SYSTEM DYNAMICS SOCIETY

MIT

CHAPTER

FORMATION PROPOSAL

AUGUST 2023

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Petition

August 21, 2023

Subject: Request for Formation of the System Dynamics Society MIT Chapter

Dear System Dynamics Society Policy Council,

We, the System Dynamics MIT Chapter organizing group and leadership, formally request permission to establish a new chapter at the System Dynamics Society, which we propose to call the *MIT Chapter*. After conducting a couple of surveys in February 2023 and this Summer, followed by research, and internal discussions, including our advisory chair, we believe there is significant interest and enthusiasm for such a group (i.e., chapter) within the System Dynamics Society.

The primary goals of the MIT Chapter are to:

i. Increase awareness and exposure of the System Dynamics field and the System Dynamics Society to facilitate academic and experiential learning;

ii. Enrich interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary dynamics by amplifying knowledge synergies across various fields, expertise, research, experience, industries, modeling methods, domains, and exposure through collaborative resources to problem solve, create opportunities and knowledge serving academic research and real-world application problem-solving;

iii. create opportunities, not limited to knowledge sharing and creation, across a diverse

membership body across other chapters, interest groups, MIT, and other higher educational learning communities.

iv. promote problem-solving to solve the world's greatest challenges and benefit all humankind.

We believe that the MIT Chapter would serve as a contributory member to the System Dynamics Society, promoting knowledge sharing and creation second to the mission of the System Dynamics field, which is to solve the unsolvable and have the courage to do so.

We've outlined a tentative plan for the MIT Chapter's activities, which include upcoming thematic events based on a strategic mixture of theory and practice, including faculty, practitioners, and potentially students. This plan will continue to develop in the coming weeks to formalize event programming and measurement protocols toward meeting the objectives of the chapter and the field.

We are committed professionals and members in forming this group and its leadership–personally inspired by the intellectual nature, modeling philosophies, and practicality of the System Dynamics field and Systems Thinking exercises.

We understand that forming the MIT Chapter requires adhering to the System Dynamics Society guidelines for forming and running a chapter. We are committed to fulfilling all requirements and are open to discussing and revising our plans based on Society policies and guidelines for its chapters.

In this proposal, we're including:

1. A proposal outlining the MIT Chapter's mission, objectives, activity planning, membership benefits trajectory, officers, and members;

2. List of current chapter members in good standing;

3. Organizational chart and roles;

4. Membership interest by chapter benefit and willingness to potentially pay additional dues

We kindly request that you consider our proposal. We are open to scheduling a meeting at your earliest convenience to present our plans in more detail.

Thank you for taking the time to consider our request. We are excited about the possibility of enriching the System Dynamics field and the System Dynamics Society community through the activities of the MIT Chapter.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Garde
System Dynamics Society MIT Chapter President

Burak Gozluklu
System Dynamics Society MIT Chapter co-President

Mission

The mission of the System Dynamics Society (SDS) MIT Chapter is to increase awareness, exposure, advance, and cultivate Systems Thinking and System Dynamics' (SD) applications within the SDS and SD community, not limited to the MIT community, researchers, practitioners, and students to share their research, ideas, and applications to increase learning through knowledge sharing, synthesis, networking, and creation.

Activities will support multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary group dynamics to increase learning, confidence, and problem-solving, adhering to why the field was founded. Problem-solving is not single-faceted and requires rigor in its method that isn't subjected to one type of modeling and knowledge from more than one individual and domain. Courage is also equally required to solve the most difficult problems.

1. MIT Chapter events shall encourage learning, sharing, and networking;

2. Modeling confidence by learning through others and more opportunities to share;

3. Learning about the field;

4. Increasing creativity and knowledge creation through demonstration and perspectives.

The Systems Thinking MIT Chapter policy measures all events to understand short and long-term efficacy.

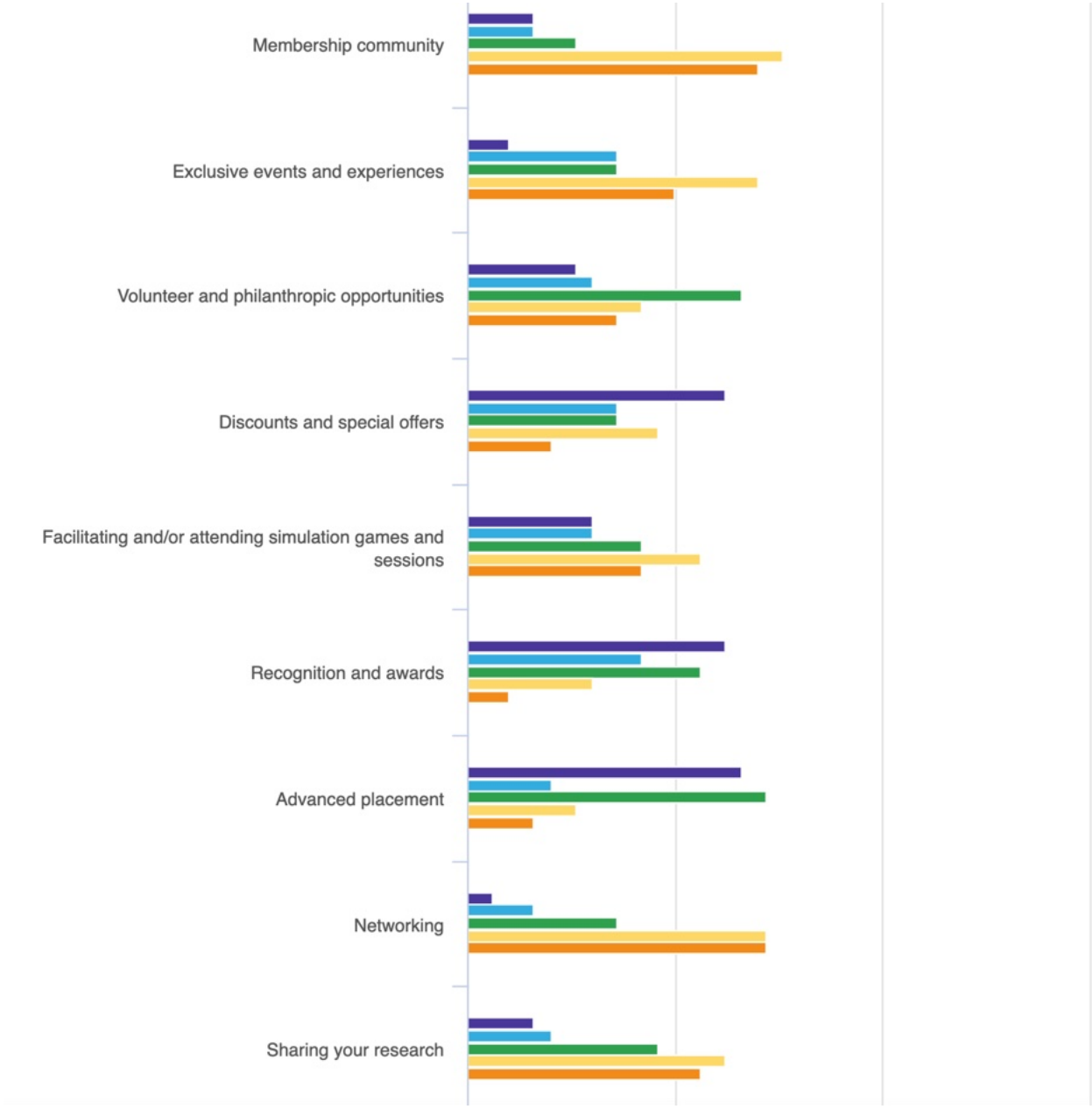
Problem

After initial exposure to the field and/or System Thinking applications, students and professionals are eager to learn more and apply it in their professions, fields, or research pursuits. Learning resources depend on word of mouth or similar, and there is an absence of opportunities to share what was applied or to learn from others in similar positions. The MIT Chapter aims to facilitate theoretical, conceptual and applied knowledge to those who desire to learn more and share more frequently what has been applied to amplify dissemination.

Membership Benefits Trajectory

All System Dynamics chapters, groups, learning institutions, and individuals are invited to join the MIT Chapter. From the last survey conducted among academic professionals and graduate students this Summer to understand what members seek most in a System Dynamics and Systems Thinking group within the System Dynamic Society community, continuing education was considered the most significant benefit to membership, followed by membership community, networking, collaborative problem solving and model building.

See chart figure "*How significant are the following club membership benefits to you?"* in pages 9 and 10.


Membership community
Exclusive events and experiences
Volunteer and philanthropic opportunities
Discounts and special offers
Facilitating and/or attending simulation games and sessions
Recognition and awards
Advanced placement
Networking
Sharing your research

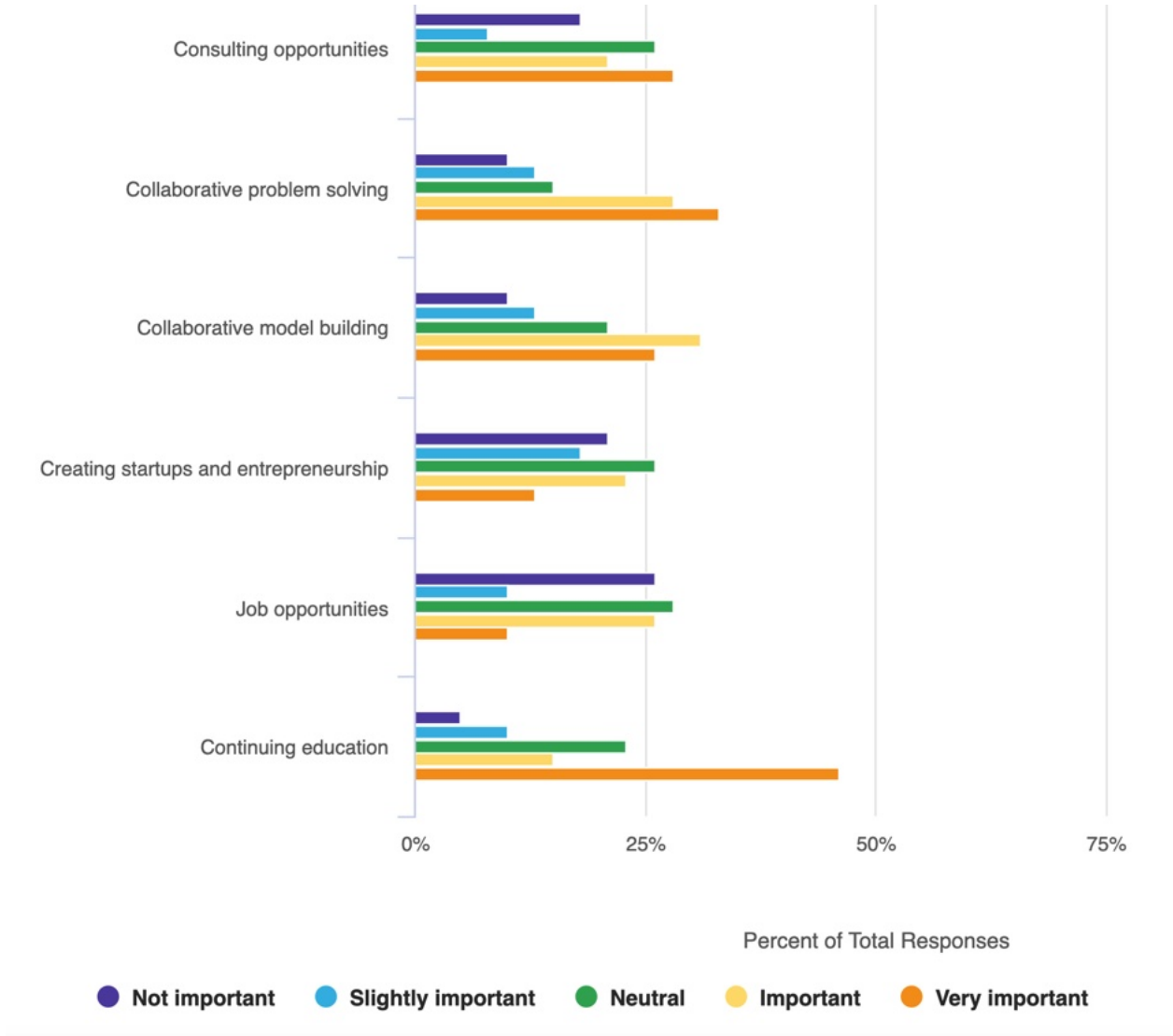


Figure: How significant are the following club membership benefits to you?

Source: *MIT Alumni System Dynamics Group/Club Formation Survey Overview Report*

Initially, the MIT Chapter will hold events that introduce and refresh the field's concepts, including an exemplary application of System Dynamics and Systems Thinking, during which networking opportunities will be available and after.

Sometime after the first events are held and data is collected, a networking tool, in addition to and/or integrated with LinkedIn, may be developed and utilized to increase connections, synergy, and opportunities.

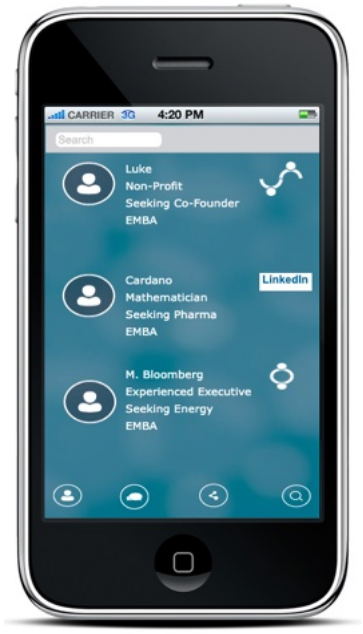


Figure: *A mobile networking app prototype view (EMBA Alumna Prototype and Design)*

Membership Fees & Sales

Strategy

Our current strategy is to meet the MIT Chapter's financial needs through:

1. Membership Fees: In the initial year, there will be no additional membership fees beyond the annual society membership dues.

3. Sales: In the future, the MIT Chapter may consider the sales of mugs, T-shirts, mouse pads, or other items to support chapter activities, including in-person gatherings and creating opportunities for knowledge sharing, creation, learning, and application.

Activity Planning

Activity No.	Semester	Event Type	Description	Goal
1.0	Summer 2023	Online	2023 System Dynamics Society Conference MIT (Club) Chapter Kickoff July 26 Event	Introduction **Status**: Completed
2.0	Fall 2023, October Tentative	Online	Practitioner-Led Event: Two Speakers, Breakout Rooms	Knowledge Sharing Practitioners and graduate students may present
2.1	Fall 2023, November Tentative	Online	Faculty-Led Event	Increased Education
2.2	Fall 2023, December Tentative	Online	Faculty-Led & Breakout Rooms	Increased Education, Knowledge Sharing, Networking
3.0	Winter, January MIT Sloan IAP	Hybrid	MIT Sloan - January Event	Increased Education, Knowledge Sharing, Networking Practitioners and graduate students may present

Event planning is strategically based on a theoretical, applied, and thematic formulation. Survey data was collected based on different segments, including practitioners, students, and industry to academic professionals indicating that continuing education, community, collaboration, and networking are the most important benefits of being a

System Dynamics club or group member.

Presentation feedback and interest will continuously be measured after events and throughout to ensure that attendance, participation, and membership grow. Although surveying will be critical, other mechanisms will be designed to determine and optimize the right formulation for presentations, other group activities, and more.

MIT Chapter Leadership

Role	Name	Activities
President	Cynthia Garde	Formation of the chapter, event programming, technology, the direction of the chapter, communication, compliance, strategy, leadership
Co-President	Burak Gozluklu	Formation of the chapter, event programming, direction of the chapter, communication, compliance, strategy, leadership
Advisory Chair	Rebecca Niles	Expertise, liaison, guidance and support, review and feedback, compliance, governance
Vice President of Partnerships	Karen Luu	Partnership development and leadership, acquisition, relationship management, representation, risk management
Resources Chair	Suman Lal	Liaison, resource allocation, management, coordination
Vice President of Models and Systems (Incoming)	TBD	Models and systems data capturing, included interested presenter data, completed presentations and other events, data and model analyses, innovation, and guidance, support model presentation guidelines, support creating data model

Vice President of Diversity	TBD	Develop, oversee, and implement diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); create activities that promote DEI
Vice President of Innovation	TBD	Develop ideas and activities contributing to fostering creativity, innovation, and knowledge creation
Vice President of Membership & Communication	TBD	Be an advocate for members, develop activities to sustain and increase membership retention and benefits, and develop communication representing the goals and objectives of the chapter
Vice President of Technology & Services	TBD	Responsible for supporting websites, databases, apps, and all things technology
Treasurer	TBD	

In Appendix 1, radial chart, *SDS MIT Chapter Org Chart 0823 v082723*, each chapter officer role is associated with activities listed in the table above and will be numerated based on joined and/or absorbed responsibilities until other roles are filled.

The layout of the chart visually and generally displays to what extent roles are covering functional responsibilities to ensure the success of the chapter, including the ability to meet objectives and goals defined and discussed earlier in this proposal.

Leadership roles were defined based on necessary functions to ensure a successful formation, launch, and growth.

MIT Chapter Members

No.	Name	System Dynamics Society Membership Standing	E-mail
1	Cynthia Garde	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	cgarde@alum.mit.edu
2	Burak Gozluklu	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	burak.gozluklu@gmail.com
3	Rebecca Niles	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	rebecca@systemdynamics.org
4	Hazhir Rahmandad	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	Hazhir@mit.edu
5	Richard Jerome Dixon	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	dixonrj@vcu.edu
6	Christian Erik Kampmann	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	cek.si@cbs.dk
7	Jason Friedman	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	jasonfri@mit.edu
8	Cathy DiGennaro	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	cdigenna@mit.edu
9	Alexander Kuptel	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	akuptel@mit.edu

10	Santiago Arango Aramburo	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	saarango@unal.edu.co
11	Jeroen Struben	2023 society member in good standing and full member.	struben@em-lyon.com
12	Karen Luu	Associate member	karenluu@mit.edu
13	Suman Lal	Associate member	suman.lal@cic.com

Officer Succession Planning

During the 2024 events, announcements for the next officer applications will be shared with the event attendees. An email will also be sent to existing members to extend the reach for participation. Starting with events is likely to recruit high participation, as committed members generally come to events and are more effective than email chains. However, in some situations, email chains may be superior.

The transition plan would be to begin shadowing and working with the existing officers to have a smooth transition from old to new officers.

Appendix 1: SDS MIT Chapter Org Radial Chart

Appendix 2: SDS MIT Chapter Knowledge Synergy Visual

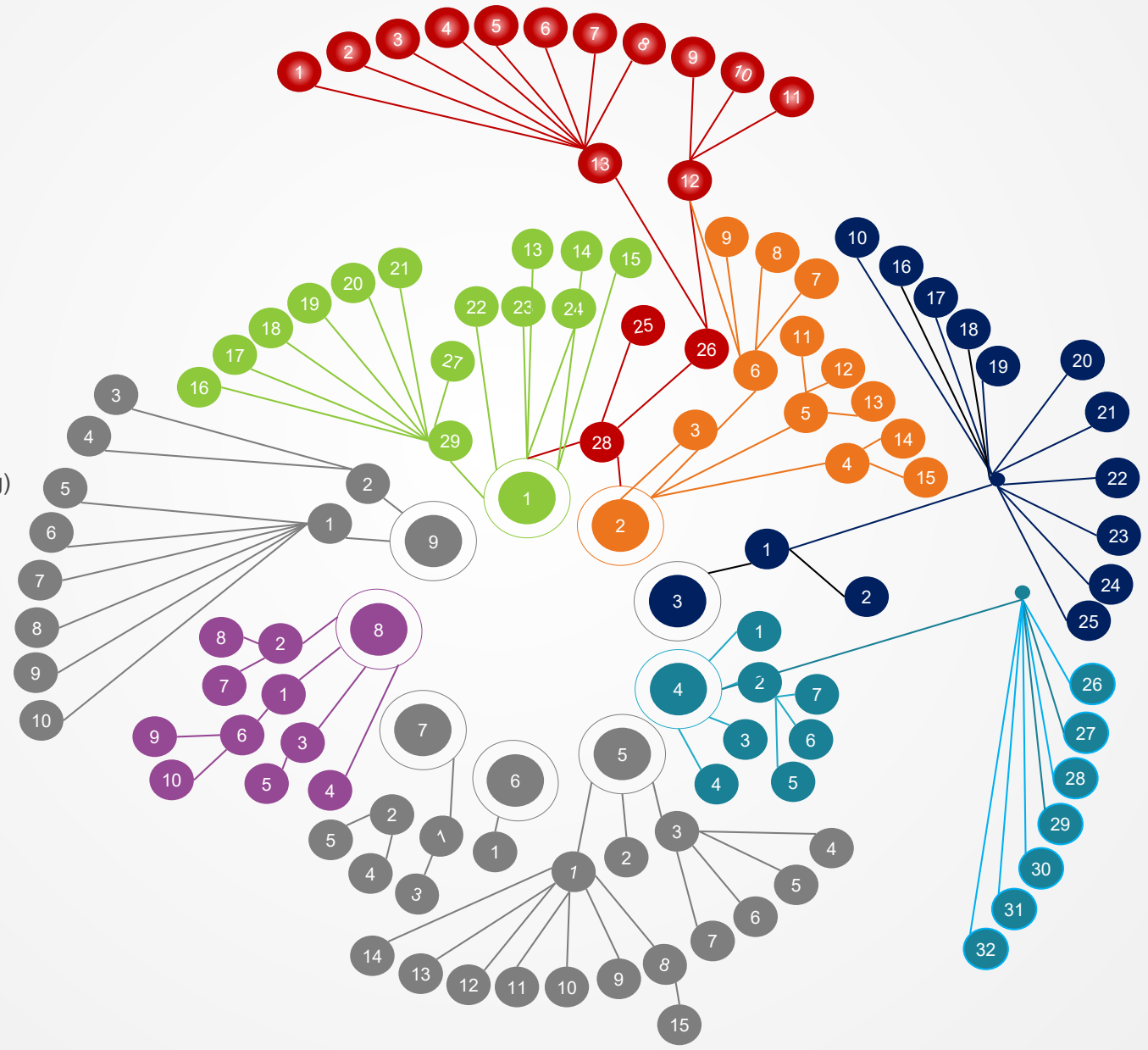
Appendix 3: System Dynamics Society MIT Chapter Constitution

System Dynamics Society MIT Chapter

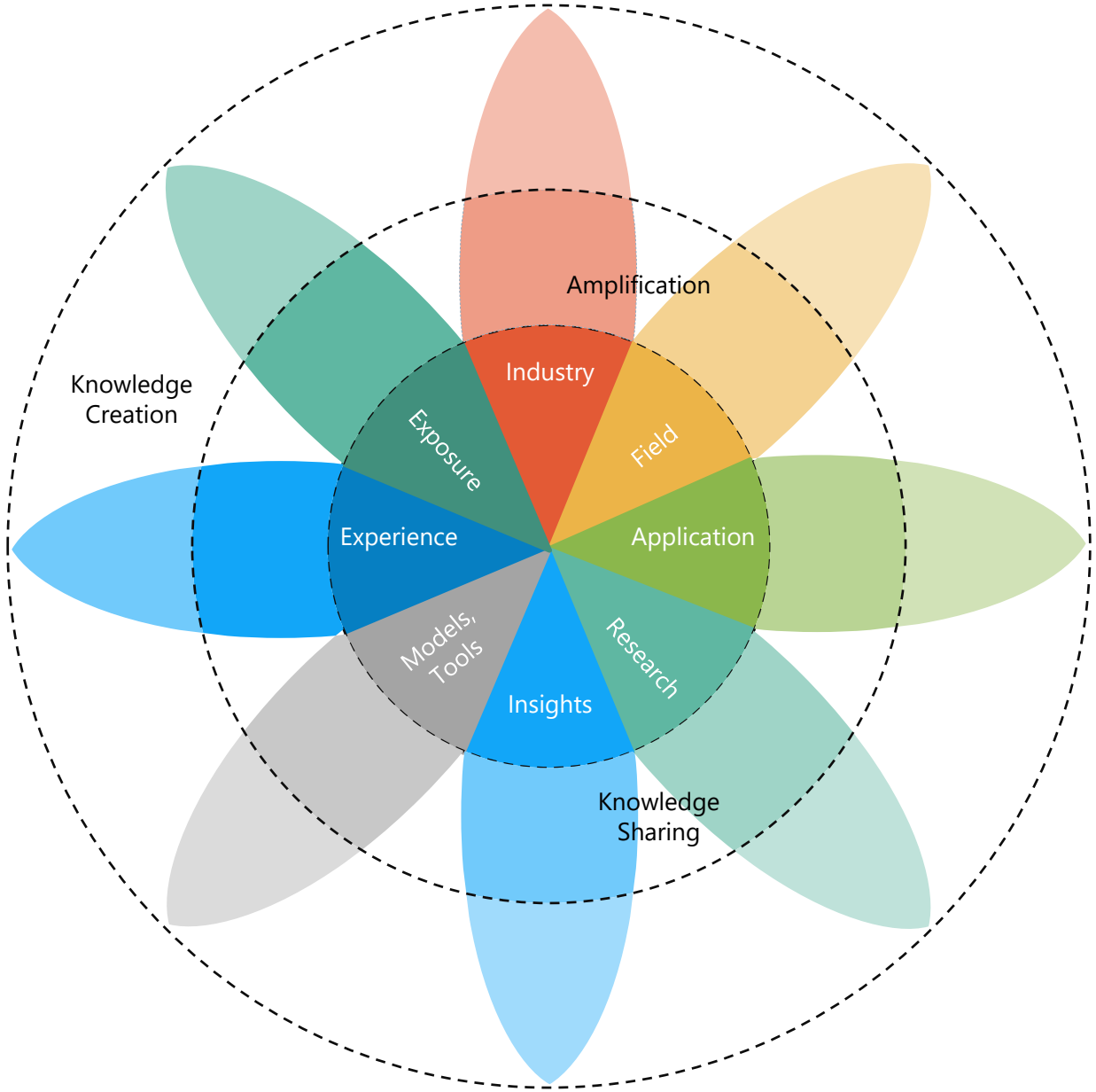
SYSTEM DYNAMICS SOCIETY MIT CHAPTER

Legend

- President
- Co-President
- Advisory Chair
- Vice President of Partnerships
- Vice President of Models & Systems (Incoming)
- Resources Chair
- Vacant
- Vacant



Multidisciplinary & Transdisciplinary Dynamics Amplifying Knowledge Sharing & Creation



SYSTEM DYNAMICS SOCIETY
MIT
CHAPTER

SYSTEM DYNAMICS SOCIETY

MIT CHAPTER
CONSTITUTION

AUGUST 2023

1. The Chapter shall be known by the name:

The ***MIT Chapter*** *of the System Dynamics Society, Inc.*

2. The objectives of the Chapter shall be:

- To increase awareness and exposure of the System Dynamics field and the System Dynamics Society to facilitate academic and experiential learning.
- To identify, extend, and unify knowledge contributing to the understanding of feedback systems.
- To promote the development of the field of System Dynamics and the free interchange of learning and research in all related fields.
- To amplify knowledge synergies across various fields, expertise, research, experience, industries, modeling methods, domains, and exposure through collaborative resources to problem solve and create opportunities and knowledge serving academic research and real-world application problem-solving.
- To create opportunities, not limited to knowledge sharing and creation, across a diverse membership body across other chapters, interest groups, MIT, and other higher educational learning communities.

3. Membership

Chapter membership is not restricted to members of the Society. Anyone living or working globally, not limited to a physical territory or region, may join the Chapter. Chapter members who are also members of the Society will be referred to as Full Members; others will be referred to as Associate Members.

At any time, the Chapter will have at least 10 members who are also members in good standing of the System Dynamics Society.

4. The Policy Council

A Policy Council shall govern the MIT Chapter. The Policy Council shall consist of a President, a co-President, one or more Vice Presidents, an Advisory Chair, and a Resources Chair. All members of the Policy Council shall be members of the Chapter.

The Policy Council shall determine the number of Vice-Presidents to hold office at any given time, subject to ratification by Full Members at the Annual Meeting. The Policy Council shall determine the duties and responsibilities of the other Vice-Presidents as seems expedient.

The Policy Council of the Chapter shall have the power to co-opt to fill any vacancy pending the Annual Meeting of the Chapter.

The quorum for meetings of the Policy Council shall be the President, co-President, and at least one Vice-President.

5. Meetings

The **MIT Chapter** shall hold a meeting at least annually. Such a meeting may be held during the international conference of the System Dynamics Society, but will not interfere with it. Society Business and the election of officers will be dealt with in this meeting.

6. Elections

A majority vote of the MIT Chapter membership shall elect the Policy Council. All Full and Associate members in good standing shall be allowed to vote. The elections shall be held at Chapter meetings at fixed intervals in accordance with the terms of the Policy Council.

The Policy Council of the Chapter shall have the power to nominate to any vacancy.

Not less than one month before the Annual General Meeting, the presidents shall notify all Members of any impending vacancies. Any three Full Members shall have the power to make their own nomination and shall notify the presidents not less than 7 working days before the Annual General Meeting.

In the event of there being two or more candidates for office, that person having the larger, or largest, number of votes of those Members present at the Annual General Meeting shall be elected.

7. Publications

In its initial year, the MIT Chapter will publish newsletters.

The publications will:

- be related to the particular interests of the MIT Chapter.
- not represent themselves as publications of the System Dynamics Society, Inc.

8. Conferences

In its initial year, the MIT Chapter will not hold conferences.

For future planning, if the MIT chapter should decide to hold any conferences, it will comply with the following:

- do not present themselves to be conferences of the System Dynamics Society, Inc.
- do not interfere with the annual conference of the System Dynamics Society, Inc.
- have at least one month between them and the annual conference of the System Dynamics Society, Inc.

9. Dues

In its initial year, the MIT Chapter will not require any membership dues.

10. Finances

Although in the initial year, dues will be waived, the MIT chapter will handle finances in the following manner if there is a decision to collect dues.

i. Obtain all financial data in a vetted secure financial online system;

ii. Understand and comply with how surpluses are handled. Any surplus should be retained for future activities that further the aims and objectives of the Chapter;

iii. A reserve may be kept as insurance against pre-paying for our annual meeting and unexpected disruptions;

iii. In the event of the Chapter being dissolved, any cash balances will be donated to the International System Dynamics Society.

11. Chapter Society Interaction

- The **MIT Chapter** will submit annually a report of activities, finances and membership to the Society Policy Council (VP Chapters). The report will include the names of all officers for the **MIT Chapter**, summary information about the activities, publications and other achievements of the **MIT Chapter**, as well as complete membership information indicating the types of membership and changes according to the database format used by the Society.

- Upon request on behalf of the Society, the **MIT Chapter** will provide membership information, observing the legal limitations applied in its territory.

- The **MIT Chapter**-Society presidents will be informed of, and invited to, all meetings of the Society Policy Council except under extraordinary circumstances. The **MIT Chapter**-Society Liaison will receive minutes from all meetings of the Society Policy Council.

- The Society will, upon request and up to twice per year, provide the **MIT Chapter** with a list of its members

12. Constitutional Reforms

This constitution may be changed by initiative of the Chapter Policy Council, via an asynchronous, simple majority vote of the Full Members; or, via a qualified majority of two-thirds of Full Members present at the Annual Meeting, by initiative of any three members of the Chapter and with a quorum of at least fifteen Full Members present.

Any and all changes to this constitution shall be submitted for ratification to the Policy Council of the System Dynamics Society, Inc., accompanied by a declaration of support of at least ten Full Members.

13. Dissolution of the Chapter

The MIT Chapter dissolution can occur in the following situations:

1. Force majeure, not limited to disasters or other unforeseen circumstances making it impossible for the chapter to continue operating according to the System Dynamics Society standards and chapter constitution;

2. Low membership resulting in the inability to meet chapter objectives due to low participation and membership retention;

3. Non-compliance with System Dynamics Society standards and constitution for operating a chapter in good standing;

4. Leadership void is an absence of individuals willing and committed to serve in a chapter leadership role to uphold and meet the mission, purpose, and objectives described in the chapter formation proposal.