The Constitution of the MIT Biotechnology Group

Nathan Stebbins & James Weis, Presidents
Vyas Ramanan, Treasurer
Andrew Warren, Secretary

 Adopted September 12, 2014
Article I
Purpose

The MIT Biotechnology Group, abbreviated MBG, aims to increase the pace of biotechnology research and application by building strong, mutually beneficial relationships between MIT students and post-doctoral fellows and thought-leaders in academia, industry, and business. Specifically, MBG aims to serve the MIT community by facilitating the development of knowledge, skills, and networks key to achieving success in high-level, non-academic, biotechnology-related pursuits.

Article II
Membership

SECTION 1. Membership in the MIT Biotechnology Group will be open to any member of the MIT community. One is considered an active MBG member in any given academic term if he or she has attended at least one club activity, meeting, or event in the current or preceding semester.

1.1 MBG expects that membership will be made up predominantly of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows focused on technical work within life sciences and biotechnology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

1.2 Example departments and institutes from which membership is drawn from include, but are by no means limited to: Biological Engineering, Biology, Brain and Cognitive Sciences, the Broad Institute, Chemistry, Chemical Engineering, Computational and Systems Biology, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Health Sciences and Technology, Materials Science and Engineering, Microbiology, and the Whitehead Institute.

SECTION 2. MBGs membership will at all times consist of at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students.

SECTION 3. MBG will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT’s Nondiscrimination Statement.

SECTION 4. If the MBG charges membership dues or admission fees at any events, exceptions shall be made for students that cannot afford these dues.

Article III
Officers

SECTION 1. The MBG will have at a minimum three offices: President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

SECTION 2. OFFICE OF PRESIDENT

2.1 The Office of President may be held jointly by at most two MBG members, hereafter referred to jointly as President.

2.2 The President shall be the official representative of the group to MIT and to any other organization.

2.3 The President shall be responsible for executing the MBGs mission in the short-term, and for developing the MBGs mission in the long-term.

2.4 The President shall preside over all MBG meetings and MBG events.

2.5 The President will direct the formation of, and be responsible for the governance over, the positions of Media Director, Event Chair, and Sub-Group Chair.
SECTION 3. OFFICE OF TREASURER

3.1 The Treasurer shall be responsible for all MBG finances.

3.2 The Treasurer is required to sign all MBG checks and vouchers.

SECTION 4. OFFICE OF SECRETARY

4.1 The Secretary is responsible for organizing and record keeping of all MBG meetings and events.

4.2 The Secretary is responsible for organizing and presenting the agenda at each meeting.

4.3 The Secretary is responsible for managing the email lists associated with MBG.

SECTION 5. CHAIRS

At the discretion of the President, MBG shall appoint Chairs to create and manage aspects of MBG infrastructure, events and initiatives. These positions include Media Chair, Event Chair and Sub-Group Chair, and said positions shall be responsible for the tasks and duties delineated herein.

5.1 The Media Chair position falls under the direct governance of the MBG President, and is responsible for managing and regularly updating the content of the MBG webpage and social media accounts. The Media Chair is responsible for managing and improving the visibility of MBG, both within and beyond MIT, and is responsible for advertising of MBG events and recruitment of MBG members.

5.2 The Event Chair position falls under the direct governance of the MBG President, and is responsible for the tasks and duties related to the holding of one or more MBG events, as defined by the MBG President. There is no limit to the number of Event Chair positions that may be created, and the number of appointed chairs will be decided by the MBG President and will vary depending on the scope and scale of the event. Event chair positions may be held simultaneously with any other MBG position.

5.3 The Sub-Group Chair position falls under the direct governance of the MBG President. The Sub-Group Chair is responsible for the tasks and duties related to managing a MBG Sub-Group as defined by the President. There is no limit to the number of Sub-Group Chairs that may be created. The number of Sub-Group Chairs appointed will be decided by the President. Sub-Group Chair positions may be held simultaneously with any other MBG position.

SECTION 6. All MBG officers must be current MIT students or post-doctoral fellows.

SECTION 7. ELECTIONS

7.1 Nomination and elections of officers shall occur as needed.

7.2 All members of the MBG are eligible for nomination voting, and votes from all members, including officers, are counted equally.

7.3 Any member of this organization is eligible for nomination for any office.

7.4 Quorum for election is one-quarter of members and the MBG President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

7.5 Any member is elected if he or she is successfully nominated and if the President approves the nomination.

7.6 The term of office runs from one election to the subsequent election.

Article IV
Meetings

SECTION 1. Meetings shall be presided over by the President, unless he or she is absent, in which case the Treasurer or Secretary may preside. Meetings may also be presided over by any MBG member, if approval of the President is obtained prior.
SECTION 2. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of all members and officers present, and the President shall have veto power.

SECTION 3. Quorum for a meeting shall be all MBG officers.

SECTION 4. All relevant MBG meetings shall be announced to all active members at least two full days in advance of the meeting start time.

Article V
Constitutional Amendments

SECTION 1. Constitutional amendments may be presented at any official and announced MBG meeting by any active MBG member.

SECTION 2. Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds vote of the members present, and the President shall have veto power.

SECTION 3. Quorum for a meeting shall be all MBG officers.

Article VI
ASA Governance Clause

The MIT Biotechnology Group 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.

Article VII
Ratification

The ratification of the initial President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the MIT Biotechnology Group shall be sufficient for the establishment and adoption of the Constitution of the MIT Biotechnology Group, in witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names.

[Signatures]

Jane Wein – President

[Signature]

Treasurer

[Signature]

Secretary

[Signature]