

Information with regards to the Referendum Questions

1. ByLaws

The Bylaws presented for adoption were drafted by the ECA's Policy Committee, with input from legal counsel. They were approved by the ECA's Board of Directors and the ECA's Council.

Following are the major changes from the bylaws adopted in 2006.

- Removes ambiguity in decision-making structure
It was unclear who had what decision-making authority. In the proposed changes, it is unambiguously stated that the board of directors has total legal control (as is required by law).
- Clarified definition of membership
Previously it was unclear whether the following were ECA members: students registered in a course in ENCS but not registered in an ENCS program; students who are registered in a program but not currently taking a course; students who have been temporarily suspended from the program.
- Change in membership of the board of directors
The board is being increased to include non-executives, to allow for greater oversight over the ECA's decision-making. The exact changes to its membership are outlined below.
- Changes to council
It is being renamed to Advisory Council, and executives will no longer have voting power. It is also being given the power to compel the board to produce reports on matters it finds relevant.
- Added policy on records and transparency
Provisions have been added which dictate what records must be stored by the ECA, and what must be available online to students.
- Removal of the year representatives
These positions have not been filled for many years.
- Added policy on elections
Certain crucial provisions with respect to elections have been incorporated into the bylaws.
- Clarification of the duties and mandates for each position
These were not previously included in the bylaws.
- Clarification of member associations
Constitutions of member associations must now define the basics required to be a functional organization. A recognition process has been added, and responsibilities have been clearly outlined.

	2006 Bylaws	2015 Bylaws
board of directors (elected by the membership)	8 executives	8 executives 4 departmental representatives 4 independent representatives
council/advisory council	8 executives 4 departmental representatives 1 representative per society	1 representative per society all (16) directors as non-voting members
member associations (commonly known as societies)	basic definition	differentiation between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ECA societies, which are unincorporated entities and - Affiliated chapters, which are independent organizations

This question is put to the members to approve or deny the Bylaws.

Should the proposed bylaws pass, the 4 independent representatives will be appointed by the board for this year only; in future years, they will be elected by the members.

2. Equipment Fund

Equipment Fund was established in 1987 by referendum for the purpose of "upgrading the quality of the Engineering and Computer Science lab equipment and facilities at Concordia". This has served to upgrade lab equipment and facilities in the ENCS Faculty. For example, in 2014-2015, the following were partially funded:

- HM-170 Open Wind Tunnel system and accessories for BLDG 365;
- 8 Perpetual Licenses of Unity Pro 5.x Game Development and Visualization Suite for COMP 376, COMP 476, and COMP-477;
- Metal Evaporator for ELEC 421, ELEC 422, and ELEC 424; and
- Inverted Digital Microscope (200-2000X) with camera and software for MECH 321, MECH 421, MECH 423, MECH 425, and MECH 424.

Its purpose was amended in 2005, by request of the ECA Board of Directors and the ECA Council, to add "support of activities to promote leadership, entrepreneurship, excellence and the enhancement of the academic experience of students in the Faculty". This has served mostly to fund competitions and conferences of the ECA and its societies. For example, in 2014-2015, the following were partially funded:

- Registration for IIE conference;
- Registration for CS Games;
- Robot build for EngGames's Machine Team;
- New lab equipment for IEEE Concordia;
- Design Build Fly competition for CASI;
- ConSat-1, ConSat-2, Rocketry, and Robotics competitive teams for Space Concordia; and
- All competitive teams for SAE.

This question is put to the members to approve or deny the 2005 revision to the Equipment Fund's mandate; normal procedure would dictate a referendum question, but this was not done at the time.

Should the result be yes, the mandate of Equipment Fund will be the following:

"upgrading laboratory and computer equipment, supporting activities enhancing the academic experience, and improving facilities for students".

Should the result be no, the mandate of Equipment Fund will be the following:

"to help upgrade the Quality of the Engineering and Computer lab equipment and facilities at Concordia".

3. Data Sharing

The ECA is a legally accredited student association under the Quebec law *An Act Respecting the Accreditation and Financing of Students' Associations* (CQLR c A-3.01). Article 31 of that law reads as follows:

31. An educational institution shall, if an accredited students' association or alliance so requests, furnish it with a list of the students at the institution; the list shall indicate, in addition, the address of the place of residence and the telephone number of each student together with the title of the course of study in which the student is registered and, with his authorization, his identification number.

The ECA is requesting that students authorize the University to give their student identification numbers to the ECA along with the membership list. This information would be used to facilitate the verification of membership status of students. Currently, this may only be performed by the Dean of Students with a delay of at least two weeks.