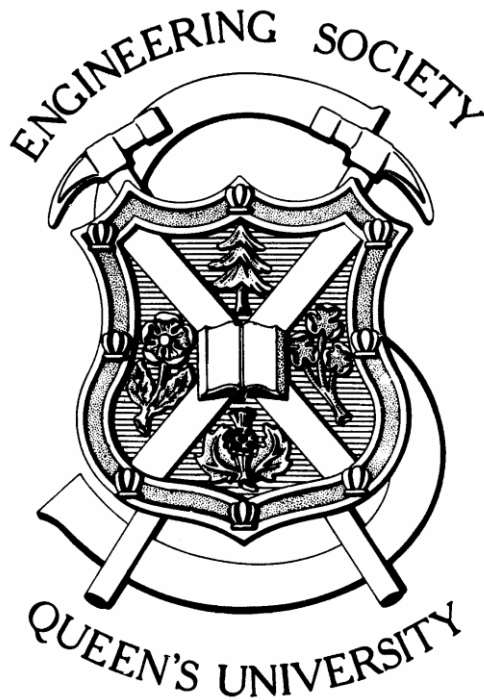


The **Representation Policy Manual**
of the **Engineering Society of**
Queen's University



Beamish-Munro Hall
Queen's University
Kingston, Ontario
K7L 3N6

Preamble: The Engineering Society represents the interests of undergraduate Applied Science students at Queen's University - to the Faculty, the University, the Alma Mater Society, the Kingston Community, and the Ontario and federal governments. Officers lobbying external organizations on behalf of engineering students must petition for policies in accordance to with the beliefs of Council. This representation policy shall be the position of the Engineering Society of Queen's University on issues affecting engineering students.

A. THE POSITIONS OF THE SOCIETY:

Part I: Rights and Freedoms

1. Commitment to the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms: The Engineering Society of Queen's University, recognizing that the universities and colleges of Canada are fundamental to the Canadian tradition of intellectual development through tolerance and respect of all cultures and beliefs, hereby affirms its devotion to the values entrenched in the Canadian Constitution through the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and pledges that in the application of its procedural and representational policies, it shall treat all members and member organizations equitably, and in a fashion consistent with the principles of due process enshrined within the Charter.

2. Designation of December 6th: The Engineering Society is committed to being a non-discriminatory organization. Concerned by issues of violence against women, the Engineering Society supports the designation of December 6th as a date to remember the killing of fourteen women at École Polytechnique on December 6th, 1989, and to reflect on issues that relate to violence against women, both in our community, nationally and globally.

It is the position of the Engineering Society that:

- 1) December 6th continue to be a designated day of remembrance at Queen's University.
- 2) December 6th continue to be appropriately observed by the cancellation of classes, exams and other academic commitments.

Part II: Quality of Education

1. Expectations of the Quality of Education in Applied Science: Quality of education to a Queen's Engineering student is the provision and cultivation of an environment which

actively promotes and encourages students' quest for knowledge. Such support requires:

- 1) Excellence in instruction and pedagogy,
- 2) Exceptional instructional facilities,
- 3) Innovative and applicable curricula, and
- 4) A welcoming, discursive, open and supportive community environment.

2. Teaching Assistants: The Engineering Society recognizes that Teaching Assistants (TAs) play an integral role in the provision of undergraduate education. It is essential that TAs are selected and trained in accordance with practices designed to ensure they are able to contribute positively to undergraduate education.

It is the position of the Engineering Society that:

- 1) TAs must receive mandatory training including ongoing, readily available access to support and resources from both their departments and the Instructional Development Center to assist them in improving their marking and instructional technique.
- 2) TAs must be fluent in English and it is the responsibility of the Faculty to ensure that such language instruction as is needed is made easily available to TAs.
- 3) The Faculty should develop and utilize evaluation mechanisms to ensure TAs are providing undergraduates with satisfactory levels of instruction.
- 4) TAs will not privately tutor or run any type of additional tutorials, for profit, for any student in a class in which they serve as a teaching assistant.

Part III: University Funding and Tuition

1. The Government's Responsibility: The Society believes that education is a public good that benefits Canadian society at large and thus governments have an indisputable responsibility to provide adequate funding for Post -Secondary Education. Government funding should, at minimum, match inflationary increases in institutional costs.

2. Increases in Tuition: The Engineering Society only supports increases in Applied Science tuition, providing:

- 1) Applied Science students experience a recognizable enhancement of the quality in education in proportion with such increases in tuition OR such increases are necessary to match inflationary increases in institutional costs and preserve current operations.
- 2) Accessibility of Applied Science education to any reasonably qualified student is ensured beyond any doubt.
- 3) No potential applicant is deterred from applying or student prohibited from completing their degree because of undue financial considerations.

3. Commodity Priced Tuition: The Engineering Society refutes the principle that tuition should be commodity-priced to match expected earning potential. Tuition should be proportional to the quality of education provided and the cost of providing this education.

4. Withdrawal due to Financial Constraints: Should any student be required to withdraw from Applied Science at Queen's University solely due to financial reasons, the Engineering Society believes that the Dean of Applied Science should be made personally responsible for finding a financial means for the student to complete their degree.

5. Re-Regulation: The Engineering Society believes that Ontario engineering programs should not be re-regulated unless the government of Ontario funds engineering programs at the level required to deliver an excellent quality of education sustainably.

6. Tuition Forecasting: The Engineering Society believes that the Dean of Applied Science should annually present the forecasted tuition fees for the next four years to the Engineering Society Council. The Dean of Applied Science should immediately inform the Engineering Society Executive if the Faculty ever plans to exceed forecasted tuition levels with appropriate justification.

7. International Fees: The Engineering Society believes that international students should receive the high quality of education which they seek, and pay for, at Queen's. International students should be provided exceptional academic and social resources to adjust to studying in Canada and to excel. International fees should be set to cover the cost of educating an international student. They should not be used by the University or the Faculty as a "cash cow." International fees should increase no more than the dollar amount that Canadian residents' fees increase in any one year.

Part IV: Social Policy

8. Drinking Age: The Engineering Society believes that the Province of Ontario should lower its legal drinking age to 18.

Part V: External Representation

9. External Alignment: The Engineering Society believes that the interests of the members of the of Queen's University are best represented externally by the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance (OUSA).