

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ENGINEERING SOCIETY OF QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Established February 28, 1979

*as amended*

February 28, 1980; November 27, 1980; January 24, 1985; September 15, 1987; November 16, 1989; March 1, 1990; March 7, 1991; October 3, 1991; February 6, 1992; March 5, 1992; March 30, 1995; March 12, 2008, March 10, 2009, March 15, 2010, March 8, 2016, March 9, 2017, March 21, 2019 and March 14, 2023.

## **Article I: The Society**

1. There shall exist an organization with the name, The Engineering Society of Queen's University, which for the purposes of abbreviation may be referred to as EngSoc.

## **Article II: Purpose Statement**

1. The Engineering Society of Queen's University will actively engage its members to foster leadership and innovation. The Society will advocate on behalf of its members and provide opportunities for their personal and professional growth.

## **Article III: Vision Statement**

1. Renowned Spirit, Unrivalled Excellence

## **Article IV: Values**

1. The Engineering Society holds these values core to its dealings and shall ensure that any and all operations conducted by the Society are in line with these ideals.

**a. Accountability and Transparency**

**i.** EngSoc will at all times strive to be completely accountable and transparent in all activities whenever possible.

**b. Community**

**i.** EngSoc believes in a strong community and will make every effort to make all members welcomed.

**c. Equity**

**i.** EngSoc will be fair in all dealings with no inherent biases.

**d. Inclusion**

**i.** EngSoc will make every effort to provide a safe, inclusive, and accessible environment that is free of harassment for all EngSoc organized events and spaces.

**e. Integrity**

**i.** EngSoc will hold itself and the members to the highest standard as leaders at Queen's University and for the future.

f. Tradition and Spirit

i. EngSoc will promote spirit between its members, while keeping traditions positive and relevant.

g. Sustainability

i. EngSoc will strive to have a positive environmental impact in all its operations while encouraging its members to engage in environmentally sustainable practices.

**Article V: Crest and Motto**

1. There shall exist an official EngSoc Crest

a. This crest shall consist of the University coat of arms, extending beyond which are the ends of a pair of crossed geological hammers and the extremities of an upper-case letter S.

b. The coat of arms referred to in subsection (a) shall be the 'old' version, namely the style which was in use in 1951.

2. There shall exist an official EngSoc motto.

a. The motto shall be "Quis dolor cui dolium".

**Article VI: Membership**

1. All students registered in any of the courses leading to an undergraduate degree in the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science of Queen's University shall be ordinary members of EngSoc, subject to the payment of such fees as may be prescribed under the provisions of Article VII and subject to revocation as provided below; such members shall enjoy all rights and privileges of ordinary membership.

2. Any person who holds an undergraduate degree from the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at Queen's University shall be an alumni member of EngSoc, subject only to revocation as provided below. Such persons shall enjoy the privileges of an alumni membership.

3. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any member may be expelled from EngSoc and their membership revoked by means of a resolution which, at two consecutive meetings of the EngSoc Council at least four days apart, receives the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of the Council members present and voting at each meeting, provided that sufficient notification of the meetings, as specified in the by-laws, was given.

4. A membership previously revoked may be reinstated at any time by means of a resolution which receives the affirmative votes of not less than two-thirds of the members of EngSoc Council present and voting at any single meeting, provided that sufficient notification of the meeting, as specified in the by-laws, was given.

5. The following persons shall be honorary members of EngSoc:

- a. The Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science;
- b. The Honourary President of EngSoc, who may be chosen by the EngSoc President on the advice of the Executive and shall hold office for a term of one year;
- c. Any other persons to whom this privilege is granted for not more than one year at a time by the EngSoc Council;
- d. Any persons to whom this privilege is granted by a two-thirds majority vote at any Annual General Meeting of EngSoc; and
- e. All non-members of the Engineering Society who hold appointed positions on EngSoc shall have the speaking rights of an ordinary member at all Engineering Society meetings.

#### **Article VII: Fees**

1. The membership fees to be paid by ordinary members shall be reviewed every three years.
2. Establishment of new fees shall be passed by referendum.
3. Changing existing opt-out fees to mandatory fees shall be passed by referendum.
4. Increasing the cost of existing fees shall be passed by referendum.
5. Reducing the cost of existing fees shall be set by majority vote at any Annual General Meeting of EngSoc or passed by referendum. Only the Executive may move such a motion at the Annual General Meeting.
6. Changing an existing mandatory fee to an opt-out fee of lower or equal value shall be set by majority vote at any Annual General Meeting of EngSoc or passed by referendum. Only the Executive may move such a motion at the Annual General Meeting. Fees shall normally be collected on behalf of the Engineering Society by the Treasurer of the University.

#### **Article VIII: Rights, Privileges and Obligations of Members**

1. Honourary members shall have the right to speak at any meeting of EngSoc, be it an annual or general meeting of the members or a meeting of the EngSoc Council, and to move or second motions at such meetings.
2. Alumni members shall have the right to speak at any meeting of EngSoc, be it an annual or general meeting of the members of EngSoc or a meeting of the EngSoc Council.
3. The Rights of ordinary members shall include the following:
  - a. The right to vote on all EngSoc elections and referenda;
  - b. The right to attend the annual or general meetings of the members of EngSoc or the meetings of the EngSoc Council, subject to the rules of procedure as specified in the by-laws;

- c. The right to move or second motions at such meetings;
  - d. The right to speak for or against any motion; and
  - e. The right to vote at annual or general meetings of the members of EngSoc.
4. The Privileges of ordinary members shall include the following:
    - a. The privilege of holding office within EngSoc subject to the qualifications for each office; and
    - b. The privilege of making use of EngSoc facilities and services.
  5. The Obligations of ordinary members shall be as follows:
    - a. The obligation to obey the Constitution and By-Laws; and
    - b. The obligation to uphold, respect and promote the integrity and traditions of the Engineering profession.
  6. Every ordinary member has the right to demand an independent audit to be conducted at their expense by a Chartered Accountant, of any or all business transactions and books of EngSoc, in the presence of the officer in charge of such books and in the company of an Auditor of the officer's choosing, if the officer desires one.
  7. Every ordinary member has the right to order that a question be asked on the annual referendum provided that the subject matter pertains to the activities of EngSoc, by submitting a petition bearing the signatures of five percent of the members of EngSoc.
  8. No member is empowered to make purchases in the name of the Engineering Society, or to financially obligate the Society in any way, until such permission has been granted at a meeting of the EngSoc Council or an annual or general meeting of the members of EngSoc.
  9. No member is empowered to claim to be acting as an agent of the Engineering Society unless such permission has been granted at a meeting of the EngSoc Council or an annual or general meeting of the members of EngSoc.
  10. Any or all of the privileges of membership may be revoked as the consequence of decisions of the EngSoc Council.

**Article IX: Engineering Society Council**

1. The principal governing body of EngSoc shall be the Engineering Society Council, whose membership shall be prescribed by By-Law.
2. The Council shall have the final authority in forming and implementing the Policy of EngSoc, subject to reversal only by referendum or a general meeting of the members of EngSoc.
3. The principal business of the EngSoc Council shall be:
  - a. Consideration of major policy issues and financial matters;
  - b. Review of the actions of officers and committees of EngSoc; and

c. Review of recommendations made by the Engineering Society Review Board.

**Article X: The Executive**

1. The Executive shall serve as a coordinating and administrative body, with membership and duties to be specified by By-Law.
2. The Executive shall introduce before the EngSoc Council such policy resolutions as it feels are appropriate for discussion and comment.
3. The Executive shall be responsible to the EngSoc Council for the financial activities of EngSoc as a whole.
4. The Executive or its designate(s) shall have the powers of the EngSoc Council during periods outside of the regular academic year. The regular academic year will be defined as weeks of the fall and winter term during which classes are in session. Decisions made under this authority must be immediately communicated to the Engineering Society Council. These decisions will be temporary until approved by a ratification motion at the next EngSoc Council meeting.
5. Subject to the authority of the EngSoc Council, the President shall have authority over the activities of the Executive and the affairs of EngSoc.
6. All decisions of the Executive shall be reported regularly to the Engineering Society Council, which shall have the right to reverse any decisions so made.

**Article XI: Engineering Society Review Board**

1. The Engineering Society Review Board shall serve as a body for review of major policy and procedural issues with membership and duties to be defined by By-Law.
2. The Engineering Society Review Board shall be responsible to the Executive and the EngSoc Council for all its recommendations.

**Article XII: Organizations**

1. The purpose, authority and structure of all formal organizations of the Engineering Society shall be defined by By-Law.
2. EngSoc shall be responsible for the activities of all such formal organizations and shall retain jurisdiction over their activities.
3. All such formal organizations shall have available to them the services provided by EngSoc to its members.

**Article XIII: By-Laws**

1. The Engineering Society may enact such By-Laws or regulations as may be necessary for its governance, provided they are in agreement with the principles embodied in this Constitution.
2. Such By-Laws may be enacted, amended, or repealed through the EngSoc Council by means of readings at two successive regular meetings of the EngSoc Council.

3. The First Reading shall be debate and approval in principle, without amendment, after which the proposal shall be referred to the Speaker, who shall:
  - a. Ensure that the proposal follows the spirit of the EngSoc Constitution and By-Laws;
  - b. Ensure that the proposal is placed in the correct article, section, or other appropriate place in the By-Laws;
  - c. Ensure that the wording of the proposal is clear and unambiguous; and
  - d. Ensure that the proposal uses non-exclusive language, unless the context requires otherwise.
4. Upon receiving the Speaker's consent, the EngSoc Council may proceed with the Second Reading, which shall be debate and final approval.
5. The ruling of the Speaker may be reversed only by appeal to the Engineering Society Review Board.
6. The proposal shall take effect immediately after Second Reading.
7. Notification of all such amendments shall be noted on the Engineering Society Website.
8. The Director of Governance or a delegate may make editorial changes to By-Law without the need for Council approval.
  - a. Editorial changes to By-Law include correcting references to other sections of By-Law and the Policy Manual as well as spelling, formatting, and grammatical changes.
  - b. Such editorial changes must not conflict with the intent of the by-law.
  - c. The Engineering Society Review board must be notified of such changes.

#### **Article XIV: Annual and General Meetings**

1. Each year there shall be held an annual meeting of the Engineering Society, to take place during February or March.
2. All members of EngSoc shall have the right to present business, to speak in debate, and to vote at all annual or general meetings.
3. Such meetings shall have the authority to consider any business affecting the interests of EngSoc or its members, and to reverse any decision of the Executive or of the EngSoc Council.
4. The procedure to be used at annual or general meetings, and the means for summoning such meetings, shall be specified by By-Law.

#### **Article XV: Constitutional Amendments**

1. This Constitution shall only be amended by referendum or by an annual or general meeting of the members of EngSoc. All such amendments shall take effect immediately, and notification of such amendments shall be noted on the Engineering Society Website.
2. Amendments to the By-Laws may be made in the same manner as that prescribed for amending this Constitution or as detailed in Article XIII of this Constitution.
3. There shall be a permanent copy of the Constitution and By-Laws of EngSoc amended annually. This copy shall be held by the President of EngSoc, and kept in the EngSoc offices. A copy shall also be maintained on the EngSoc Website, which shall be amended bi-weekly.