CODE CHANGES 2014:  
CONSTITUENCY CREATION

TO: Council  
FROM: LPC  
August 14, 2014

As amended by Council August 20, 2014

Amendment to introduce procedures for creating new Constituencies.

Additions are indicated by bold italics. Deletions are indicated by striking through (like this).

SECTION II: COUNCIL, COUNCIL MEMBERS AND OTHERS

Article 17. Establishment of Constituencies

1. The Vice-President Academic and University Affairs shall notify the Executive Committee when the first cohort of students registers in a new degree granting School or Faculty, and the Executive Committee shall then, giving fourteen (14) days’ notice, call a meeting of interested Active Members in the new School or Faculty with a view to establishing a Constituency, such a meeting to take place during the School Year and to be called the Organizing Meeting.

2. The Executive Committee shall also notify the President of any Constituency which will lose members as a result of the creation of the new Constituency so that the President may attend the Organizing Meeting.

3. The Organizing Meeting shall elect an Organizing Committee from among those present to draft a constitution for the prospective Constituency and to arrange with the Elections Committee for a referendum of the Active Members in the School or Faculty.

4. For the purposes of this Article, Active Members in a School or Faculty are those students enrolled in a School or Faculty and registered in a course or courses fulfilling the requirements of their degree.

5. The Organizing Committee shall consist of six (6) voting members, all of whom shall be Active Members of the Society who are students in the new School or Faculty.

6. The Organizing Committee shall also consist of the following officials and staff of the Society, who shall be non-voting and whose role shall be to assist the voting members of the Committee:
(a) the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs;
(b) one (1) member of the Legislative Procedures Committee, appointed by the Legislative Procedures Committee;
(c) the Executive Director; and
(d) the Archivist & Clerk of Council.

The President of any Constituency which will lose members as a result of the creation of the new Constituency shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the Organizing Committee.

7. The Chair of the Organizing Committee shall be chosen by and from the voting members of the Committee.

8. The Organizing Committee shall be considered a prospective Constituency and as such shall have access to funding from the Constituency Aid Fund in accordance with Code Section IX B, Article 6(6)(e). It shall also be granted account numbers, booking rights, and a locker in the manner of one of the Society’s clubs, and shall be entitled to designate a signing officer in accordance with Code Section IX B, Article 2(7).

9. The Organizing Committee shall draft a constitution for the prospective Constituency, after which it shall arrange for a referendum to take place among the Active Members in the newly created School or Faculty, such referendum to be conducted by the Society’s Elections Committee in accordance with the following rules:

(a) The referendum shall be conducted by secret ballot and be held during the School Year.

(b) The question in the referendum shall state: “Do you support _______ (the name of the prospective Constituency as indicated in the draft constitution) as the organization representing the students in _____ (name of the Faculty or School)?”

(c) In Faculties or Schools with one thousand (1,000) Active Members or more, quorum in the referendum shall be ten percent (10%) of the Active Members in that Faculty or School.

(d) In Faculties or Schools with less than one thousand (1,000) Active Members, quorum in the referendum shall be fifteen percent (15%) of the Active Members in that Faculty or School, or one hundred (100) Active Members in that Faculty or School, whichever is less.

(e) There must be at least fourteen (14) days’ notice for the referendum, and all Active Members in the Faculty or School shall be entitled to vote.
10. **If a majority of the vote in the referendum are in support of the prospective Constituency, then in accordance with Bylaw 13(2)(a), Council shall recognize it as the Constituency for that Faculty or School.**

11. **As soon as possible after a successful referendum, the Organizing Committee shall arrange for the Society’s Elections Committee to conduct elections for the new Constituency. Once the elections are called, the Organizing Committee shall disband, and its voting members shall be eligible to run in the elections.**

12. **Once disbanded, the Organizing Committee shall lose its account numbers, its locker, its booking rights, and any other rights it held as a prospective Constituency under paragraph 8 above. If it received money from the Constituency Aid Fund and any of that money has not been spent, the unspent money shall be returned to the Constituency Aid Fund.**

13. **The Society’s Elections Administrator shall present the results of the new Constituency’s elections to Council. Once presented, the results shall be official, and those elected shall immediately take office as the first Executive of the new Constituency.**

14. **After a successful referendum, the new Constituency shall submit its constitution to the Legislative Procedures Committee, along with other governing documents if those additional governing documents are requested by the Committee.**

15. **If the Legislative Procedures Committee is not satisfied with the constitution or other governing documents of the new Constituency, it may recommend to Council that, pursuant to Bylaw 13(2)(e), it cease to recognize the new Constituency or that, pursuant to Bylaw 13(2)(c), it amend the constitution or bylaws of the new Constituency.**

16. **The SAC Vice-Chair shall sit on the council or other governing body of the new Constituency for its first year to serve as a non-voting advisor.**

**SECTION V: COMMITTEES OF COUNCIL**

**Article 7. Standing Committees**

3. The Legislative Procedures Committee shall:

   ... 

   (p) **assist in the establishment of new Constituencies in accordance with Code Section II, Article 17.**

   [and renumber]
SECTION VI: EXECUTIVE

Article 3. Executive Committee

2. … the Executive Committee shall:

   (n) assist in the establishment of new Constituencies in accordance with Code Section II, Article 17.

[and renumber]

Article 5. Vice-President Academic and University Affairs

1. In addition to those powers and duties set out in the Bylaws, the Vice-President Academic and University Affairs shall:

   (m) assist in the establishment of new Constituencies in accordance with Code Section II, Article 17.

[and renumber]

SECTION VIII. COMMISSIONS

D. UNIVERSITY COMMISSION

Article 2. Powers and Duties of University Commission

1. The University Commission shall:

   (d) help establish Constituency organizations in Faculties and Schools which do not have such organizations but which are entitled to them in accordance with Bylaw 13(2);

SECTION IX B. FISCAL PROCEDURES

Article 6

6. Funds established by Bylaw 11(2)

   (c) The Constituency Aid Fund shall be administered by the Finance Commission in accordance with Bylaw 11(2)(a)(v) and the following provisions:
(i) The purpose of this Fund shall be to:

1) ensure that Constituencies and prospective Constituencies have sufficient funds to hold elections and referenda and to communicate with their members through mailouts or newsletters;

2) assist Constituencies in completing special projects related to their academic interest area;

3) enable Constituencies to attend conferences away from the University through conference travel grants; and

4) enable Constituencies to purchase furnishings and equipment, including furniture, rugs and mats, file cabinets, bulletin boards, computers, printers and audio-visual equipment.

(ii) Only organizations recognized as Constituencies in accordance with Bylaw 13(2), or considered prospective Constituencies in accordance with Code Section II, Article 17 (7), shall be eligible to receive monies from this Fund.

(iii) A Constituency or prospective Constituency wishing to receive monies from this Fund shall submit a request to the Vice-President Finance, who shall make a recommendation to the Finance Commission based on the availability of funds.

(iv) The amount granted to a Constituency or prospective Constituency for an election or referenda shall be an aggregate total of 15 cents per Constituency member, but shall be no less than $75 and no more than $375 in any one fiscal year.

(v) The amount granted to a Constituency or prospective Constituency for a newsletter or mailout shall be an aggregate total of 15 cents per student, but shall be no less than $75 and no more than $375 in any one fiscal year.