MIT Future Society Constitution
As of Spring 2012

Article I: Purpose
The MIT Future Society is dedicated to the promotion and discussion of futurist ideas, inspired by science fiction but firmly grounded in projections from today's capabilities. The Society shall organize events to foster such discussion, such as:
- Lectures by guest speakers and MIT faculty on their visions of the future
- Future forecasting debates and panels
- Future-themed study breaks and other social events
The MIT Future Society shall also collaborate with similar groups at universities like Harvard, Stanford, and Georgia Tech to produce public-facing content about potential future developments and the latest related news. Rather than advocating any particular ideology or specific vision of the future, the Future Society shall aim to facilitate discussion and encourage intellectual exploration.

Article II: Membership
A. Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of the MIT Future Society. One is considered a member of the MIT Future Society in any given academic term if s/he expresses an interest in joining the organization and is added to the mailing list.
B. At all times, the membership of the MIT Future Society shall include at least five MIT students, and more than half of current members shall be MIT students.
C. The MIT Future Society shall not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement.

Article III: Officers
A. The MIT Future Society shall have the following officers:
1. Fearless Leader (President)
   i. The Fearless Leader shall be the official representative of the group to other organizations and to MIT.
   ii. The Fearless Leader is responsible for scheduling meetings and events, and for notifying the group in advance of such meetings and events.
   iii. The Fearless Leader shall monitor and coordinator the functioning of the organization, this includes delegating duties and responsibilities.
   iv. The Fearless Leader must be an MIT student.
2. Commissar
   i. The Commissar shall assist and advise the Fearless Leader in fulfilling her/his duties.
   ii. The Commissar fulfills the duties of the Fearless Leader in the event of the Fearless Leader’s absence.
   iii. The Commissar may preside at official meetings in the event that the Fearless Leader is unable to attend. Such an arrangement must be announced at the beginning of said meeting.
3. Capitalism Specialist (Treasurer)
   i. The Capitalism Specialist shall be responsible for keeping track of the finances of the group. It shall be the Capitalism Specialist’s responsibility to ensure appropriate communication with organizations that provide funding for the MIT Future Society.
   ii. The Capitalism Specialist is required to coordinate the group’s financial transactions including check-signing and reimbursement.
   iii. The Capitalism Specialist shall be responsible for creating and monitoring the budget.
   iv. The Capitalism Specialist must be an MIT student.
4. **Databank**  
   i. The Databank shall be responsible for taking minutes at MIT Future Society meetings.  
   ii. The Databank shall be responsible for distributing said minutes to the organization.  
   iii. The Databank shall maintain records and documentation of meetings, events and correspondence with other groups.  

5. **Causative Agent**  
   i. The Causative Agent shall be responsible for coordinating large events.  
   ii. The Causative Agent shall reserve rooms for given events and ensure that the necessary permission is obtained.  
   iii. The Causative Agent shall make necessary arrangements for catering or any outside service that is provided for the event.  
   iv. The Causative Agent will serve as the liaison between the organization and any invited guest speaker.  

6. **Minister of Propaganda**  
   i. The Minister of Propaganda shall be responsible for advertising events and disseminating information to the organization.  
   ii. The Minister of Propaganda shall be expected to coordinate advertising in various media including emails, posters, announcements, etc.  
   iii. The Minister of Propaganda shall organize the distribution of the group’s publications.  

7. **Spider**  
   i. The Spider is a position that shall be made by appointment.  
   ii. The Spider shall monitor and update the organization’s website.  
   iii. The Spider shall be responsible for posting information and documents on the group’s website.  

B. **The Fearless Leader and Capitalism Specialist**, at a minimum, must be distinct persons and MIT students.  
C. All current officers of the Future Society shall collectively be known as the Overseers.  
D. **Elections:**  
   1. Elections of officers shall occur at the end of the spring term.  
   2. Only members of the MIT Future Society may vote at elections.  
   3. Any member of the MIT Future Society is eligible to run for office.  
   4. Any member is elected if he or she wins a majority of the votes at the time of the elections. Abstentions shall not be considered in the calculation of a majority.  
   5. If more than two people are running and no one wins a majority, then the person with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballot and votes are recast.  
   6. Elections must be held during an official meeting. Voting may be held by show of hands or by secret ballot, as determined by the Overseers at the time of the elections.  
E. Each officer’s term of office shall extend from the beginning of the summer following the meeting at which s/he is elected until the end of the following spring term. Outgoing officers shall collaborate with incoming officers following elections to ensure a smooth transition.  
F. The Overseers may appoint members to additional positions, including but not limited to a historian, newsletter chair, and antihistorian. Members appointed to such positions shall not be officers and shall not form part of the Overseers.  
G. **Removal from office:**  
   1. If an officer does not fulfill her/his duties, s/he may be removed from office.  
   2. A member of the Overseers or a group of five MIT Future Society members must recommend the removal of such officer, and removal must further be approved by two-thirds of the Overseers. Abstentions shall not be considered in the calculation of a majority. Only Overseers may vote on an officer's removal from office.  
   3. The officer in question shall be notified at least twenty-four (24) hours before such vote.  
   4. A vote for the removal of an officer shall be held by secret ballot at an official meeting.
5. Overseers who are unable to attend such a meeting shall be given the opportunity to cast their vote by e-mail within twenty-four hours of the official meeting at which the vote was held. All e-mailed votes shall be sent to one officer who must not be the officer affected by the vote and who shall be named in advance. Such officer shall be responsible for counting all e-mailed votes, for ensuring their confidentiality, and for reporting the results to the Overseers.

6. The results of such a vote shall be made public to the group within 48 hours of the vote.

7. In the event that an officer is removed from office, the Overseers shall appoint a new officer in her/his place. The new officer shall remain in office until the next regularly scheduled elections.

**Article IV: Meetings**

A. Meetings of the Overseers shall be held at least once every two months.

B. Meetings shall be presided over by the Fearless Leader. If the Fearless Leader is unable to attend, the Commisar shall preside.

C. All decisions shall be made by a simple majority vote of all members present. Abstentions shall not be considered in the calculation of a majority.

D. Quorum for a meeting shall be one-half of the Overseers.

**Article V: Amendments**

A. Amendments to the MIT Future Society constitution may be proposed by any member.

B. Any member who wishes to propose an amendment must secure the consent of the Fearless Leader or Commisar in advance of such proposal. After receiving the Fearless Leader’s or Commisar’s consent, the proposing member(s) must notify all MIT Future Society Overseers of the proposed amendment and of the date of the meeting at which it will be presented for a vote.

C. The proposing member(s) must be present at the meeting during which the amendment is presented for a vote.

D. The Fearless Leader and Commisar must be notified of all proposed amendments. The Fearless Leader must be present at any meeting in which an amendment is presented for a vote. If the Fearless Leader cannot attend such a meeting, s/he may appoint the Commisar to preside.

E. Amendments must be passed by a two-thirds majority of the members present. Abstentions shall not be considered in the calculation of a majority. Only members may vote on a proposed amendment.

F. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be two-thirds of MIT Future Society Overseers.

**Article VI: Miscellaneous**

A. The MIT Future Society 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 the MIT Future Society shall be subject to review by the ASA executive board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

B. Allocation of funds

1. Only Overseers may request MIT Future Society funds.

2. Allocation of funds must benefit the MIT Future Society members.

3. Any member may suggest uses for the MIT Future Society funding. Suggestions must be e-mailed to the Capitalism Specialist and must include all relevant information (including, but not limited to, proposed use of funds, projected cost to the group, benefit to the group, date(s) applicable, and exclusion criteria).

C. Mailing list

1. Both members and interested non-members may be on the MIT Future Society mailing list.

2. A member of the MIT Future Society Overseers shall be responsible for administering the mailing list. The Overseers may decide to appoint a non-officer member to this position.