

Constitution of the Society of Physics Students at Ohio State

Article I: Purpose, Policy

Section I: Purpose:

The Society of Physics Students, or SPS, is a student-run organization that works to promote the professional and social development of students interested in physics. Our second purpose is to be a liaison between the undergraduate students and the administration of the Department of Physics. We will also promote general interest in physics among possible uprising physics students, as well as traditionally underrepresented groups in physics.

Section II: Non-Discrimination Policy:

This organization and its members do not discriminate on the basis of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status, or any other bases under the law.

Section III: Sexual Misconduct Policy

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, SPS expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/policy115.pdf>. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

Article II: General Membership

Section I: Membership Criteria:

Membership is open to any person who attends our regular meetings and is not limited to physics majors. However, in order to be eligible to vote in an SPS election, you must have an attendance record of at least 25% of our regular meetings and be an enrolled student at OSU. If you are not a voting member you will not be permitted to vote in elections involving officers or constitutional renewal and amendments.

Section II: Membership Removal:

Any general member of SPS can be banned from attending future meetings by a unanimous vote by elected officers of SPS. This can be done if there are repeated or strong violations of grounds for removal in public or private sectors.

Grounds for removal include:

- Violation of the Non-discrimination Policy
- Violation of the Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Violation of the Physics Students code of conduct
- Failure to show respect to our guest speakers and/or visiting clubs

After being notified of removal from the organization, if the removed member so chooses, they may appeal to a vote by the voting membership. In this event, a majority vote by the voting members in favor of overturning the removal is needed for the removed member to be reinstated as a member. However, any decision made by the elected officers or by the voting members can be overturned by the SPS advisor.

Under the discretion of the elected officers and/or the club advisor, any member found violating the grounds for removal may first receive a warning about removal if the behavior is continued. In this case, the member also loses the ability to run for an elected office until the end of the current school year.

Article III: Elected Officers

Section I: Officer Criteria:

Any voting member of SPS may run for an office provided that they will be enrolled at OSU during their term and they haven't violated any grounds for removal.

Section II: Officer Positions:

There exist 4 officer positions in SPS they and their duties are as follows:

1. **President:** Delegates tasks and oversees all functions. Plans officer meetings. Speaks at general meetings. Serves as liaison to the administration of the physics department via regular meetings and email.
2. **Vice President:** Contacts speakers (professors) for events. Plans social events. Manages the bookshelf. Manages the website. The Vice President is the second-in-command in case of the absence of the President.
3. **Secretary:** Manages social media and email list. Takes notes at meetings. Takes pictures or videos to record big events.
4. **Treasurer:** Keeps track of budgeting finances for general costs and big events, and manages the bank account. Orders pizza for events.

In the event that an officer's position remains unfilled, it is the President's obligation to assume the duties of the missing officer(s) but may delegate work to the other officers. Elected officers may also appoint general members to appointed positions.

Section III: Officer Elections:

Officer elections for the upcoming school year are to be held by the final meeting in March of the current school year. Officers must be filled in the following order: President, Treasurer, Vice-President, Secretary. Officers will be voted on by the voting population of the membership where the candidate with the most votes for an office will assume it.

Section IV: Midterm Elections:

In the case that an officer position is unfilled, an election must be held to fill the position. Any midterm elections must be held during any meeting before the general election in March.

Section V: Officer removals:

Any member may appeal for the removal of an officer via a vote by the voting membership. If such an appeal is made, a vote for removal must be done in the next meeting. In the case of a majority vote for removal, the officer must step down from their position.

An officer who does not fulfill their duties and/or violates the grounds for removal may be removed via unanimous decision of the remaining SPS officers and advisor approval. If the officer violated the grounds for removal, they may also be subsequently removed as a general member following the guidelines in Article 2 Section 2.

Any officer who decides to resign may do so at any time and this action does not require approval.

In the event that the treasurer is removed or resigns, the position must be filled by the next meeting or as early as the meeting of removal. In the event that the president is removed, the vice president becomes president unless the position is unfilled in which case the secretary assumes the position. In this event, a midterm election is suggested to happen as soon as possible to fill the void positions.

Section VI: Keys:

When you become an officer you are given a key to the SPS office. When you leave office, you must forfeit your key to the officer that assumes your position.

Article IV: Advisor(s):

The advisor must be a full-time member of the University faculty or administrative professional staff in the Department of Physics. In the event that the executive committee desires a co-advisor for the club, a co-advisor must be chosen who satisfies these above qualifications.

Article V: Constitution Renewal, Amendments, and Dissolution:

Section I: Renewal:

Each fall semester, the constitution must be renewed before the end of October. In order for the constitution to be renewed, it must first pass a two-thirds majority vote by the voting membership with at least 5 members present.

Section II: Amendments:

Any voting member may propose an amendment to the constitution. This amendment then must pass a two-thirds majority vote by the voting members, with at least 5 members present, to be written into the constitution.

Section III: Dissolution:

In the event of dissolution of the club, if any organizational assets exist, a general meeting shall be held to decide their disposition. All Voting Members shall be notified two weeks in advance of this meeting.

Article VI: Meetings:

At least one meeting of the general membership is required each semester excluding the summer semester. Meetings may include but are not limited to: Talks by speakers, collaborations with other clubs, social meetings, newsletter readings, elections, study sessions, etc.