

University of Maryland at College Park
Constitution of the
Engineering Graduate Student Society

(Updated 4/10/2024)

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Article 1. Name and Purpose

1.1 Name

The name of this organization will be the Engineering Graduate Student Society (EGSS) of the A. James Clark School of Engineering (called herein Clark school) at the University of Maryland, College Park.

1.2 Purpose

The mission of this council is to promote graduate student experiences both educationally and socially in the Clark school by voicing student concerns, ideas, and goals with the Dean and administration of the Clark school and foster collaboration and communication among all engineering departments. More specifically, the council aims to:

1. Channel bidirectional communication between the Dean and administration of the Clark school, and engineering graduate students.
2. Organize or facilitate engineering school interdepartmental events
3. Provide a forum for engineering graduate student concerns, ideas, and goals, and advocate for engineering graduate students at the school-wide level.

Article 2. Membership

1. All students, full- and part-time, enrolled in graduate degree programs (masters or PhD) in the Clark school are automatically considered members of the EGSS and are granted the rights and privileges of this Constitution.
2. All EGSS members (i.e., all engineering graduate students) are entitled to vote in general and special elections for their respective EGSS department representatives.
3. The EGSS government shall consist of an executive branch (called herein the Council), whose duties and responsibilities are set forth in this Constitution.
4. EGSS understands and is committed to fulfilling its responsibilities of abiding by University of Maryland, College Park policies.
5. EGSS does not restrict membership or discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, religion, protected veteran status, genetic information, personal appearance, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

Article 3. The Council

The Council of the EGSS shall have a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Communications Managers, Secretary, and up to two Graduate Student Representatives (General Council Members) from each engineering department.

3.1 Council Members

Council members serve for one year and can serve an unlimited number of terms.

3.1.1 President

1. Act as the official spokesperson of the EGSS.
2. Oversee and delegate tasks to members of the Council.
3. Act as a tiebreaker when voting.
4. No person may hold the Presidency for more than two years.
5. Oversee the transition between the outgoing and incoming Council.

3.1.2 Vice President

1. Act as backup for Presidential duties in case of absence of the President.
2. Become Acting-President in case of resignation of current President.

3.1.3 Treasurer

1. Oversee budgeting and finances of EGSS.
2. Apply for grants and money via available funding agencies (e.g., Graduate Student Government (GSG), Alumni Association, Student Organization Resource Center (SORC)).
3. Oversee disbursement of funds for travel and events.

3.1.4 Communications Manager

1. Drafting and coordinating email distributions.
2. Maintain EGSS student outreach and social media accounts.

3.1.5 Secretary

1. Take meeting minutes and keep a record available for Council Members reference.
2. Update calendar of events
3. Provide Zoom Links for meetings.

3.1.6 General Council Members

1. Up to two representatives from each Engineering Department may be General Council Members during a term.
2. Assess and present needs of graduate students (e.g., student safety, working conditions, relationships with chairs) and evaluate whether needs are being met.
3. Undertake tasks, whether voluntarily or as delegated by the President, to promote the purpose of the EGSS.
4. Support the mission of the UMD Office of Diversity & Inclusion.

3.2 Removal of Council Members

3.2.1 Removal of Council Members

1. If a member of the Council is not performing their duties as described in Section 3.1, then the Council has the right to recall the member in question. The Council Member can be recalled from their position by a 2/3 majority vote of Council members. Immediately following the removal of the member, the Council will elect a new member to the position in accordance with Article 4.

3.2.2 Resignation of Council Members

1. If the President cannot complete their term, they should submit a letter of resignation (if circumstances permit) to the Vice President. On the date the Presidency is vacated, the Vice President becomes Acting-President, with the same powers and responsibilities of an elected President (including the authority to appoint an Acting Vice President, if necessary). The Acting-President may serve the remainder of the term or call for a special election in accordance with Section 4.3
2. If the Vice President, Treasurer, Communications Manager, or Secretary cannot complete their term, they should submit a letter of resignation (if circumstances permit) to the President. The President may then appoint any member of the Council to fill the vacant office on an acting basis. The acting member may serve the remainder of the term, or a special election can be called in accordance with Section 4.3, at the discretion of the President.
3. If a General Council Member cannot complete their term, they should submit a letter of resignation (if circumstances permit) to the President. The Council will determine if the vacancy needs to be filled (considering remaining time of term, representation of each engineering department, etc.), and the President has the final authority on the decision. If the

vacancy is to be filled, the position can either be filled by appointment from the President or by special election in accordance with section 4.3

3.3 Council Meetings

1. The Council will hold bi-weekly meetings (every other week)
2. The first meeting of a new Council is mandatory, and the date and time of the first meeting is at the discretion of the President, however, this first meeting date/time is typically agreed upon by all members.
3. Members not in attendance at the first meeting without prior consent from the President may be removed in accordance with Article 3.2.
4. The first meeting of a new Council must occur BEFORE the first meeting of the Engineering Senate (Typically early May) so that the new graduate student Senators may attend the first Engineering Senate meeting
5. The previous years Council members may attend (and are encouraged to attend) the first meeting of the upcoming year in order to facilitate the transfer
6. The schedule for subsequent Council meetings is determined and set forth at the first meeting.
7. A summer break in meetings will determined by the Council at the first meeting

Article 4. Elections

4.1 EGSS Council

1. Engineering school-wide EGSS Council elections will be held late in the Spring semester (March - April) through a web-based voting system implemented by the EGSS Council and the Clark School.
2. All currently enrolled engineering graduate students are eligible to vote.
3. Graduate students seeking office may self-nominate for any available position.

4.2 Engineering Senate

1. The election of two engineering graduate students to the Clark School Engineering Senate will occur on the same ballot as the EGSS Council elections and be overseen by the EGSS Council and the Clark School.
2. It is not mandatory that the Graduate Student Engineering Senators be members of the EGSS Council.
3. All currently enrolled engineering graduate students are eligible to vote.
4. Graduate students seeking office may self-nominate for any available position.

4.3 Special Elections

1. Special elections for vacant positions can be held at any time during the semester.
2. Special elections are carried out in the same manner as described in sections 4.1 and 4.2

Article 5. Faculty Advisor

1. The Clark School Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will serve as the Faculty Advisor for EGSS.

Article 6. Amendments to the Constitution

1. Amendments can be proposed by any member of EGSS via written petition
2. The Council is responsible for addressing and voting on amendments in a timely manner.
3. The constitution can be amended by a two-thirds majority vote by the Council. All passed amendments should be enacted in a timely manner.
4. The current Constitution will be reviewed every other year by the current membership. All recommended amendments will be administered according to Article 6-(1).

Article 7. Graduate Student Appeals to the Dean

1. Any engineering graduate student can petition the Council to appeal to the dean of the Clark school (anonymously, if desired). The Council shall furnish and maintain an easily accessible method for students to submit petitions.

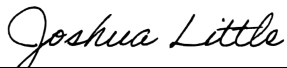
This constitution was ratified on April 10th, 2024 by the EGSS Council members:



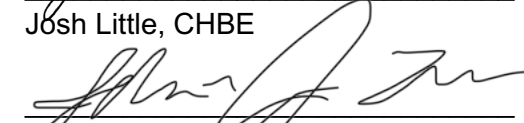
Amanda P. Siciliano, ENMA



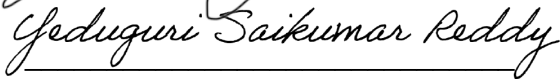
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