



Michigan Mars Rover Team
Wilson Center Student Team Project Center
2603 Draper Dr. Ann Arbor, MI 48109
rover@umich.edu | mrover.org

Michigan Mars Rover Team

Constitution and By-laws

Revised May 2021

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Michigan Mars Rover Team Constitution

Revised June 2021

Article I – Team Name & Affiliation

The name of this organization shall be the Michigan Mars Rover Team, hereafter referred to as MRover. MRover is an affiliate of the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

Article II – Statement of Purpose

MRover is a student-run, multidisciplinary team whose mission is to cultivate an inclusive environment for students to pursue and develop an interest in robotics for space exploration. Students gain and apply engineering and teamwork skills by designing, building, and testing a rover to compete and place in the Rover Challenge Series. Additionally, we use our platform to inspire a love for space and promote STEM education for K-12 students through various outreach events.

Article III – Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility

Membership to MRover shall be open to all University of Michigan students, regardless of academic major, year of study, or academic standing. The Michigan Mars Rover Team is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in its membership or activities. Upon joining the organization, all members agree not to undermine the purpose or mission of the Michigan Mars Rover Team.

Section 2 – Induction

An individual shall become a member of MRover by completing a one-on-one meeting with at least one member of leadership. If the student regularly attends team meetings and fills out the appropriate roster, they shall be considered a member of MRover.

Article IV – Executive Board

Section 1 – Executive Board

The Executive Board of MRover shall consist of at least five distinct officers. The specific positions depend on the specific needs of the team during the academic year. Most recently, the officers of the team are the President, Chief Engineer, Treasurer, Public Relations Officer, and Corporate Relations Officer. One person shall not hold more than one of these offices but may hold other positions on MRover.

Section 2 - President

The President shall be responsible for: charting the vision and long-term development of MRover including implementing our DEI plan, coordinating team social events, and coordinating logistics for competitions. They will work with the Chief Engineer to maintain and enforce a schedule of technical and logistical milestones. They will also represent MRover at Wilson Center Team Project Center Meetings.

Section 3 – Chief Engineer

The Chief Engineer shall be responsible for: assuring the technical quality of the final rover product; maintaining a document to track of critical design parameters, parts, connections, and other relevant information. The Chief Engineer has final say in engineering and design decisions. They will work with the President to maintain and enforce a schedule of technical and logistical milestones.

Section 4 – Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for: maintaining the budget, reporting expenses, managing sponsorship money, and reserving rooms.

Section 5 – Public Relations Officer

The Public Relations Officer shall be responsible for: maintaining our website and social media accounts, maintaining the email lists and rosters including the alumni database, designing team apparel, and leading public outreach to support DEI efforts.

Section 6 – Corporate Relations Officer

The Corporate Relations Officer shall be responsible for: all interactions with sponsors, including but not limited to preparing a sponsorship packet, creating and renewing sponsorships, maintaining

relations with active sponsors via a newsletter and other forms of contact, and organizing meetings between sponsors and the team.

Section 7 – Additional Officers

The Executive Board shall have the right to create or abolish officer positions.

Section 8 – Advisors

An advisor of MRover shall help the President in charting the long-term development of the team. An advisor shall also provide input upon request of the team to facilitate research, design, and construction activities, as well as to improve the public outreach program.

Article V – Team Composition

Section 1 – Branches

The project is primarily divided into the Mechanical, Electrical, Software, Science, and Systems branches.

Each branch shall be directed by a branch lead. Branch leads are responsible for overseeing their branches and communicating with other branches.

Section 2 – Sub-teams

Each branch can be divided into subteams responsible for specific subsystems. Members are encouraged to join a specific subteam but are welcome to make contributions to more than one subsystem.

Each subteam shall be directed by a subteam lead. Subteam leads shall keep all team members and the Executive Board informed of progress and problems.

Article VI – Operations

Section 1 – Leadership Eligibility

The leadership team include all members of the Executive Board, branch and subteam leads, and senior advising members. Any member of MRover is eligible for leadership, except for the senior advising members, which must be previous members of leadership. Each member entering a leadership position is suggested to have at least two semesters of prior experience with MRover.

Section 2 – Branch and Subteam Lead Appointment

Leads shall be nominated by the current lead to the president and appointed by approval from current members of the leadership team. Leads may nominate themselves to retain the position. Appointments may be declined.

Section 2 – Leadership Timeline

The entire leadership team will be overturned a minimum of once every calendar year, near the end of the winter semester. All branch and subteam lead appointments will be confirmed, then elections will occur for Executive Board. Exceptions may be granted with approval of the entire leadership team. Interim appointments or elections may be conducted as necessary.

Section 3 – Election Protocol

Elections will be announced at least one week in advance and will occur during GBM. Candidates for each elected office may be nominated by any member of MROver. Nominations may be declined at any time in advance of elections. All officers shall be elected by majority vote of the active members of MROver present at elections. Individual elections shall be conducted anonymously by ballot, in the following order:

1. President
2. Chief Engineer
3. Treasurer
4. Public Relations Officer
5. Corporate Relations Officer

Each position shall be determined prior to subsequent positions. Independent elections will facilitate compliance with Article III Section 1. Each election will include a short speech by the nominees, and a Q&A session. If an incumbent officer wishes to retain his or her position, an election for the position must still be held.

Section 4 – Transition Period

The newly elected leadership team shall assume their positions in June following the University Rover Challenge. Exceptions may be granted in the event of pending competitions, outreach events, or interim elections. Resolutions for these cases shall be determined by the Executive Board.

Section 5 – Advisor Selection

A University faculty member may be nominated as an advisor by any member of MRover. Current and former members of the Executive Board shall evaluate the qualifications of the faculty member and communicate the nomination appropriately. The individual may decline the nomination.

Article VII – Team Meetings

Section 1 – General Body Meetings

General Body Meetings (GBMs) shall be held at a minimum of once a week for all members. Meeting times and locations shall be established by the President for the GBM.

Section 2 – Leadership Meetings

Leadership meetings will be held at least once a week and are open to all members of the team.

Section 3 – Subteam Meetings

Subteam leads are expected to host meetings at least once a week for members of their subteam. Exceptions may be granted as necessary.

Article VIII – Removal of Membership

Section 1 – Leadership

Members of the leadership team shall have the right to relinquish their positions voluntarily. Leads may also be removed from the positions by majority vote of the team. Removing a lead shall be a last resort solution.

Section 2 – Other Members

Any member of MRover shall have the right to voluntarily leave the team. A person shall not be considered a member of MRover if they do not participate in the team meetings or other team events for one semester unless the absence is due to special circumstances. The membership of an MRover member who has undermined the mission of the Michigan Mars Rover Team will be reviewed by the Executive Board, and a unanimous vote will be necessary to determine if the MRover member will be removed from the team or allowed to remain on the team.

Section 3 – Advisors

Advisors of MRover shall have the right to relinquish their positions voluntarily. An advisory relationship may also be terminated by majority vote among the current members of the Executive Board.

Article IX – Finances

Section 1 – Funding

MRover shall be funded through University, corporate, and private sponsorships. All resources must be obtained in accordance with University of Michigan policies.

Section 2 – Student Organization Account Service

All funds shall be deposited in the team Student Organization Account Service (SOAS) account. MRover shall finance all activities through the resources in this account.

Section 3 – Management

The Treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of MRover. Members of the Executive Board shall be able to approve expenditures within the budget of MRover. Specific purchases must be approved by two of the following officers: the President, the Treasurer, and the respective team lead.

Article X – Amendments

Amendments to this document may be proposed by any member of MRover and are subject to majority approval by the Executive Board.

Article XI – Constitution Ratification

The Constitution will be ratified on a yearly basis by the Executive Board of the team. The ratification of the Michigan Mars Rover Team Constitution will be ratified when the document is submitted and accepted to Maize Pages.

Article XII – Statement of Compliance

All members of MRover shall comply with all University of Michigan policies.