

WESTERN ENGINEERING STUDENTS' SOCIETIES TEAM



Constitution of the Western Engineering Students' Societies Team

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Article 1: Preamble

At the Western Engineering Conference and Competition in 1993, hosted by the University of Saskatchewan, student representatives from each accredited engineering faculty in the four Western Canadian provinces decided on the need to form an alliance of all their undergraduate students' societies. This alliance, the Western Engineering Students' Societies Team, was thus created, and its structure, mandate, and existence was to be reviewed in the following years.

At the Western Engineering Students' Societies Team Retreat in 2000, the structure, mandate, and existence of this organization were once again examined, and it was decided by all member societies present, that the Western Engineering Students' Societies Team, although effective in meeting the goals it had previously created, was in need of reworking.

This document is the result of the brainstorming, thought-sharing, and hard work of all the people involved in the Western Engineering Students' Societies Team, from its conception in 1993 to present time.

Article 2: Vision Statement

To better our student societies through an informal association of information and a sharing of ideas to learn about people and schools involved with WESST.

Article 3: Organization

The name of the organization shall be the "Western Engineering Students' Societies Team." This name shall be represented by the abbreviations "WESST."

Article 4: Purpose

The purpose of WESST is that of communication, representation, and resource sharing for its members.

4.1 Communication

WESST shall facilitate the communication between member schools, and encourage members to use WESST as a tool to better their own Student Society, through the exchange of information with other member societies.

4.2 Representation

WESST shall be the unified voice of engineering students in Western Canada and will represent all of the member societies. WESST shall act on behalf of its member schools, to other student societies, to industry, professional associations, and to the Canadian Federation of Engineering Students (CFES).

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4.3 Resource Sharing

As well as encouraging member schools to communicate efficiently with each other, WESST will also promote the exchange of resources, including, but not limited to: event summaries, summaries of services, and programs and benefits offered to society members.

Article 5: Meetings, Conferences, and Competitions

5.1 There are three events that are put on by WESST: Olympics, Retreat, and the Western Engineering Competition (WEC). Organization of these events is outlined in Article 8 of the policy manual.

5.2 WESST shall use the regional meeting of the annual CFES Congress as a chance to meet.

5.3 The Executive Council may hold extra meetings if deemed necessary.

Article 6: Membership

6.1 Member Societies

WESST is an affiliation of engineering societies which represent undergraduate engineering students at accredited programs across western Canada.

Both voting and non-voting member schools that pay their membership fees in full, as defined in Article 7 of the Constitution, are considered members in good standing. Both voting and non-voting member societies who do not pay their student fees will have all their rights and privileges, as defined in Article 6.2 of the Constitution, suspended.

The voting member societies are as follows:

- Simon Fraser University Engineering Science Student Society (SFU)
- University of Alberta Engineering Students' Society (U of A)
- University of British Columbia Engineering Undergraduate Society (UBC)
- University of Calgary Engineering Students' Society (U of C)
- University of Manitoba Engineering Society (U of M)
- University of Regina Engineering Students' Society (U of R)
- Saskatoon Engineering Students' Society (U of S)
- University of Victoria Engineering Students' Society, Stream A (UVic A)
- University of Victoria Engineering Students' Society, Stream B (UVic B)

The non-voting member societies are as follows:

- University of Northern British Columbia Environmental Engineering Students' Association (UNBC)

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6.2 Rights and Privileges of Members

6.2.1 Rights and Privileges of Non-Voting Members

- All non-voting members in good standing of WESST have the following privileges:
 - o the privilege to attend all WESST events
 - o the privilege to compete in WEC
 - o the privilege to represent WESST at CEC

6.2.2 Rights and Privileges of Voting Members

- The rights of voting members in good standing of WESST have the same privileges as non-voting members.
- Additionally, the members societies in good standing of WESST possess the following rights:
 - o the right to vote on any issues presented to the administrative council and elect representatives to the WESST executive council, as defined in Article 8
 - o the right to nominate candidates for any positions on the WESST executive council, present motions or amendments
 - o the right to have members of their societies presented as candidates for any positions within the WESST executive council.
 - o the right to host the Western Engineering Competition.

Article 7: Membership Fees

All member societies will pay student fees to WESST, due annually at the WESST Retreat. Membership fees for WESST are set at \$0.25 per undergraduate engineering student registered full-time in a member schools' university. The number of students used in determining the membership fee is that which is reported at the last CFES Congress. The membership is good for one year. Use of these fees is outlined in the Article 6 of the Policy Manual.

Article 8: Officers of WESST

All officers of WESST must be members of member societies of WESST, as defined in Article 6 of the Constitution.

8.1 Executive Council

8.1.1 List of Officers

The list of officers for the WESST Executive Council is the following: President, Vice-President Communications, Vice-President Finance, and Chair of the Western Engineering Conference and Competition.

8.1.2 Terms of Office

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The term of office of the members of the Executive Council shall begin immediately following the closing of the plenary session at the CFES Congress, and shall run until the closing of the plenary session at the CFES Congress the following year. The only exception is the WEC Chair, whose term shall begin at the closing of WEC the year previous the year they are intended to host the conference and competition. Their term shall run until the closing of the WEC that they are chairing

8.1.3 Roles of Officers

The officers of the Executive Council of WESST are responsible for all duties outlined in the Policy Manual, as well as all fulfilling all mandates put forward by the Administrative Council.

8.1.4 Elections

The Executive Council shall be voted upon at the annual WESST Retreat, in accordance to electoral procedure as outlined in Article 4 of the Policy Manual.

8.1.5 Removal and Replacement

Procedure for removal and replacement of Executive Council members is outlined in Article 5 of the Policy Manual.

8.2 Administrative Council

The Administrative Council of WESST is a grouping of the Executive Council, and one representative from each member society. The Administrative Council shall vote on matters of sufficient importance, and shall elect the Executive Council. The Administrative Council shall give direction to the Executive Council on how to properly administer the finances and resources of WESST. The Administrative Council has ultimate control over the actions of the Executive Council.

8.2.1 Executive Council

All members of the Executive Council are also on the Administrative Council. The executive council can vote on motions, but their vote shall be considered as only a single vote. The outgoing executive may only vote in elections for the incoming Executive Council in order to break a tie, as described in Article 4 of the Policy Manual. At the CFES Congress during the regional meetings, and at the WESST Retreat, it is the outgoing executive that has voting rights.

8.2.2 WESST Representatives – VP External

All member schools have one vote on the Administrative Council. Each member society is allowed to have one person who is the representative of their society to the administrative council. By default, this person shall be their Vice-President External, but this duty can be delegated to another qualified member of their society.

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Article 9: General Meeting

9.1 The Annual General Meeting of WESST shall be held between October 15th and November 30th of each year at WESST Retreat.

9.2 A special general meeting may be called by a two-thirds majority of the WESST administrative council.

9.3 Quorum for any general meeting shall consist of a **representative from no less than two-thirds of** the voting member schools.

9.4 Proxy votes are permitted, but must be **received by the Executive Council prior to the meeting in question.**

Article 10: Constitution

10.1 The constitution can be amended with the approval of the administrative council by a vote of two-thirds majority.

10.2 This version of the Constitution shall replace all previous versions of the Constitution.