



## **Engineering Governing Council**

*The legislative body representing the students  
of the School of Engineering at Rutgers University.*

# **Engineering Governing Council Constitution**

## **Article I: The Engineering Governing Council**

### **Section 1: Establishment of the Engineering Governing Council**

1. The legislative body representing the students of the School of Engineering at Rutgers University shall be known as the Engineering Governing Council, hereafter referred to as the Council.

### **Section 2: Objectives of the Council**

1. The Council exists to enhance the structure of the School of Engineering by:
  - a. Providing a link between students, faculty, and alumni of the School of Engineering,
  - b. Promoting communication between the students in various departments to create a coherent voice for the School of Engineering,
  - c. Establishing an independent voice in the Rutgers community representing the School of Engineering,
  - d. Providing guidance and support for engineering student organizations, and
  - e. Allocating student fees among eligible societies and the Council.

## **Article II: Membership of the Council**

### **Section 1: Composition of the Council**

1. The Council shall consist of:
  - a. Executive Board consisting of a President, an Internal Vice-President, an External Vice President, a Treasurer, a Secretary,
  - b. A number of Senators dictated by the University Senate
  - c. Five General Representatives from each class year (freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior).
  - d. One Society Representative from each Society recognized by the Council.
  - e. Additional positions as defined by the Standing Rules.
  - f. Members At-Large from the Rutgers University student body.

Engineering Governing Council

Constitution

Ratified on March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019

[egc.rutgers.edu](http://egc.rutgers.edu)



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### **Section 2: Eligibility**

1. Candidates for Executive Board positions must be undergraduate students of the School of Engineering and have served on the Council for the fall and spring semesters prior to their candidacies.
2. Candidates for University Senator must be undergraduate students in the School of Engineering.
3. All undergraduate students of the School of Engineering are eligible to run for the position of Class Representative for their registered class year at the time of the elections.
4. All Class Representatives must be from the class year that they represent during the course of his or her service to the Council.
5. All undergraduate students of Rutgers University are eligible to become Members At-Large.
6. Society Representatives must be members of the Society that they are representing, and must be selected by the Society.
7. No student shall hold more than one position that is allowed a vote (see Article III, §3).
8. All students holding a position on the Council must be in good academic standing as defined by the School of Engineering. If at any time during the term a member fails to keep up a good academic standing, the member must relinquish all positions and titles at which point he or she is eligible to run for or be appointed to positions.

### **Section 3: Terms of Office**

1. All members shall hold office for a one-year term, starting on May 1<sup>st</sup> of the year elected.
2. Any officer filling a vacancy after a term has begun may only serve for the remainder of the current term.

## **Article III: Responsibilities of the Membership**

### **Section 1: Procedure**

1. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, by Henry M. Robert, shall be the parliamentary authority for all business conducted by the Council.
2. All Council meetings shall be open to all individuals, but the Executive Board may choose to close a meeting by notifying the Council at least 72 hours before the meeting. The Council may close any portion of a general body meeting by majority vote.
3. All members, voting and non-voting, shall have all the rights and responsibilities given to them by this constitution and by the aforementioned Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

### **Section 2: Meetings**

1. Meetings will be held, at minimum, on a biweekly basis.

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2. The Executive Board shall prepare and announce the tentative dates, times, and places of meetings for each semester one week prior to the beginning of the semester.
3. Voting can only occur when a quorum is present. A quorum is defined as fifty percent of the voting Council members plus one.

### **Section 3: Voting**

1. The voting members of the Council shall consist of:
  - a. The members of the Executive Board,
  - b. General Representatives of each class year, and
  - c. Society Representatives.
2. The non-voting members of the Council shall consist of:
  - a. The representatives to and from other organizations not recognized by the Council,
  - b. Additional members of the Council as defined by the Standing Rules,
  - c. Members At-Large, and
  - d. Alumni.
3. The Chair may not vote on any issue, except in the situation of a tie where his or her vote would affect the final outcome.
4. All voting procedures will follow the aforementioned Robert's Rules of Order.
  - a. Each voting member is allowed only one vote.
  - b. Society Representatives cannot vote on funding allocations.

### **Section 4: Committees**

1. All committee meetings shall be open to the public, unless otherwise announced by the Executive Board.
2. Each voting council member shall, at all times, be an active member of at least one Council committee.
3. The President holds the right to appoint a Council member to a committee.
4. All committees must meet at minimum twice a month.
5. Committee Chairs are expected to report their activities at all general body meetings.
6. The President has the power to create and dissolve ad hoc committees as the need arises with the approval of the Executive Board. This does not apply to standing committees.

### **Section 5: Probation, Impeachment, and Vacancies**

1. Any Council member, other than Society Representatives, with an absentee rate as defined by the Attendance Guidelines or who is derelict in the performance of their duties may be tried for impeachment. This also includes RUSA representatives with a RUSA meeting absentee rate higher than that permitted by the RUSA attendance guidelines.

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2. Impeachment charges can be brought against any Council members for misconduct, misfeasance, omission of duty, or a violation of this Constitution or the Council's Standing Rules.
3. Any person may make a complaint against a Council member or Society representative to the Internal Review Committee Chair.
4. The Internal Review Committee will conduct an investigation to determine the validity of the charges and propose a bill at a closed meeting of the Council. If the bill passes with a 2/3 majority vote of those present, the Council will carry out the bill. The accused member will not have a vote and will not be counted for quorum. If the President is the member standing trial, the Internal Vice President shall assume the position of Chair for the proceedings.
5. Absence of the President shall be filled in accordance with the Standing Rules.
6. All remaining officers, senators, and class representatives should be replaced with any eligible person by a majority vote.
  - a. If someone is interested in running for a vacant general representative position, they must meet the eligibility requirements as stated in the election guidelines.
  - b. The candidate(s) will make a short speech about themselves which will be followed by a short question and answer session.
  - c. After all candidates for the vacant position have spoken, the Council may debate amongst itself before having a vote by secret ballot unless there is a motion otherwise. The winner will be given the position immediately.
7. Any vacancies amongst the Executive Board shall be filled at the discretion of the remaining Executive Board.

## Article IV: Powers of the Council

### Section 1: The Executive Board

1. The Executive Board, at any time, may call a special meeting of the Council, giving 24 hours' notice to the voting members.
2. The Executive Board may act on behalf of the Council on funding issues under \$200 and/or when the Council is in recess.

### Section 2: The Membership

1. The Council shall serve as an advocate of the student body of the School of Engineering.
2. The Council shall act as a representative of and to the student body of the School of Engineering, and in that capacity, advise all levels of the School and University administration on all issues of concern to the students of the School, and pass resolutions expressing the collective judgment of the Council on all matters affecting the School, University, or any part of the surrounding community.

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3. The Council shall provide School-wide services.
4. The Council can review the actions of any recognized society and place that society on probation and/or freeze its funds.
5. The Council shall enact any and all rules and guidelines that shall be necessary and proper to carry out the foregoing powers.
6. The Council may not pass any resolution or commit any action that is a violation of federal or state Constitutions or laws, or of this constitution, or that would discriminate against any person on the basis of race, ethnic background, sex, physical ability, age, sexual orientation, or political or religious orientation. Any resolutions passed that are in violation shall be considered null and void.

## **Article V: Referendums and Resolutions**

### **Section 1: Referendum**

1. A referendum may be used to challenge any decision or course of action of any division of student government, and to pose non-binding public questions to the engineering student body.
2. A referendum question shall be worded and placed on the ballot by a 2/3 majority vote of the Council, or if at least five percent of the students of the School of Engineering petition the Council.
3. Once a question is approved by the Council, it shall not be revised in any way.
4. No referendum results shall be construed to limit the functions of any division of student government unless explicitly stated in the referendum question.

### **Section 2: Referendum Procedure**

1. A referendum will require at least five percent of the students of the School of Engineering to participate in the voting to be considered valid. The number of students shall be determined by using the latest figures available from the registrar.
2. The referendum must be completed within ten school days if requested by the party placing the question.

## **Article VI: General Provisions**

### **Section 1: Obligations**

1. No member of the Council shall receive any funds for Council services rendered during the member's term of office, excluding reimbursements.

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2. No policy shall be formulated, enforced, or considered valid if it is in violation of local, state, or federal laws or ordinances, or if it is in violation of University policy.
3. The Council shall oversee all Society affairs in accordance with the provisions set forth in this Constitution and the associated Society Guidelines.
4. A faculty advisor shall be selected at the beginning of each academic year. The advisor shall be available as a source of information and advice.
5. Signature cards must be filed with the School of Engineering Office of Student Development.

### **Article VII: Amending the Constitution**

#### **Section 1: Amendments**

1. Any Council member may introduce an amendment to the Constitution.
2. Any proposed constitutional amendment must be tabled for at least one week before it can be voted upon.
3. If the council votes three-fourths in favor of the proposed amendment, the proposed amendment will be brought before the student body by referendum.
4. A majority vote in favor via referendum results in the proposed amendment immediately becoming part of the Constitution. A failed vote results in the proposed amendment being discarded. If an amendment fails, it may be brought back to question as a new amendment.

#### **Section 2: Validity of this Constitution**

1. Upon ratification of this constitution, all portions will become effective for the current semester and onwards.

### **Article VIII: Standing Rules**

#### **Section 1: Establishment of Standing Rules**

1. There will be the establishment of a group of Standing Rules that will govern procedures involving the Council, committees, and members in their responsibilities.
2. The Standing Rules shall be a single body of rules that may be specific to, but not limited to, one position, committee, or activity.

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### **Section 2:      Constitutionality of Standing Rules**

1. All Standing Rules established by the Council must agree with rules defined by this Constitution. When reviewing proposed Standing Rules, the Internal Review Committee must ensure that these rules are allowable under this Constitution.
2. If the Internal Review Committee deems an existing Standing Rule to be unconstitutional after the approval of the Council, then the Internal Review Committee may propose an alteration or deletion of the rule in order to make it constitutional.

### **Section 3:      Proposal of Standing Rules**

1. A Standing Rule may be submitted to the Executive Board by any member of the Council. The Internal Review Committee will write and propose the Rule to the Council within one council meeting of the Rule request. There will be a vote by the Council on the proposed Rule no later than one meeting after the Internal Review Committee's proposal, but the Rule may be voted on at any time after the proposal, as long as it is before the aforementioned deadline.
2. A proposed Standing Rule requires a 2/3 Council vote of those present to be officiated.

### **Section 4:      Altering Standing Rules**

1. Any member of the Council may submit a change to the Standing Rules to the Executive Board. It will be taken care of by the Internal Review Committee in the same manner as a Standing Rule is proposed in Article VIII §3. The proposal will take effect as long as it attains the required 2/3 majority Council vote.