CONSTITUTION OF THE
MIT STUDENT ACTIVIST COALITION

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of the Student Activist Coalition (SACO) is to raise awareness around political and cultural issues, specifically at MIT but also in broader contexts. SACO will address these issues through such activities as documentary screenings, invited speakers, discussions, publications, periodic emails to a mailing list, and cultural events. We hope to foster safer spaces for marginalized groups to discuss lived experience, and to promote student activism, for example by publicizing and organizing student participation in political events (e.g., marches, diversity/social justice conferences) in the Greater Boston Area. The aforementioned political issues center around, but are not exclusively limited to, race, gender, sexuality, disabilities, and class, as well as the intersections of these issues.

II. MEMBERSHIP

1.. Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of this organization. Any member of the MIT community is allowed to attend meetings.

2.. The organizations membership will at all times consist of at least 5 MIT students. At no time should less than half of SACOs members be MIT students.

3.. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT’s Nondiscrimination Statement, including but not limited to race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, age, ancestry, national and ethnic origin, and veteran status.

4.. If this organization charges any monetary dues, there will be exceptions made for students that cannot afford these dues.

5.. SACO members will vote on major decisions, such as efforts to seek funding for large events. An initial group of members has established itself by engagement in preliminary meetings and discussions. Henceforth, members will be chosen by the same electoral procedure taken for the liaison and the treasurer - unanimous decision by the members - but votes on membership may be held at any meeting (rather than at intervals determined by terms of office, as with the liaison and the treasurer). Voting procedures for membership are designed to ensure that the decision-making process is carried out by members who are invested in the core ideals of the group and have demonstrated commitment and accountability.

III. OFFICERS

I. TYPES AND ROLES OF OFFICERS

This organization will have two officers, a liaison – analogous to a president – and a treasurer. These positions will be held by two separate MIT students.
I. The liaison will be the official representative of the group to any other organization and to MIT.

II. The treasurer will administer the finances of the group, and must approve all disbursements from the groups accounts, including reimbursements to its members.

II. ELECTIONS

Elections of officers shall occur at the beginning of each semester, or as necessary (as a replacement if an officer can no longer serve or must be removed). All officers of the group will be chosen by a unanimous vote of members; members may choose to abstain, but all must be informed of the vote. To ensure that all members may vote, absentee votes are accepted.

III. TERMS OF OFFICE

The terms of office for the liaison and treasurer both run from one election to the subsequent election. Members hold office indefinitely (unless removed).

IV. REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Any member may introduce a motion to remove any officer at any time in any meeting. The members will then vote on the removal. A two-thirds majority of all members is required for removal; members may choose to abstain, but all must be informed of the vote. To ensure that all members may vote, absentee votes are accepted.

V. ELIGIBILITY

Any member of the group is eligible for any office.

IV. MEETINGS

Meetings will be held at least every month. At the commencement of every meeting, a secretary and a presider - both members of the group - must volunteer to hold these positions for the duration of the meeting. However, unlike the officer positions, these positions are not elected and will vary each meeting.

1. The secretary will take minutes and send a copy of these minutes to the mailing list.

2. The presider will ensure that the group addresses every point on the meetings agenda, and that all members adhere to a set of by-laws regarding conduct. These by-laws are to be drafted collectively at the first meetings of the group.

Decisions in meetings will be made by a unanimous vote of attending members [changed from core members because it looks like you scrapped that?], with a quorum of one third of the total membership [changed from core members again] of the group.

V. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution may be presented by any member of the group. Amendments will be passed by a unanimous vote of the members; members may choose to abstain, but all must be informed of the vote. To ensure that all members may vote, absentee votes are accepted.
VI. ASA GOVERNANCE CLAUSE

SACO 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 bylaws of the organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to ensure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.