

The Constitution of MIT Ethiopian-Eritrean Students Association

Article I: Name and Objective

The organization shall be officially known as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Ethiopian-Eritrean Students Association (MIT-EESA).

The purpose of the MIT-EESA is to bring about awareness and understanding of Ethiopian culture to the MIT community, as well as to residents of Cambridge and Boston area. In addition, the group will strive to create a venue where Ethiopian/Eritrean students and those interested in Ethiopian/Eritrean culture can interact and learn from one another's experiences.

The EESA has adopted the following as its aims and objectives.

1. To spread awareness and generate interest about Ethiopia in the larger MIT community.
2. To provide a support network and environment for students coming from Ethiopia.
3. To foster unity and friendship amongst Ethiopians, Ethiopian-Americans, and the MIT community at large.
4. To increase the number of Ethiopian students coming to MIT.
5. To provide a forum for the discussion of issues pertaining to Ethiopia and its development.
6. To promote cooperation with other African student organizations.
7. To serve as a resource for all MIT groups that are undertaking projects in Ethiopia.

Article II: Membership

1. Student membership shall be open to all Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) students, faculty, staff and alumni.
2. Membership shall be recognized upon participation at MIT-EESA activities and subscribing to the mailing list.
3. Membership will consist of at least 5 MIT students, and will constitute more than half MIT students.
4. The organization shall not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in the MIT Nondiscrimination Statement for membership, officer position, or in any other aspect.

Article III: The Executive Board

The Executive Board (E-Board) shall be the main decision making body of the EESA and shall consist of the following officers:

1. President
2. Vice-President
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary
5. Publicity Chair
6. Webmaster

Article IV: Duties of the Executive Board

The duties of the executive officers shall be as defined below.

1. President

The President shall:

- Direct the affairs and be the official spokesperson of the association.
- Summon and preside over all general, executive, and emergency meetings.
- Delegate tasks to the E-Board for the successful execution of EESA activities.
- Be the official liaison between the current EESA members and Ethiopian/Eritrean MIT Alumni.

- Periodically update the alumni on the current affairs of the EESA
- Propose events and initiatives to foster relations between current EESA members and alumni.

2. *Vice-President*

The Vice President shall:

- Assume the duties of presidency in the absence of the president.
- Assist the president in directing the affairs of the association.
- Be responsible for organizing all EESA events.

3. *Treasurer*

The Treasurer shall:

- Be responsible for all financial correspondence.
- Be responsible for fund-raising activities.
- Present financial statements to the general body when requested.

4. *Secretary*

The Secretary shall:

- Take minutes at both general and executive body meetings.
- Be responsible for the general correspondence of the EESA with the rest of the MIT community.
- Act as the historian to ensure all EESA events and programs are documented.

5. *Publicity Chair*

The Publicity Chair shall:

- Be responsible for the association's publications and publicity for events.
- Maintain an advertising mailing list for all events.
- Engage the membership in the planning and execution of EESA events.

6. *Webmaster*

The Webmaster shall:

- Be responsible for the maintenance and regular updating of the association's webpage.
- Regularly monitor and update all mailing lists.

Article V: Eligibility for Holding Office

All student members of MIT-EESA, as defined by Article II, may run for any one of the offices of the Executive Body.

Article VI: Elections and Selection of Officers

1. The election of officers to the Executive body by the membership shall be done through secret balloting at the second general body meeting of the spring semester.
2. All nominees for office should be present at time of election but, with prior arrangement, may send a proxy.
3. The assumption of duty by officers shall become effective two weeks after the election, and shall last one calendar year.
4. There shall be a pro tempore President who shall preside at the meeting to elect new officers. This will be the outgoing President if he/she is not seeking re-election.
5. Before the actual balloting, each candidate for each office must explain his candidacy, and give a general idea of his plans. The candidates shall read the EESA Constitution and must agree to adhere by it.
6. Each member of the Association that are present in the meeting shall have one vote.
7. In case of a tie the pro tem President may, at his/her discretion, cast a tie-breaking vote, before announcing the results.

Article VII: Duration of Offices

1. The Executive Body President may hold office for a period of two (2) consecutive one-year terms subject to re-election.
2. Other officers may hold office for any number of one-year terms subject to re-election.

Article VIII: Removal of Officers

1. An officer may be relieved of their duties if they fail to adhere to the terms of the MIT EESA Constitution.
2. In order to formally relieve an officer of his / her duties:
 1. A written petition must be presented at any general body meeting, after having been signed by at least half of the membership.
 2. Two-thirds of the meeting membership must vote in favor of the petition.
3. Resignations following unusual or irresolvable circumstances may also be accepted from officers and reviewed at the discretion of the rest of the Executive Board. Such formal statements must be received at least two weeks before the intended termination date, and service to the Association continued as usual during this period.

Article IX: Filling of the Vacancy of an Office

1. Elections must be held within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs.
2. In the event that an election cannot be held within the required thirty (30) days, the Executive Body can appoint someone to the vacant office until the next general body meeting.

Article X: Class Representatives and Ad Hoc Committees

1. After new officers for the Executive body are selected by the membership, members of each class present at the elections general body meeting shall decide on one "Class Representative" to the Executive Board:
 - 1.1. The Class Representatives shall constitute at least one person from each level i.e. Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior and Graduate, and shall constantly be in touch with the E-board to reflect the different interests of each level and also help keep their classmates current with, and actively involved in, the Association's activities.
 - 1.2. A general body meeting in the Fall semester will be used to designate a Class Representative for the incoming freshmen class for the remainder of the academic year.
 - 1.3. In the event that a Class Representative can no longer perform his/her duties, or is not doing so according to the terms of the MIT-EESA Constitution, their represented classmates will be contacted at the discretion of the Executive Board to select a new Representative. This must be completed at least one week before the incumbent steps down from the Class Representative position.
2. Officers of the Association may establish ad hoc committees during the academic year, as they deem necessary for planning events, drafting official documents for release, etc.

Article XI: Finance

The MIT –EESA currently does not impose any membership dues. This decision is subject to change depending on the Executive Body, after receiving feedback from the membership about such financing, and at least a two-thirds majority vote by the membership to impose such a due.

Article XII: Financial Transactions

1. All financial transactions shall be approved by one of the two Executive Body members (President or Treasurer) whose signatures are authorized by the MIT Association of Student Activities.
2. The Executive Body of the EESA must have an annual audit and make a financial report to the membership.

Article XIII: Meetings

1. General Body Meeting (GBM) shall be held at least once every month, during the school period.
2. Executive Body Meetings (EBM) shall be held weekly during the academic year.
3. Emergency meetings shall be called by the Executive Body members, upon request of any member of the Executive Body or of the membership.

Article XIV: Quorums

1. Two-thirds of the general body members shall constitute a quorum of any GBM.
2. Four (4) officers of the Executive Body shall constitute a quorum at any Executive meeting.

Article XV: Constitutional Amendment

The constitution of the MIT-EESA may be amended upon petition by a member, by means of a written request to the President, and on approval by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership.

Article XVI: ASA Governance Clause

The MIT Ethiopian-Eritrean Students Association (MIT-EESA) agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.