at the *Annual General Meeting*; and,
  - (b) vote was conducted in a free and fair manner, through electronic balloting, and over the span of three (3) business days.
- Do you really want to require that the balloting be electronic in the Constitution? That seems more like bylaw or standing-resolution material if it isn't left to the discretion of the Returning Officer/Electoral Officer (a post that hasn't been mentioned at all in here, but I assume must exist).
- Selection of Directors at-large* (26) Seven *Directors* at-large shall be selected, except in the case of a vacancy, by a preferential vote by and from the *Membership of the Society*, provided that the
- (a) *Directors* shall be selected from the *Candidates* with the largest share of the vote in descending order;
  - (b) successful *Candidates* were nominated at the *Annual General Meeting* by two *Members of the Society*; and,
  - (c) vote was conducted in a free and fair manner, through electronic balloting, and over the span of three (3) business days.
- Removal of the President and Directors* (27) The *President* or any *Director* may be removed at a *General Meeting*, provided notice of the meeting was given seven (7) business days prior and two-thirds of those present in person vote in favour, for the following reasons

- (a) failure to perform their duties and follow the articles of the *Constitution of the Carleton Computer Science Society*;
  - (b) failure to follow the *Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy* as amend and published by Carleton University; and,
  - (c) gross negligence, incompetence, or criminal activities conducted by means of *Society* business or with use of *Society* property.
- Resignation of the President or Directors* (28) The *President* or any *Director* may resign at any time, by submitting a letter to the *Chair* of the *Board of Directors*.
- How does the President resign? (The president is the chair of the Board.)
- Selection in the case of a vacancy* (29) Should a vacancy occur in the office of *President* or in any of the *Directors*, the *Board of Directors* may fill the vacancy, by and from the *Membership of the Society*,
- (a) until the next *Fall General Meeting* of a given *Society Year*; or,
  - (b) if it is impossible to fill the vacancy at the *Fall General Meeting*, until the end of a *Society Year*.
- Selection and Removal of Portfolios* (30) The *Board of Directors* may at any time add, remove, and reassign *portfolios* upon recommendation of the *President*, provided that a majority of the *Board of Directors* does not hold portfolio.

## FINANCES

- Jointly Managed* (31) The finances of the *Society* shall be jointly managed by the *President* and *Treasurer*, who shall be assisted from time to time by the *Secretary*.
- Signing Authority* (32) The *President*, *Treasurer*, and *Secretary* shall be the signing authority on all accounts held in name of the *Society*.
- What, all three at once? Or any one of the three? I'd expect (e.g.) a cheque to require the signatures of two of those three.
- Expense and Reimbursements* (33) The *Society* may make such purchases as detailed in the Operating Budget, and as deemed necessary for the function and operation of the *Society*.
- No Renumeration* (34) The *Society* shall not provide renumeration for the services of the *President* or any member of the *Board of Directors*, except from the reimbursement of purchase made by the *President* or member of the *Board of Directors* on behalf of the *Society*.
- Accurate Records* (35) The *Society* shall keep accurate records, including all receipts, invoices, bank statements *et cetera*, for a period of ten (10) *Society Years*, and shall make such records available to any and all *Members of the Society* upon request.

## AMENDING FORMULA

*The Membership to  
amend by provision*

- (36) Any amendments to this document shall be proposed and agreed upon by the *Board of Directors*, and shall require a clear majority of the *Membership of the Society* to ratify each amendment proposed to a provision contained herein.

What is a "clear majority"? 50% + 1? 60%? Is there a quorum?

## EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES

I understand the reason for this section, but can't there be some mechanism to remove it automatically once it's no longer required? Like making it Bylaw 2 with an automatic self-repealing clause?

It's also not clear whether this is setting up a new organization in the place of an old one, or just the same CCSS adopting a brand new Constitution.

*2011/2012 Society  
Year*

- (37) For the purposes of the 2011/2012 *Society Year*, notwithstanding any provision of this Bylaw or any Bylaws enacted subsequent or any Bylaw or other Constitutional document enacted previously,

*President and Chair*

- (a) the *President* and *Chair* of the *Board of Directors* shall be Justin Campbell;

*Composition of the  
Board of Directors*

- (b) the *Board of Directors* shall consist of Justin Campbell as *Chair*, Alex Clarke as *Secretary*, Phil Colverson, Scott Lyons, Owen MacWilliam, Simon Pratt, Tyler Fleming, Nataly Slewa, Hy Le, Gabriel Tobian, Bheesham Persaud, and Christine Laureandeau; and,

*Portfolio designations*

- (c) Alex Clarke shall hold *portfolio* as *Secretary*, Phil Colverson shall hold *portfolio* as *Treasurer*, Scott Lyons shall hold *portfolio* as *VP Services*, Owen MacWilliam shall hold *portfolio* as *VP External Affairs*, Tyler Fleming shall hold *portfolio* as *First VP Academic* and shall act as representative to the Carleton Science Student Society, Simon Pratt shall hold *portfolio* as *Second VP Academic* and shall act as representative to the School of Computer Science and the Carleton Academic Student Government, Nataly Slewa shall hold *portfolio* as *First VP Social Affairs*, and Hy Le shall hold *portfolio* as *Second VP Social Affairs*.

This really doesn't need to be here in any case. Once you have a Board, just hold a quick meeting to dole out the portfolios. It'll take 5 minutes and save 10 lines in the Constitution.

## EXECUTION

*Repeal previous  
Constitutional  
documents*

- (38) Immediately upon execution of this document any previous Bylaw or other

Constitutional document which may hold force shall be considered repealed, and null and void, and this document shall stand in full force.

- (39) *Witness the seal of the Undergraduate Students of the School of Computer Science at Carleton University assembled in meeting:*

**The President of the Society**

**The Secretary of the Society**

**The Director of the School of Computer Science**