Charter and Standing Policies
of the
Living Group Council
of the
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Enacted by the Living Group Council on
Thursday, February 12, 2009

Part I Charter

Article I Name
A. The name of this organization shall be the Living Group Council of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
B. This organization shall also be known as the LGC

Article II Purpose
A. To act in the collective interests of member houses
B. To represent the collective interests of the member houses
C. To facilitate communication between and among member houses and their members
D. To organize and coordinate shared activities

Article III Voting
A. Voting Privileges
   (1) Each member house shall receive one vote
   (2) Member houses may specify provisions for exercising their vote, including but not limited to:
      • Designating a single representative
      • Majority vote of the house delegation
      • Unanimous vote of the house delegation

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(3) Member houses shall propose such provisions at a meeting of the LGC
(4) New voting provisions take effect at the next standard meeting
(5) The LGC may reject any voting proposal by Simple Majority vote when proposed or when it would otherwise take effect
(6) At the meeting at which the voting provisions are to take effect, the presiding officer shall remind the assembly of the provisions, and if no objections are stated or the LGC votes against all objections, the provisions shall take effect
(7) The Secretary shall maintain records of the current and proposed voting provisions of all member houses in Article II of the Standing Policies
(8) Unless otherwise specified, the vote of each house is exercised by unanimous consensus of the house members present, with abstentions of delegation members not being considered to break such consensus; moreover, a house shall be considered to abstain from voting when either all delegation members abstain or when the delegation contains at least one member voting "yes" and at least one voting "no"

B. Types
(1) Simple Majority shall be defined as more than one-half of the votes cast being "yes"
(2) Second Round Supermajority shall be defined as a Simple Majority at a meeting, and an additional vote as a standard agenda item at the next standard meeting, in which at least three-fourths of the votes cast are in favor
(3) Second Round Full Consensus shall be defined as a Simple Majority at a meeting, and an additional vote as a standard agenda item at the next standard meeting, in which no votes against are cast, and at least half the members of the LGC vote in favor

Article IV Membership
A. The Secretary shall maintain a list of the member houses of the LGC, such list to be maintained in Article I of the Standing Policies
B. New member houses may be admitted by Second Round Supermajority
C. Any member house may be removed by Second Round Supermajority
D. Any member house may withdraw from the LGC at any time
Article V  Officers

A. Terms

(1) Officers shall be elected as a standard agenda item during May (generally, the last meeting of the LGC in the spring term).

(2) Officers take office at the end of the meeting in which they are elected.

(3) Should elections not occur during the last normally scheduled LGC meeting in the spring term, the terms of officers shall expire at the end of the spring term, and the officer positions shall be vacant until new officers are elected by an emergency meeting, which must be called for the purpose of electing these positions before the end of the spring term.

(4) The Active Member Hierarchy is defined by the following ordered grouping: Speaker, Secretary, UA Representative, Representative of Member House

B. Elections

(1) Officers shall be selected by run-off voting, with each house receiving one vote
   i. Voting shall proceed in rounds
   ii. Discussion is permitted between rounds
   iii. In each round, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be dropped
   iv. Should ties occur, the current Speaker shall decide among the tied candidates; in the absence of a current Speaker, the person deciding the result of the election is the next person in line in the Active Member Hierarchy as defined in Article V Section A Part (4).
   When only one candidate remains, that candidate wins the election.

(2) Officerships shall be elected starting with the highest-ranking: first Speaker, then Secretary, and finally other officerships in order of specification in Article III of the Standing Policies

C. Vacancies

(1) The Secretary shall assume the position of Speaker when the position of Speaker is empty, such assumption to leave the position of Secretary vacant
(2) In cases of vacancies, the Speaker may appoint an interim officer until the next standard meeting, when an election for the vacant position may be held.

D. The officers of the LGC shall include the Speaker and the Secretary. It is recommended that these positions be held by members of different member houses.

E. Speaker

(1) Shall be the official representative of the LGC to outside groups (IFC, MIT, etc.)
(2) Shall be the official spokesperson of the LGC
(3) Should make efforts to be in touch with all member houses
(4) Should make efforts to include views of all member houses
(5) Shall set schedules and agenda for meetings
(6) Shall be a Financial Signatory for the LGC
(7) Has the ultimate responsibility for all operations of the LGC, including any joint Rush
(8) Must be an MIT student

F. Secretary

(1) Shall be custodian of all records of the LGC
(2) Shall be responsible for ensuring that the Standing Policies remain updated
(3) Shall publish regular minutes of the meetings of the LGC
(4) Must be an MIT student
(5) Shall assist the Speaker in the attendance of meetings and dealings with the administration, as well as in the administrative work of the LGC.

G. Representative to the Undergraduate Association

(1) Must be an MIT undergraduate student
(2) Shall attend meetings of both the LGC and the UA
(3) Shall keep the LGC updated on the actions of the UA
(4) Shall transmit the concerns of the LGC to the UA, and in general act as the LGC's representative in the UA

H. Removal
(1) Any officer may be removed by Second Round Supermajority
(2) Such removal may be made with or without cause
(3) Any representative may propose the removal of any officers not fulfilling the duties of their office.
(4) Representatives should remove any officers delinquent in their duties

I. By Simple Majority, additional offices can be created or additional duties be assigned, or offices or duties not specified in this charter may be removed

J. Unless otherwise specified in Article III of the Standing Policies, other officers must be MIT students

K. The Secretary shall maintain records of any additional offices or roles in Article III of the Standing Policies

Article VI Meetings

A. Meetings shall occur on a regular basis (at least once every two months) during the Fall and Spring Terms

B. Houses are encouraged to host the meetings, and to rotate the role of host among themselves

C. The time and place for meetings shall be determined by the Speaker. In the event of an inactive Speaker, meetings may be scheduled by following the guidelines in Article VI Section F

D. The agenda shall be set prior to each meeting by the Speaker. In the event of an inactive Speaker, agendas may be set by following the guidelines in Article VI Section F

E. Standard meetings & standard agenda items
   (1) The time, place, and agenda of each standard meeting must be sent to member houses at least twice
   (2) One notification must be sent 2 weeks in advance of the meeting
   (3) Another must be sent 6–36 hours in advance of the meeting
   (4) Standard agenda items shall be those included in both standard rounds of announcements of a standard meeting, and in any other agendas sent by the Speaker or Secretary

F. Member initiation of meetings
   (1) Member houses may request additional meetings to be scheduled by the Speaker. The Speaker schedules such meetings following the
provisions for emergency meetings. In the event of an inactive Speaker, the ability to grant requested additional meetings and the Speaker’s powers in scheduling emergency meetings fall to the next person in the Active Member Hierarchy as defined in Article V Section A Part (4).

(2) Member houses may schedule additional meetings by notifying all other houses

(3) Such notification must include the time, location, and agenda

(4) No business not on the agenda may be addressed at this type of meeting

(5) Such meetings shall be considered official meetings of the LGC upon attendance of a quorum

(6) Should appropriate notification be provided and should all other specifications in “Standard meetings & standard agenda items” be fulfilled, such meetings and agenda items shall be considered standard meetings and standard agenda items, respectively

G. Emergency meetings

(1) The Speaker may schedule emergency meetings

(2) The Speaker must send a meeting announcement, which must include an agenda

(3) Such an agenda shall not include business which is not time sensitive, unless the meeting shall be a standard meeting under “Standard meetings & standard agenda items”

(4) No business not on the agenda may be addressed at the meeting

H. Emergency Agenda items

(1) Items may be added to the agenda up to 48 hours before a meeting by informing all member houses about the item

(2) Items may be added to the agenda in the 48 hours prior to the meeting at the discretion of the Speaker, though the Speaker should notify member houses as soon as possible after learning of the request

I. Meetings shall be open and all present may speak unless decided otherwise by the Speaker

J. Quorum for meetings shall be two-thirds of the membership of the LGC
Article VII Subcommittees

A. By Simple Majority, the LGC may establish subcommittees and bylaws governing them

B. Such subcommittees may have their members designated as houses, officers, or individuals, or some combination thereof

C. Individual committee members shall have a term of one year unless otherwise specified in the committee bylaws

D. If specified in the measure establishing a committee, such committee may pass legislation binding upon the committee members, upon the condition that potential members shall consent to such before joining the committee

E. The Secretary shall maintain a list of the current committees and their bylaws in Article IV of the Standing Policies

Article VIII Funds

A. Funds raised may be designated unrestricted funds or be designated restricted funds, to be spent only for specific purposes or at specific times

B. Unrestricted funds may be spent or re-designated as restricted funds by Simple Majority

C. Restricted funds may be spent on their designated purpose by Simple Majority or as otherwise designated, such as by different voting mechanism or decision by designated committee or officer

D. Restricted funds may be re-designated unrestricted funds by Second Round Supermajority

E. Requests for funding from any fund-granting body may only be made after a Simple Majority vote approves the request, enumerated in the amount to be requested, from whom it will be requested, and whether the granted funds will be designated restricted or unrestricted upon the granting of the request.

Article IX Standing Policies; Order of Precedence; Additional Powers

A. Standing Policies

   (1) The LGC may amend Article V of the Standing Policies (Additional Policies) with non-binding policies through Simple Majority

   (2) The LGC may amend Article VI of the Standing Policies (Additional Binding Policies) through Second Round Full Consensus
(3) Historical Notes (Article VII of the Standing Policies)
   i. The Speaker and other officers as specified in Article III of the Standing Policies may add to the Notes
   ii. The LGC may add to the Notes by Simple Majority
   iii. The LGC may remove items from the Notes or otherwise amend the notes by Simple Majority

(4) The Secretary (or other officer designated in Article III of the Standing Policies) shall ensure that Article VIII of the Standing Policies (Safety and Other Regulations) remains current

B. Precedence

(1) This Charter shall have the highest precedence

(2) Organizational articles of the Standing Policies
   i. Membership (Article I of the Standing Policies)
   ii. Voting Provisions (Article II of the Standing Policies)
   iii. Additional Officers (Article III of the Standing Policies)

(3) Policies articles of the Standing Policies
   i. Additional Binding Policies (Article VI of the Standing Policies)
   ii. Additional Policies (Article V of the Standing Policies)
   iii. No elements of Article V of the Standing Policies shall be binding upon the member houses

(4) Committees and their bylaws (Article IV of the Standing Policies)

(5) Committee legislation, as enabled by their bylaws

(6) Historical Notes (Article VII of the Standing Policies) are in no way binding upon the LGC or member houses, but may provide useful information

(7) Safety and Other Regulations (Article VIII of the Standing Policies) are advisory and shall have no standing as components of the Standing Policies; however, they generally have separate authority as federal or state law, or as MIT rules

C. Additional Powers

(1) The LGC may decide official statements of the LGC (preferably including dissenting views) by Simple Majority

(2) The LGC may act in ways not provided for by this document by Second Round Full Consensus

(3) The LGC may amend this document by Second Round Full Consensus
Part II     Standing Policies

Article I   Membership List
The membership of the LGC shall be as follows:

- Epsilon Theta
- Fenway House
- pika
- MIT Student House
- Women’s Independent Living Group

Article II   Voting Provisions
There are currently no special voting provisions in effect.

Article III   Additional Officers and Roles
A. Secretary

(1) Shall serve as the Treasurer of the LGC
(2) Shall be a Financial Signatory
(3) May add to the Historical Notes (Article VII of the Standing Policies)
(4) Shall maintain Safety and Other Regulations (Article VIII of the Standing Policies)

Article IV   Committees
There are currently no committees.

Article V   Additional Policies
A. Elections

(1) Prior to the vote for each candidate, the candidates and all meeting attendees who are not members of member houses shall leave the room, and the representatives shall have an opportunity to discuss the candidates in private

(2) Should the candidates instead choose selection by rock-paper-scissors, no time need be provided for private discussion

(3) Should a candidate be the sole voting representative of his or her House in attendance (as authorized by Article II of the Standing Policies)
Policies), said candidate may designate another attendee as a proxy

**Article VI  Additional Binding Policies**

There are currently no additional binding policies.

**Article VII  Historical Notes**

**Section 1  Design Goals**

A. The Phoenix Clauses

(1) The LGC should be able to reestablish itself after a hiatus without resorting to extra-legal mechanisms

(2) Member initiation of meetings (Article VI of the Charter, Section F)

(3) Tie-breaking (Article V of the Charter, Section B, Clause (1)iv)

B. Binding Policies

(1) Committees as a mechanism for binding policy-making (Article VII of the Charter): for example, if a common Rush is attempted, a Rush committee could levy fees on houses interested in participating to pay for events or a Rush booklet, and could punish infractions of any Rush rules

(2) Limited binding policies, in recognition of the independence and unique qualities of member houses
Article VIII  Safety and Other Regulations

Section 1  MIT Alcohol Policy

9.3.2 Policy on the Use of Alcohol

MIT observes all laws and regulations governing the sale, purchase, and serving of alcoholic beverages by all members of its community and expects that these laws will be adhered to at all events associated with the Institute. This includes activities on the MIT campus, in MIT independent living groups, and at off-campus functions sponsored and supported by MIT or any of its affiliated groups.

The Institute does not intend through its guidelines or policies to restrict the responsible use of alcohol by members of the MIT community who are at or above the legal drinking age. Efforts to observe existing laws and regulations in an environment in which the majority of the undergraduate student body is not of drinking age will, however, almost certainly impose some constraints on those who are of age.

No alcoholic beverages may be served or consumed in any work area of the Institute at any time, except in Institute dining areas or at official Institute functions when expressly authorized by a member of the Academic Council. Institute funds may not be used by student-run organizations to purchase alcohol. This includes both graduate and undergraduate groups and residence halls. As a result, “house taxes” and student activities funds may not be used to purchase alcohol; however, they may be used to hire bonded bartenders and/or party monitors.

MIT departments, including academic departments, laboratories and centers, and administrative units, may not use Institute funds to purchase alcohol for events where persons under the age of 21 are present. This prohibition may be waived with the approval of the relevant dean, vice president, or other member of the Academic Council, based on a determination that the requirements for serving alcohol at events are understood and will be observed.

All non-student-sponsored events where alcohol is served must be registered through the Conference Services Office, after being authorized by a member of the Academic Council. All student-sponsored events where alcohol is served must be registered through the Residential Life and Student Life Programs Office, after being authorized by the appropriate dean in the Office of the Dean of Students and Undergraduate Education.

Violations of this policy may be grounds for serious disciplinary action, up to and including discharge.

Section 2  MIT Policy on Harassment

9.5 Policy on Harassment

Harassment of any kind is not acceptable behavior at MIT; it is inconsistent with the commitment to excellence that characterizes MIT’s activities. MIT is
committed to creating an environment in which every individual can work, study, and live without being harassed. Harassment may therefore lead to sanctions up to and including termination of employment or student status.

Harassment is any conduct, verbal or physical, on or off campus, that has the intent or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual or group’s educational or work performance at MIT or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational, work, or living environment. Some kinds of harassment are prohibited by civil laws or by MIT policies on conflict of interest and nondiscrimination.

Harassment on the basis of race, color, gender, disability, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, or age includes harassment of an individual in terms of a stereotyped group characteristic, or because of that person’s identification with a particular group.

Sexual harassment may take many forms. Sexual assault and requests for sexual favors that affect educational or employment decisions constitute sexual harassment. However, sexual harassment may also consist of unwanted physical contact, requests for sexual favors, visual displays of degrading sexual images, sexually suggestive conduct, or offensive remarks of a sexual nature.

The Institute is committed under this policy to stopping harassment and associated retaliatory behavior. All MIT supervisors have a responsibility to act to stop harassment in the areas under their supervision.

Any member of the MIT community who feels harassed is encouraged to seek assistance and resolution of the complaint. MIT provides a variety of avenues by which an individual who feels harassed may proceed, so that each person may choose an avenue appropriate to his or her particular situation. Institute procedures are intended to protect the rights of both complainant and respondent, to protect privacy, and to prevent supervisory reprisal.

See Dealing with Harassment at MIT for more information (available electronically at http://web.mit.edu/communications/hg/). General complaint procedures are described in Section 9.6 Complaint and Grievance Procedure

Section 3 Massachusetts State Law Statement on Hazing

CHAPTER 269. CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC PEACE.

Chapter 269: Section 17. Hazing; organizing or participating; hazing defined.

Section 17. Whoever is a principal organizer or participant in the crime of hazing, as defined herein, shall be punished by a fine of not more than three thousand dollars or by imprisonment in a house of correction for not more than one year, or both such fine and imprisonment.

The term "hazing" as used in this section and in sections eighteen and nineteen, shall mean any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure
to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, consent shall not be available as a defense to any prosecution under this action.

Chapter 269: Section 18. Failure to report hazing.

Section 18. Whoever knows that another person is the victim of hazing as defined in section seventeen and is at the scene of such crime shall, to the extent that such person can do so without danger or peril to himself or others, report such crime to an appropriate law enforcement official as soon as reasonably practicable. Whoever fails to report such crime shall be punished by a fine of not more than one thousand dollars.

Section 4   WILG & No6: Policy for Social Events with Alcohol

October 24th 2008

Purpose

WILG and the No6 Club, members of the MIT LGC, wish to be able to host social events with alcohol. The purpose of this document is to detail risk management policies and monitoring procedures both houses will follow to ensure that the social events are run safely.

Judicial Oversight

The LGC does not have an effective judicial procedure for risk management violations occurring at member organization’s social events with alcohol.

Given this, both Houses request that decisions on the responses to all risk management violations be decided directly by MIT staff in a panel approved by the COD.

Auditors

1. Each House will have appointed at any time two or more Risk Management Auditors

2. Risk Management Auditors must receive risk management training upon being appointed. Training is to be approved by the CDSA Office.

3. Each Risk Management Auditor will serve this position for one academic year.

4. In order for a social event with alcohol to proceed, the house not hosting the event must have assigned a trained Risk Management Auditor to the event.
Auditing and Violation

1. The assigned Risk Management Auditor must inspect the event at its start; again at one and a half hours in; and at the event's closing time. The Auditor should insure that Risk Management policies and commonsense safety are being followed at the event.

2. The Risk Management Auditor will use the appropriate Risk Management Checklist. The Risk Management Checklist will not determine the outcome of judicial proceedings.

3. In the event of a violation being observed, the Risk Management Auditor must: immediately inform the host organization of the risk management policy violation so that it can be corrected; give a written report of observations to the FSILG Office for oversight purposes.

4. This report must also be copied to the violating house.

5. The violating house may then give a statement for the benefit of the oversight process.

6. In case of a major or repeated violation (see Risk Management Checklist), the Risk Management Auditor will shut down the event.

Risk Management Policy

1. All Houses must know and follow: all laws and regulations; MIT policies, including the MIT Good Samaritan Policy; FIPG and other applicable insurance policy restrictions; and LGC Risk Management Policies.

2. All social events with alcohol must be registered in person with the FSILG Office 2 Institute business days in advance of the event.

3. All joint-social events between houses must have external Risk Auditors identified at the party registration.

4. Houses must have [2/3] of residents PartySafe trained, with training to be approved by the CDSA Office.

For the benefit of education, a non-exhaustive list of resulting policies for social events with alcohol is provided below. This does not limit the responsibilities of houses to know policies they must follow but are not here detailed. Clarifications of certain policy points are detailed to highlight procedures that houses must follow.

Education and Expectations for Social Events with Alcohol Risk Management

Social Events with Alcohol Policy Education

1. State law prohibits those under the age of 21 from being given or from consuming alcoholic beverages.
2. FIPG Insurance policy requires that all social events with alcohol be BYOB or third-party vendor and that alcoholic beverages not be purchased using house funds.

3. Parties must end by 1am.

4. The use of bulk-quantity alcohol sources, such as hard alcohol, kegs, minikegs or cases, is prohibited. These sources must not be present at the social event. Only alcohol sources below 25 proof are permitted at the social event.

5. Social events with alcohol cannot have any form of public advertisement, including online digital posters and mass email invitations.

Procedures for Admittance Control

1. Each entrance and exit to an event must be monitored by a non-consuming individual.

2. No visibly intoxicated individual may be admitted to an event.

3. Once an event has closed, no new guest can be admitted into the house.

4. No more than 150 (or fire-code occupancy limit of building, if lower) attendants may be at a party. Door monitors must count admittances to ensure attendance remains under this limit.

5. All attendants must be on pre-determined guest list; a copy of the guestlist must be given to the FSILG Office at event registration.

6. As guests arrive at an event, the door monitor must check that the individual is on the guest list.

7. Two lists must be kept, numbered and in order, at the door. One list is for guests over 21 and the other is for guests under 21. Together, these lists should account for all guests present at the event.

8. Those who do not show proof of age to drink must have a non-washable mark placed on the same hand that would have otherwise had a wristband applied.

9. Houses must have wristbands available to mark those guests who are of legal age and who wish to drink; all individuals with valid age identification who wish to consume alcohol must be fitted with a wristband.

10. Guests may not be re-admitted.
Procedures for Event Monitoring

1. The event monitors must be non-consuming and present until their duty for the event has ended.

2. Event Monitors must have received the CDSA PartySafe training.

3. There must be at least one event monitor per 50 guests per room of the party.

4. In addition, at least one House Manager and/or Social Chair should be non-consuming.

5. All events should have at least one party monitor outside of the house to ensure that there are no problems outside of the residence and to prevent intoxicated persons from entering.

Procedures for BYOB Procedure

1. Only guests of legal drinking age may check beverages at the door. A maximum of six 12 oz beer cans or four 16 oz beer cans or four wine coolers may be checked in per person. NO hard liquor may be allowed into the event.

2. The door guard will take the beverages and have them delivered to the serving area.

3. The door guard will give the guests tickets, which correspond to the number of drinks the guest has checked.

4. When the guest wants a drink, the bartender will make one mark on the wristband of the guest, take a ticket, and give the guest a drink. No visibly intoxicated guests may be served. Once the guest has six marks on their wristband, the wristband must be removed and they must not be served any more alcohol.

5. Unused alcohol shall not be returned to a guest immediately following the party, but can be picked up the following day.

6. Guests may only bring alcohol through this check-in procedure.

Procedures for Serving of Alcohol

1. All alcohol beverages must be served following the BYOB procedure or served by a third-party vendor.

2. All servers of alcohol must be PartySafe trained, be 21 years old or older, and remain non-consuming until their duty for the event has ended.

3. Alcohol must be attended at all times.
4. Service of alcohol must end 30 minutes prior to the scheduled ending of the event.

5. Non-alcoholic beverages and food must be readily available and accessible.

6. Alcohol should not be served to any individual who is visibly intoxicated, does not have a proper wristband or whose hand has been marked as an underage guest.

7. Any guest found to possess any alcohol of any kind without a wristband, any guest found to be distributing alcohol to anyone without a wristband, or any guest found to be distributing alcohol to anyone who is visibly intoxicated, must be immediately removed from the event and not permitted re-entry.

8. No more than one drink can be served to a guest at one time.

9. Unattended alcoholic containers must be disposed of.

10. Drinking games are prohibited.

Additional Resources

1. Emergency Medical Transport Service: 100 from any campus phone

2. Alcohol & Other Drug Policy and Procedure Information: http://web.mit.edu/alcohol

3. Urgent Care at MIT Medical (24 hours / day): http://web.mit.edu/medical, 617-253-1311


5. Alcoholics Anonymous (AA; campus alcohol support meeting): 617-253-2916

6. Community Development & Substance Abuse Center for Prevention, Policy, and Research: http://cdsa.mit.edu/, 617-253-3276 (Info, speakers, programs)

7. Center for Health Promotion (Information, educational speakers and programs): http://web.mit.edu/medical/services/sconsultations.html, 617-253-1316

8. Nightline (MIT student peer listening hotline): http://web.mit.edu/nightline/, 617-253-8800 (7pm-7am)
## Part III  Changes

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<td>Alex Dehnert</td>
<td>Initial authoring</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Alex Dehnert</td>
<td>Second draft</td>
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<td>January 8, 2009</td>
<td>Alex Dehnert</td>
<td>Third draft, based on further reflection and reading about parliamentary procedure</td>
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<td>January 9, 2009</td>
<td>Alex Dehnert</td>
<td>Fourth draft, based on comments at the LGC meeting</td>
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