

The Ryerson Engineering Student Society

CONSTITUTION

Revised March, 2008

The Ryerson Engineering Student Society
Constitution

March 2007

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ARTICLE 1: NAME

- 1.1 The association of students enrolled in engineering undergraduate programs at Ryerson University shall be called the Ryerson Engineering Student Society, hereafter referred to as “RESS”.
- 1.2 The Board of Governors of Ryerson University shall hereafter be referred to as the “Board of Governors”.
- 1.3 Ryerson University shall hereafter be referred to as the “University”.
- 1.4 The Board of Directors of RESS shall hereafter be referred to as the “Board of Directors”.

ARTICLE 2: MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 All full-time, undergraduate students registered in engineering programs within the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science at the University are members of RESS, hereafter referred to as the “membership”.
- 2.2 Membership terminates upon the graduation, withdrawal, suspension or expulsion of a member from the University.

ARTICLE 3: MANDATE

3.1 The Mandate of RESS shall be:

- 3.1.1 To provide and foster activities and events which will enhance the educational and co-curricular experience of its members and contribute to the educational values of the University;
- 3.1.2 To encourage all members to become active participants in RESS and to afford opportunity and a forum for the expression of opinions upon all questions bearing on or affecting their educational and co-curricular interests;
- 3.1.3 To foster and facilitate communication among its members and engineering programs at the University, other engineering societies and associations, including international, national and provincial organizations.

3.2 Interpretation and Adherence to Mandate

In the event of contradiction between the Constitution and the By-Laws of RESS or confusion in their application, the Executive will meet to resolve the problem for the betterment of RESS and its membership. The conflicting statements will be amended to outline the decision of the Executive.

ARTICLE 4: THE DEAN OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

- 4.1 The Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, on behalf of the Board of Governors, shall advise RESS, monitor its publications, supervise its Board of Directors' elections and ensure its fiscal accountability. RESS' orientation and other programs shall be subject to the approval of the Dean of Engineering and Applied Science.
- 4.2 The Dean of Engineering and Applied Science shall renew the proposed RESS budget annually before authorizing the transfer of funds to RESS and shall require a financial audit annually.
- 4.3 The Dean of Engineering and Applied Science shall establish an Advisory Committee which includes among others a Finance Department representative, and the Director of Student Services, or Designate, to assist in his/her advisory role.

ARTICLE 5: THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

- 5.1 Amendments to this Constitution, described in Article 12.1 are subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.
- 5.2 The Board of Governors may dissolve RESS following a favorable student referendum on dissolution as described in Article 13.

ARTICLE 6: MEMBERSHIP FEES

- 6.1 The Board of Governors shall collect on behalf of RESS a fee of thirty (\$30.00) dollars per academic year, starting from the 2007-2008 academic year, from all eligible members (as indicated in Article 2.1). This fee shall then increase every year thereafter based on the Canadian Price Index (CPI).
- 6.2 Increase in fees
 - 6.2.1 Any increase in fees must be sanctioned by a referendum of the RESS membership conducted by the University's Election Procedures Committee;
 - 6.2.2 The referendum question must be approved by the Board of Governors. The referendum question and the implications of a favorable referendum must be submitted to the Board of Governors after consultation with the President of the University, or his/her nominee, in order that the Board of Governors may be fully cognizant of the implications of the outcome prior to the referendum being held.
 - 6.2.3 The referendum must be conducted in the fall by November 15 to be applicable for the following academic year commencing in September.
 - 6.2.4 The cost of the referendum shall be borne by RESS except for the salary and employee related costs of any employee who participates in holding the referendum.
 - 6.2.5 A "favorable referendum" shall mean an affirmative vote by the majority of members voting.

ARTICLE 7: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

7.1 There shall be a total of (15) Directors.

7.1.1 Six (6) Directors who shall be the Officers of RESS shall be elected at large by the members of RESS:

President
Vice-President Administration
Vice-President External
Vice-President Internal
Vice-President Communications
Secretary

7.1.2 One (1) Vice-President Finance, who shall be a Director and an Officer of RESS, will be appointed by the Board of Directors from among the membership, and approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science.

The Board of Directors shall appoint an Under-Treasurer from the membership. The Under-Treasurer position shall not be a position on the Board of Directors. The Under-Treasurer will be an assistant to the Vice-President Finance and shall normally be appointed to the position of Vice-President Finance for the start of the next term of office.

7.1.3 Seven (7) Directors representing each of the engineering disciplines – Aerospace, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Industrial, and Mechanical – shall be elected by the students in each of the individual disciplines.

These directors must not be in their last year of attendance at the University, unless at the discretion of the Executive there is no interest in the position other than from students in their final year. (Amended as per AGM-06-RESS-C01)

7.1.4 One (1) Chair of the First Year Engineering Board will be elected by and from the first year membership.

7.1.5 The Board of Directors will fill vacant positions on the Board of Directors by casting a secret ballot. (Amended as per AGM-05-RESS-B17)

7.2 Term of Office

The term of office of each elected or appointed Member of the Board of Directors shall be one year, May 1 to April 30, or may continue until a successor is elected or appointed.

Members of the Board of Directors can be re-elected for subsequent terms.

- 7.3 All members of the Board of Directors shall be full-time students enrolled in a Ryerson undergraduate engineering program. They are required to have either a clear academic standing, or a conditional academic standing with a Cumulative Grade Point Average greater than or equal to 2.0. The academic standing of the Directors shall be reviewed by the President of RESS and the Dean of Engineering and Applied Science, who will inform the Director that he/she is removed from the position if they fail to meet the above condition.

ARTICLE 8: IMMUNITY OF THE DIRECTORS

- 8.1 Directors shall not be held jointly or individually responsible for actions taken and decisions made in good faith within the scope of their authority.
- 8.2 Members of RESS by virtue of their membership shall automatically waive the right to take legal action against the Board of Directors or any Director as a result of actions or decisions taken by Directors individually or jointly for the benefit and in the best interest of RESS as defined in Article 3.

ARTICLE 9: GENERAL MEETINGS

- 9.1 The RESS Annual General Meeting of members, hereafter referred to as the “AGM”, shall normally be held during the winter term (January to April) of the academic year. The Officers of RESS will convene it.

The notice convening the AGM and the Engenda of the meeting shall be publicized in the campus media and posted on the bulletin boards of each engineering department at least two full weeks in advance of the meeting.

- 9.2 There shall be at least two general meetings each year – the AGM in the winter and a fall term General Meeting.

The President of RESS may call other General meetings as often as the Board of Directors may deem necessary.

- 9.3 Special general meetings shall be called by the Secretary on receipt of a written request signed by a minimum of seventy (70) members, at least ten (10) from each engineering discipline. The written request shall include a statement setting out the purpose of the special meeting.

ARTICLE 10: FINANCES

- 10.1 The fiscal year of RESS shall be from May 1 to April 30.

- 10.2 The Vice-President Finance with the Under-Treasurer shall present an annual financial budget to the Dean of Engineering and Applied Science and the Board of Directors.

- 10.3 The Vice-President Finance must give final, written authorization for all financial matters concerning RESS. All financial matters concerning RESS shall be approved and bear the signature of the Vice-President Finance as well as one of either the President or the Vice-President Administration.

- 10.4 An annual financial audit shall be conducted by a professional external organization.

ARTICLE 11: ELECTIONS

- 11.1 Elections to the Board of Directors shall take place by a secret ballot
- 11.2 A Chief Returning Officer shall be appointed by the Dean of Engineering and Applied Science to oversee the conduct of the election of the Members of the Board of Directors.
- 11.3 The election procedures shall conform with the normal practices of the University as established by the Election Procedures Committee and as specified in the By-Laws of RESS.

ARTICLE 12: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- 12.1 Amendments which affect the basic constitutional structure of RESS or change its Mandate, membership or relationship to the Board of Governors must first be approved by the Board of Governors.
- 12.2 Amendments to the Constitution or proposed amendments shall normally be approved by the Board of Directors and ratified at the AGM.
- 12.3 Amendments initiated by the Board of Directors of RESS must include a written notice of the proposed amendment and shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Directors not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
- 12.4 Amendments initiated by the membership must include a written notice of the proposed amendment signed by not less than (5) members from each engineering discipline with names and student numbers printed next to their signature. This written notice shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board of Directors not less than thirty (30) days prior to the AGM.
- 12.5 Proposed amendments must be publicized and posted with the agenda of the AGM.
- 12.6 Amendments shall require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and voting at the AGM.
- 12.7 Amendments to Articles 7.1.1 through 7.1.6 regarding the names of positions on the Board of Directors and the number of people comprising the Board of Directors, which have been unanimously approved at a meeting of the executive, may be adopted at a general meeting and enacted until ratified or denied by the membership at the AGM.

12.8 ARTICLE 13: DISSOLUTION OF RESS

- 13.1 To dissolve RESS the following steps shall be followed:
 - 13.1.1 A petition requesting a referendum on the dissolution of RESS shall be signed by 10% of the RESS Membership and presented to the RESS President.
 - 13.1.2 The RESS President shall communicate the request for a referendum on dissolution to the Dean of Engineering and Applied Science within ten (10) working days after receiving the petition.
 - 13.1.3 The Dean of Engineering and Applied Science shall consult with the President of the University, or his/her nominee, who will communicate the request for a referendum to the Board of Governors.
 - 13.1.4 The Elections Procedures Committee will conduct the referendum. The referendum shall be held within the teaching semesters.
- 13.2 A “favorable referendum” shall mean an affirmative vote by two-thirds of the members voting.
- 13.3 The Dean of Engineering and Applied Science shall communicate the results of the referendum to the engineering student body and to the President of Ryerson. If the request to dissolve RESS is successful, the Dean will request that the Board of Governors dissolve RESS.

ARTICLE 14: BY-LAWS

- 14.1 RESS may establish By-Laws for the conduct of its business and may specify how they shall be amended.
- 14.2 By-Laws are enacted by the Directors and approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
- 14.3 The By-Laws will be consistent with the Constitution. In the event of disagreement between the two documents the Constitution has primacy. Changes to the Constitution to rectify differences may be made as laid out in Article 12.

ARTICLE 15: PREVIOUS CONSTITUTION

- 15.1 This Constitution shall supersede and replace any previously approved Constitution.