

Impeachment and Removal from Office

Members of the Council may be impeached and removed from office for the following reasons:

1. Unethical behavior.
2. Failure to adhere the regulations of the Council.
3. Inability to fulfill the responsibilities of the office.
4. Absence from two or more regular or special Council meetings during one semester without a legitimate excuse. Absence from committee meetings may not be a reason for impeachment.

To initiate the impeachment procedure, a Council Member must distribute a written memo to all other Council Members, stating the reasons for impeachment. The memo can be distributed by that Member or anonymously through the President of the Council. All of the Members shall be notified at least one week prior to impeachment proceedings. On the first meeting following that week, a decision to impeach is made by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Board. The Member who is being impeached cannot participate in the vote and may not be present in the meeting room during the vote. That Member (and only that Member) has a right to speak for his or her defense during that meeting before the voting. If the vote for impeachment did not pass, the Member who was being impeached cannot be impeached during the next two weeks. Moreover, that Member cannot be impeached for same reasons again until the end of current semester. If so happens, that the reasons for which that Member was being impeached persist (for example, that Member continues to miss Council meetings without a legitimate excuse), this persistence qualifies as a new reason for impeachment.

If the Council voted to impeach that Member, a notice of impeachment is sent to all Council Members. During the next meeting the impeached Member may also be removed from office. That Member (and only that Member) has a right to speak for his or her defense. Following defense, or if no speech was made, a vote is performed to remove that Member from his or her office. The Member who is being removed from office cannot participate in the vote and may not be present in the meeting room during the vote. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board is required for removal from office. In case the required number of votes is achieved, the impeached Member must leave his or her office immediately. This office becomes vacant and must be filled in accordance with Constitution and By-Laws of the Council. If the vote for removal from office does not pass, that Member shall remain impeached until his or her term ends.

In this case, that impeached Member may still be removed from office, but the procedure may only be initiated after two weeks following the previous vote for removal from office. To remove that Member from his or her office, a Council Member must distribute a written memo to all Council Members, stating the reasons for removal from office. These reasons must be different each time this procedure is repeated. The memo can be distributed by that Member or

anonymously through the President of the Council. All of the Members shall be notified at least one week prior to vote. On the first meeting following that week, a vote to remove that person from office is performed, following the same rules as the first vote for removal from office. This procedure must be carried in full; otherwise the decision to remove a Member from his or her office is not legitimate and void.