The Constitution of the MIT Vegan and Vegetarian Society

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the MIT Vegan and Vegetarian Society is to provide resources for people interested in vegan and vegetarian food, to raise awareness about the environmental, ethical and health implications of veganism and vegetarianism at MIT, to create a social network for people interested in vegan and vegetarian eating, and to work on expanding vegan and vegetarian food options available at and around MIT.

Article II: Membership

1. Any member of the MIT community is eligible to become a member of this organization. One is considered a member of this organization in any given academic term if she has attended at least one club activity and one meeting in the preceding or current term.
2. The organization’s membership will at all times consist of at least 5 MIT students and be more than half MIT students.
3. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT's Nondiscrimination Statement.

Article III: Officers

1. This organization will have two officers:
   a. President
      1. The president shall be the official representative of the group to any other organization and to MIT.
      2. The president will preside over all meetings.
      3. The president is responsible for determining when meetings are and publicizing this to the group.
   b. Treasurer
      1. The treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of the group.
      2. The treasurer is required to sign all checks/vouchers of the group.
2. All officers of this organization must be distinct persons and MIT students.
3. Elections:
   a. Elections of officers shall occur at the first meeting of the spring semester.
   b. Any member of this organization is eligible to run for office.
   c. Quorum for elections is one half of the group.
   d. Any member is elected if he or she wins a majority of the voting members.
   e. 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.
   f. The term of office runs from February 1st until January 31st of the following year.
4. Removal: Officers may be removed by a three-quarters vote of the members.
Article IV: Meetings

1. Meetings shall be held at least every month.
2. The first meeting following the election of a president shall be presided over by the president. Subsequent meetings shall be presided over by the one of the officers, to be voted on at the previous meeting.
3. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of all members present.
4. Quorum for a meeting shall be one quarter of the members of the organization.

Article V: Amendments

1. Amendments shall be presented by any member of the organization.
2. Amendments shall be passed by a two-thirds voted of the members present.
3. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be one half of all members of the organization.

Article VI: Food sourcing

All food at events organized by the MIT Vegan and Vegetarian Society shall be vegan.

Article VII: ASA Governance Clause

The MIT Vegan and Vegetarian 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 this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.

Article VIII: Executive Committee

(Approved by unanimous vote at the 3.20.09 meeting of the MITVVS)

A. Membership:

(i) The executive committee (hereafter referred to as “the committee”) of the MIT Vegan & Vegetarian Society will initially be comprised of all group officers at the time of the first meeting of the committee as called for by the Treasurer or President.

(ii) Additional committee members may be added by a simple majority vote of the committee.

(iii) A committee member may be removed by a ¾ vote of the committee.

(iv) Committee members must be members of the MIT community (MIT students, faculty, staff, and alumni).
(v) Group members elected to the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and any other officerial position so designated by the committee to confer such privileges and responsibilities are automatically members of the committee.

(vi) Members elected or appointed to the committee serve a term of one year. There are no limits on the number of terms a committee member may serve.

(vii) Committee members should be active and committed group members with a strong interest in contributing to the mission and activities of the group.

(viii) Committee membership is limited to 10 persons at any given time.

B. Responsibilities:

(i) Except as otherwise specified herein Article VIII, the committee is responsible for decision making within the group.

   i. It is left to the case-by-case discretion of the committee to vote on matters internally or to call for a vote of the full group membership.

   a. When a full group vote has been approved by the committee, the requirements of the vote are to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the committee.

(ii) The executive committee may appoint working committees to pursue projects deemed desirable in forwarding the work and programs of the group, and each of such working committees shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the executive committee.

(iii) The committee may establish additional officerial positions as deemed desirable in forwarding the work and programs of the group, and each of such officers shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed by the committee.

   i. It is left to the discretion of the committee to appoint, or to call for a full group vote to elect, a group member to fill newly established officerial positions.

   ii. All subsequent fillings of such positions, however, must be determined through full group vote.

   iii. It is left to the case-by-case discretion of the committee to designate or not such new officerial positions as conferring automatic committee membership upon the holder of the office.

C. Voting:

(i) Unless otherwise specified in the constitution, committee decisions are made on the basis of a simple majority vote of the committee.

(ii) A quorum of 2/3 of committee members is required for committee votes.

(iii) Committee votes are to be conducted on an open vote basis.

(iv) In the event of a tie vote at a meeting of the committee, the President’s vote will serve as tie-breaker.

(v) In the event of a tie vote at a meeting of the committee at which the
President is not present, the Vice-President’s vote will serve as tie-breaker.

(vi) In the event of a tie vote at a meeting of the committee at which the President and Vice-President are not present, the Treasurer’s vote will serve as tie-breaker.

(vii) The results of committee votes will be available to all group members by request. Absent such a request, reporting of committee votes and the results thereof is left to the case-by-case discretion of the committee.

D. Meetings:

(i) Scheduling of regular meetings of the committee is to be determined by the committee.

(ii) Any committee member may call for a special meeting of the committee.

(iii) All committee members must be notified of the date, time, and location of upcoming committee meetings no less than one week prior to the meeting.

E. Constitutional Amendments:

(i) Amendments to the constitution of the MIT Vegan and Vegetarian Society must be approved by a ¾ vote of the committee and a ¾ vote of the full group membership.

F. Officerial Positions

(i) Removal: Officers may be removed by a 3/4 vote of the members and a ½ vote of the committee.

i. Officers also serving on the committee are not removed from the committee on the basis of officerial removal. Removal from the committee must follow the terms for such as detailed above in Article VIII, section A, sub-section (iii)

G. Supersession:

(i) Excepting constitutional Article III: Section 2, and Article III: Section 3, Article VIII hereby supersedes Articles III, IV, and V of the Constitution of the MIT Vegan and Vegetarian Society.