

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF THE
Student Engineers' Council

ARTICLE I: NAME

Section 1. The name of this not-for-profit educational organization, 501(c)(3), shall be the Student Engineers' Council (SEC), hereafter referred to as the SEC or the Council.

ARTICLE II: CHARTER

Section 1. The Student Engineers' Council was organized on April 24, 1939, by the Dean of Engineering at Texas A&M University.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE and MISSION

Section 1. The Student Engineers' Council is organized as an association for the exclusive purpose of providing advancement to students in the Dwight Look College of Engineering at Texas A&M University through serving as a liaison between the College of Engineering students and the administration and to inform the administration of the concerns of the students, and by providing programs that promote Texas A&M Engineering and engineering as a whole both on and off campus.

Section 2. The Student Engineers' Council's Mission is:

To serve as a representative voice for the students, societies, and administration within the Dwight Look College of Engineering, to increase engineering awareness, and to provide for professional advancement of Texas A&M Engineering students.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. The Council shall be composed of representatives of Member Societies, Engineering Student Senators, Executive Board, Committee Chairs, LIFE Team Leaders, and Members-at-Large. All Council members in good standing shall be members for a full semester, regardless of a change in the academic classification under which they are elected or appointed. Each member of the Council shall have one vote in all matters acted upon by the Council, unless otherwise stated in the Articles of Association or the Bylaws.

Section 2. Removal of Members

- (a) Members that are not elected officers may be removed from the Student Engineers' Council by the organization's official University advisor or by the organization through a two-thirds vote of the Executive Board during a specially called Executive Board meeting.

- (b) The member must be notified of a vote to remove him/her at least one week in advance, and shall be permitted to speak in his/her defense prior to the vote.
- (c) Any vote by the Executive Board to remove a member may be appealed to the organization's official University advisor within one week of the vote.

ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

- (a) Have at least a 2.50 GPR at the time of their election and post at least a 2.50 GPR for the preceding regular semester or the two preceding summer terms at the time of election and during the term of office; for graduate students the GPR requirement is 3.00,
 - (i) For undergraduate students, the minimum GPR is 2.50. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio *prior* to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).
 - (ii) For graduate students, the minimum GPR is 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio *prior* to election/appointment, at least six credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.
- (b) Be in good standing with the University and enrolled:
 - (i) At least half-time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and
 - (ii) At least half-time (three or more credit hours), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during the term of office,
- (c) Attend all executive and general meetings except for an excused absence,
- (d) Remain active in SEC, and
- (e) Be subject to removal from office by the organization and/or the organization's official University advisor should the officer fail to maintain the requirements described above in (a) to (d).
- (f) Representatives of the Council in good standing at the time of selection, unless otherwise stated in the bylaws.

- (g) Enrollment within the Dwight Look College of Engineering for the entire year to come.
- (h) If selected as an officer, membership on the Council is automatic for the following year.

Section 2. Removal of Elected Officers

- (a) Elected officers may be removed from the organization by the organization's official University advisor or by a supermajority (two-thirds) vote of the General Council. The resolution to remove an elected official by a vote of the General Council must be introduced by a petition containing the signatures of at least twenty (20) percent of the Council.
- (b) The elected officer must be notified of a vote to remove him/her at least two weeks in advance and shall be permitted to speak in his/her defense prior to the vote.

ARTICLE VI: ADVISORS

Section 1. As a sponsored-level student organization at Texas A&M University the Student Engineers' Council is required by the University to have an advisor that meets the following expectations:

- (a) Be a Texas A&M University employee as defined by the Human Resources Department and a full-time professional staff member whose job description designates them as the primary advisor to the Student Engineers' Council. The advisor is to be familiar with the activities of the SEC and have, or obtain, an appropriate level of experience, resources, and knowledge related to the activities, mission, and purpose of the organization.
- (b) Meet with the officers to discuss expectations for roles and responsibilities, and regularly attend executive as well as general meetings, and be available outside those meetings for advice and consultation related to the operations of the organization. The advisor should assist the organization in developing realistic goals for the academic year which will contribute to the educational and personal development of the students involved.
- (c) Participate in event planning and attend events when possible or when identified as necessary through the planning process.
- (d) Be aware of the organization's financial status via review of statements from the Student Organization Finance Center (SOFC), approve financial expenditures, and complete an on-line educational training for the SOFC.
- (e) Be aware of the University Student Rules and other institutional guidelines that establish expectations for student behavior and activities, and ensure that the SEC and its officers know where rules and guidelines are published, what the rules are, why they exist, and the consequences for choosing to operate outside their parameters. As an employee of Texas A&M University the advisor is expected to report all rule violations or potential violations to the appropriate university official. The advisor should also be familiar with the Student Engineers' Council's Articles of Association, By-Laws, and all other governing and operating documents.

ARTICLE VII: MEETINGS

Section 1. General meetings are to be held every week during the semester unless otherwise stated by the Executive Council.

Section 2. Regular meeting dates will be set by the Executive Council. Changes may be agreed upon from time to time, and the Dean of Engineering or the President of the Council as needed may call special meetings.

ARTICLE VIII: QUORUM

Section 1. For all business, other than policy changes, the quorum shall consist of one-half of the membership plus one.

Section 2. For all matters concerning policy, the quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the membership plus one.

ARTICLE IX: ELECTIONS AND VOTING

Section 1. For election or issue votes each member of the council is entitled to one vote. Each member society is also entitled and limited to one vote. A simple majority is required on all matters with the exception of removal from office and amending the Articles of Association or Bylaws, which require a two-thirds majority.

Section 2. Presidential and Vice Presidential elections are held at least four weeks prior to the last general meeting for the academic year. Any member who will be enrolled in the College of Engineering for the entire next year is eligible to run. On the day of elections, candidates will be allowed a set amount of time for their speeches and/or a question and answer session. Official results will be announced at the end of that meeting.

ARTICLE X: AMENDING THE ARTICLES

Section 1. All amendments to the Articles shall be conducted on a one-vote- per member basis with a two-thirds majority necessary to pass all changes.

Section 2. The Bylaws and Articles of Association together act as the SEC constitution with respect to the Department of Student Activities. The SEC constitution is reviewed annually by, and subject to approval of, the Department of Student Activities.

ARTICLE XI: IRS STATUS

Section 1. No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the organization shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article III hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the organization shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the organization shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Section 2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, the purposes of which the association is organized are exclusively charitable, scientific, literary, and educational within the meaning of 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

Section 3. Notwithstanding any other provisions of these articles, this organization shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of the corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law.

ARTICLE XII: DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Upon dissolution of the organization, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of the corresponding provision of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by Court of Common Pleas of the county in which the principal office of the organization is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said court shall determine, which are organized and operated for such purposes.

Section 2. Upon dissolution of the organization and following the aforementioned guidelines, the allocation of SEC assets will be determined by the Fiscal Board, consisting of the Executive Board and Chief Financial Officer, to other engineering societies and/or councils.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our names.

_____ Signature of Advisor	_____ Date	_____ Signature of President	_____ Date
_____ Category Advisor	_____ Date	_____ Director of Student Activities	_____ Date

Revision September 22, 1997
Revision September 3, 1999
Revision April 29, 2001
Revision March 18, 2002
Revision April 12, 2008

Revision March 9, 1998
Revision May 2, 2000
Revision September 3, 2001
Revision September 26, 2005
Revision September 7, 2009