

# CHARTER

Association of the Alumni/Alumnae of the  
MIT/WHOI Joint Program in Oceanography/Applied  
Ocean Science & Engineering



## **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY/ WOODS HOLE OCEANOGRAPHIC INSTITUTION**

Presented to Association July 1, 1994  
Ratified October 25, 1994  
Amended September 26, 1998  
Amended Date July 15, 2015

# Charter

## Association of the Alumni/Alumnae of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program

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**Preamble**      We, the Alumni and Alumnae of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program, charter this Association to ensure continued communication among ourselves, and between ourselves and the Joint Program students and institutions, in order to promote the continued excellence of the Joint Program.

The world justly recognizes the MIT/WHOI Joint Program as one of the most outstanding graduate education programs in marine sciences and engineering. It is incumbent on us, the graduates and principal beneficiaries of the Joint Program, to promote and abet its continued excellence, that we, future graduates, the Joint Program institutions, and the marine sciences and engineering community at large, may continue to reap its benefits.

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**I. Functions**      We envision that the Association will facilitate such things as:

- A Directory of graduates
- Informal gatherings of graduates
- Keeping graduates informed about the work of one another and about the Joint Program and the institutions
- The establishment of a pool of potential Visiting Scholars from academia, industry, and government
- The establishment of a pool of potential speakers for high school and college job fairs
- Alumni interviews for prospective Joint Program students
- Contacts for Joint Program students for research data and career information
- The Contribution of funds in support of Joint Program student education and ocean related education activities of both Institutions as deemed appropriate by the Association.

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**II. Membership**      All Joint Program and WHOI degree recipients may be Members of the Association.  
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### III. Organization

The activities of the Association shall be coordinated by an Alumni/Alumnae Committee consisting of three elected alumni/alumnae representatives from each Joint Program subdiscipline (currently Biology, Chemical Oceanography, Physical Oceanography, Marine Geology and Geophysics, and Applied Ocean Sciences and Engineering).

The WHOI Dean and the MIT Director of the Joint Program, shall be ex-officio members of the Committee..

The alumni/alumnae representatives on the Committee shall serve six year terms, staggered such that every two years, the term of one representative from each subdiscipline will end.

Every two years, the Committee will elect, from among themselves, officers of the Association: a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary of the Association.

The Committee shall also charter other standing or ad-hoc committees as it deems necessary to further the aims of the Association, choosing their membership from among the Members of the Association.

Should any vacancy occur on the Committee, the Committee may select from among the Membership of the Association to serve the remaining term of such vacancy.

All decisions of the Committee shall be by a majority of its full alumni/alumnae membership, except for decisions to amend this Charter which shall be as specified under "Amendments", below.

The Committee will report annually to the Membership on the activities of the Association, and will make known to the Membership addresses, telephone numbers, procedures, etc. by which Members may bring business before the Committee.

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**IV. Elections**

Elections of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall be held every two years on or about the First of June.

Biannually, the Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall charter a Nominating Committee.

The Nominating Committee shall solicit, from the Membership of the Association, nominations for election to the Alumni/Alumnae Committee.

Every six years, starting in 1999, nominees shall be chosen from members who have joined the Association in the last six years (e.g., in 1999 all those members who have graduated or left the Joint Program or WHOI degree program between June 1993 and June 1999).

The Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall prepare a ballot listing nominees by Joint Program subdiscipline, along with other information as may be deemed appropriate.

The Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall distribute the ballot and voting instructions to the Association Membership, to be returned by a specified date, not earlier than two weeks and no later than one month following the distribution of the ballots.

Each member of the Association may vote for one, but no more than one, candidate from each Joint Program subdiscipline.

At the specified date, the Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall validate and count the returned ballots, and certify to the members of the Association the results of the election.

Within each subdiscipline-group of candidates, the candidate receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall decide the issue by lot.

The initial election of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee following ratification of this Charter shall be an exception to this procedure, as described in the section on "Ratification", below.

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**V. Meetings**     The Alumni/Alumnae Committee shall meet at least once annually at a place and date designated by a majority of the members.

Other meetings of the Alumni/Alumnae committee may be held at the request of an officer.

A full meeting of the Alumni/Alumnae Association shall be convened at least every two years, at a place and date chosen by a majority of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee with notice to Members not less than three months in advance.

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**VI. Finances**     The Association shall not collect dues, fees, or donations, nor shall it disburse funds.

In so far as it is necessary to raise funds to support activities or projects of the Association, the Association shall solicit its Membership for donations for specific purposes or for general support of Joint Program activities, which donations to be made to the WHOI Education Office acting on behalf of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program. The MIT Director of the Joint Program, and the WHOI Dean, as Co-Chairs of the Joint Committee, in consultation with the Alumni/Alumnae Committee, shall disburse these funds as appropriate.

The WHOI Education Office Acting on behalf of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program will reimburse the members of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee, or their designees, for any reasonable, pre-approved expenditures incurred in the business of the Association, such as postage, telephone, photocopying, etc.

The WHOI Education Office Acting on behalf of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program shall fund and provide logistical support for general mailings to the Membership of the Association. Depending on budget constraints, some of these expenses may be reimbursed from unrestricted funds donated by Alumni and Alumnae.

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**VII. Amendments**

This Charter may be amended with the approval of two-thirds of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee, ratified by a majority vote of the Membership, which vote to be taken no later than the next general election for Alumni/Alumnae Committee membership. "Majority vote" here means a majority of the valid ballots cast.

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**VIII. Ratification**

The WHOI Dean of Graduate Studies and the MIT Director of the Joint Program, shall mail the proposed Charter to the Alumni and Alumnae, with a yes/no ballot for ratification and a form requesting nominations for the Alumni/Alumnae Committee.

At a specified date, not earlier than one month and not later than two months from the mailing of the Charter, the WHOI Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Dean and the MIT Director of the Joint Program shall validate and count the ballots received. If a majority of the valid ballots received approve the Charter, it shall be considered ratified.

The WHOI Dean of Graduate Studies and Associate Dean and the MIT Director of the Joint Program, shall then designate a Special Election Committee of Alumni and Alumnae to oversee the first elections of the Alumni/Alumnae Committee.

The Special Election Committee shall prepare a ballot listing nominees by Joint Program subdisciplines, along with other information as may be deemed appropriate.

The Special Election Committee shall mail the ballot and voting instructions to the Members of the Association, to be returned by a specified date, not earlier than one month and not later than two months following the mailing of the ballots.

Each Member of the Association may vote for two, but no more than two, candidates from each Joint Program subdiscipline.

At the specified date, the Special Election Committee shall validate and count the returned ballots.

Within each subdiscipline-group of candidates, the two candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected. In the event of a tie, the Special Election Committee shall decide the issue by lot.

From each subdiscipline pair of elected representatives, the Special Election Committee shall select one by lot whose term shall be for one year. The term of the other shall be for two years.

The Special Election Committee shall certify to the WHOI Dean of Graduate Studies, and the MIT Director of the Joint Program, the results of the election, and communicate those results to the elected Committee members and to the Membership of the Association.

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*Presented for the approval of the MIT/WHOI Joint Program Alumni and Alumnae, June 1, 1994.*

*Christopher Tapscott,*

*Daniel H. Steurmer*

*Sallie W. Chisholm, Director of the Joint Program, MIT.*

*John W. Farrington, Dean of Graduate Studies, WHOI.*

Charter ratified by a majority vote of approval, validated October 25, 1994.

Sallie W. Chisholm

John W. Farrington