By-Laws of the Student Information Processing Board of the Undergraduate Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

26 April, 1982

Article I – Name

The name of this General Committee of the Undergraduate Association of M.I.T. shall be the Student Information Processing Board (SIPB).

Article II – Purpose

Section 1:

The principal purpose of this Board shall be to provide the M.I.T. community with improved access to computational facilities. Primarily, this will be focused on students who do not readily have access to other computers on which to further some desirable purpose. The secondary purposes of the Board include: serving as a spokesman for undergraduates to the Faculty and Administration in computer-related topics, functioning as an information center for undergraduates interested in the various computers known to the SIPB and in other topics in computer science or computing at M.I.T., as well as conducting, managing, and supporting experiments run by students to advance the techniques of organization, planning, and administration of access to computers.

Section 2:

To this effect, the SIPB shall administer such funds as M.I.T. has allocated to this Board for these functions, subject in purpose and actual operations to the decisions of the M.I.T. administration. The SIPB shall also enter into negotiations with managers of computers affiliated with M.I.T. research projects, to the end that the M.I.T. community may make use of these facilities. Finally, the SIPB shall investigate the possibility of using computers outside of M.I.T. jurisdiction.

Article III – Membership

Section 1:

Full membership in the SIPB is open to all students of the M.I.T. community; associate membership is open to anyone. Any person may join and remain a member of this Board by assenting to its principles as described in these By-Laws and by participating in the work thereof.

Section 2:

An active member of the SIPB is defined as a member in good standing who has participated in furthering the goals of the SIPB for the preceding month. Any member not conforming to these minimum criteria shall be classified as inactive. The status of any member immediately following any academic vacation of duration of a week or more shall be defined to be the status of that member immediately upon beginning that vacation.

Section 3:

Any person applying for full membership in the SIPB shall undergo a probationary period of one month, in which that person may be familiarized with the operation of the Board. After such probationary period, has been served, that person shall become an active full member of the Board by the following procedure: a motion shall be entertained to consider that applicant for membership, and this motion may be carried by a majority of the active full members of the Board present. Absentee and proxy ballots are not permitted. The meeting at which the membership elections for those nominated by the above procedure shall be held may be scheduled no sooner than six (6) days following the meeting at which the motion to consider the applicant(s) for membership was entertained. The Board shall make every reasonable attempt to notify all active full members at least four (4) days preceeding this meeting. These conditions satisfied, new membership shall be obtained by garnering the floor of one half of the total active full membership and the floor of two thirds of the active full members present and voting (floor (total_active_full_membership/2) & floor (present_and_voting * 2/3)).

Section 4:

Revocation of membership status shall be accomplished by the procedure outlined in Section 3, subject to identical restrictions upon meeting schedules and approval required for the carry of the respective motions. A member's membership status may be suspended, until the aforementioned procedure is complete, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the SIPBEC.

Section 5:

An associate member of the SIPB may not vote and may not hold office in the Board, but may participate fully in the work and activities of the SIPB. Consideration of a person for associate membership shall be accomplished by the procedure outlined in Section 3, except that an applicant for associate membership shall not be subject to the probationary period described therein.

Article IV – Executive Committee

Section 1:

The governance and all decision-making of the SIPB shall be vested in a nine-member Executive Committee (SIPBEC), which shall be composed of the four Board officers plus five members-at-large.

Section 2:

The Executive Committee shall be elected by the eligible full (voting) members of the SIPB. To be eligible for voting, a member must be active as defined in Article III.

Section 3:

The officers of the SIPB must be active full members in good standing who have been active members for at least one full term immediately prior to their election. The members-at-large of the SIPBEC shall be active full members in good standing.

Section 4:

All elections shall be by secret ballot. There shall be no campaigning. Elections shall be held annually at the first meeting of the last calendar month of the Spring term, at the descretion of the Executive Committee. Each active full member must be notified by mail of the date of the election and shall receive a list of members eligible for election to the SIPBEC at least seven days in advance, unless the member waives such notification. Nominations will be taken from the floor, and elections held by secret ballot first for Chairman, then for Vice Chairman, then for Treasurer, and finally for Secretary. Following these elections, elections will be held for the five members-at-large by the following method: Each active full member shall be allowed five votes, for five different candidates, and his ballot shall be considered invalid unless exactly five votes are present. Absentee voting is allowed for the purposes of electing the members-at-large. Absentee ballots must contain exactly nine votes, for nine different candidates. In this case, the first five votes appearing on the ballot for members who have not been elected as officers will be counted. Proxy voting is not allowed. Absentee ballots are valid only if received by the time of the election. Persons receiving a plurality of votes shall be considered elected. That is, the five members receiving the largest number of votes. In case of tie for last place, the candidates of the tie shall be chosen by a runoff election to be held as soon as possible. In this runoff election, every eligible member of the SIPB present shall cast a secret ballot containing his choice among the candidates of the tie, and the final member or members of the SIPBEC shall be elected upon receipt of a plurality of the votes.

Section 5:

Vacancies occuring in the SIPBEC shall be filled by special election following the same procedure, at a date determined by the SIPBEC or by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the general active full membership acting together, the latter to override the former.

Article V – Officers and Committees

Section 1:

The Chairman of the Executive Committee shall preside at all meetings of the SIPBEC, shall serve as Chairman of the Board, and shall be in charge of all general meetings thereof. He shall also serve as official spokesman for the SIPB.

Section 2:

The three other officers of the SIPBEC shall be a Vice Chairman, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Vice Chairman shall serve as an advisor to the Chairman, shall preside at the meetings in the Chairman's absence, and shall be in charge of the general operations of the Board. The Secretary shall keep records of all meetings, shall direct all necessary correspondence, shall be charged with maintaining general office records and files, and shall keep records pertaining to the current active or inactive status of all members. The Treasurer shall keep accurate records of all financial dealings of the Board, and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Chairman in matters pertaining to financial policy.

Section 3:

The Executive Committee shall appoint working committees from the general membership of the Board as it deems necessary. At least one member of the Executive Committee shall be on each one of these working committees. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to dissolve any working committee as it deems necessary, and shall have final review of all decisions of said committees.

Section 4:

Those members of the SIPB who shall have charge of a Board service shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to remove any such member for failure to perform his duties, or other violations of these By-Laws, and to appoint another in his place.

Article VI – Meetings

Section 1:

General meetings of the SIPB shall be held periodically, at a time and place arranged by the Executive Committee, or the Chairman thereof, upon notice to all members.

Section 2:

Meetings of the SIPBEC shall be held at the request of any member of the Executive Committee, or in accord with guidelines set down by the SIPBEC, at a time and place arranged by the Chairman. These meetings shall be open to all members of the M.I.T. community unless a meeting is voted closed to non-members of the SIPBEC by a unanimous vote of all Executive Board members present, subject to quorum restrictions. A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3:

The discussion and business of the Executive Committee shall be conducted through the consultation of the members thereof, in a spirit such that each member remains objective, and understands that his ideas, once expressed, become the property of the group, rather than of his own self and desires.

Section 4:

All general meetings of the SIPB shall be open to the public. Business shall be conducted at general meetings subject to the approval of the SIPBEC.

Section 5:

The SIPBEC shall be free to invite any individual to attend its meetings, and shall be free to ask any such person to serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Committee.

Article VII – Review of Decisions

In the case that a decision of the SIPBEC is felt detrimental to the goals or purposes of the SIPB, the general active membership of the SIPB may choose to overrule the decision in question. The procedure for doing so is the same as outlined in Article III, Section 3, which procedure shall be subject to identical restrictions upon meeting schedules and approval required for the carry of the respective motions.

Article VIII – Relations with the M.I.T. Community

Section 1:

All affairs of this Board shall be conducted in light of the purposes described in Article II of these By-Laws. Service to the community should always be uppermost among all considerations.

Section 2:

In cases of dicipline, this Board may choose to withhold its services from certain individuals determined eligible for such treatment by the Executive Committee thereof. In such case, the person(s) deprived of services shall have the right of appeal before a meeting of the Executive Committee.

Section 3:

In severe cases of discipline, the Executive Committee may request more formal action from the Administration or Faculty of M.I.T..

Section 4:

If a person is displeased with a guideline or a ruling of the SIPBEC, or with the execution thereof, or if he has important business to discuss, he may receive an audience at a forthcoming meeting.

Article IX – Amendment

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee of the Student Information Processing Board of M.I.T., subject to the review of the General Assembly of the Undergraduate Association of M.I.T.

Article X – Affiliations

Section 1:

This Board shall be a General Committee of the Undergraduate Association of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. As such, the SIPB is subject to all portions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the aforementioned Undergraduate Association.

Section 2:

This Board shall seek advice from, and abide by, all relevant decisions of the Faculty and of the Administration of M.I.T..

Article XI - Organization

Upon ratification of these By-Laws by the current members of the SIPB, and approval of the General Assembly of the Undergraduate Association of M.I.T., these By-Laws, and the organization of the SIPB outlined herein, go into immediate effect.

Amendment 1 - Election Date

Section 1:

Elections shall be held annually at the second meeting of the first month of the Spring term, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The Election date is subject to the normal override procedures described in Article VII.