Graduate Association of Students in Physics Constitution

Article I  Name and Purpose

Section A  Name

Part 1
The official name for this organization is the Graduate Association of Students in Physics.

Part 2
This organization will use this name or its acronym, GASP, in all publicity material and correspondence.

Section B  Purpose

Part 1
The purpose of this organization is to enhance the graduate experience for its members by providing opportunities and means to promote communication within related academic and scientific communities.

Part 2
All activities of this organization must be directed toward this purpose.
Article II  Membership

Section A  Requirements

Part 1
All currently enrolled physics majors in the graduate program at USC are eligible to be voting members.

Part 2
All other USC students and USC staff faculty, alumni, and alumnae are eligible to be non-voting members.

Part 3
Membership decisions will not discriminate on the basis of age, race, religion or creed, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability or sexual orientation.

Section B  Rights

Part 1
All members are eligible to attend all meetings and events of this organization.

Part 2
If a fee is charged to attend a particular event, the membership will establish a fee scale for voting members, nonvoting members and others, as appropriate.

Section C  Withdrawal of Membership

Part 1
Members may have their membership withdrawn for failure to adhere to the requirements for membership as stated above.
Part 2
A simple majority vote of the quorum of membership at a special meeting shall be sufficient to withdraw membership.

Article III Officers

Section A Officer Titles

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

Section B Duties

Part 1
The President will chair all meetings of GASP and will call special meetings as needed.

Part 2
The Vice-President shall chair any ad hoc committees or task forces of the organization.

Part 3
The Secretary will record and file meeting minutes.

Part 4
The Treasurer will maintain records and report on the financial transactions of GASP.
Section C  Requirements for Funding and Holding Office

Part 1
All officers and candidates for office must be currently enrolled USC students.

Part 2
All officers must be voting members of GASP.

Section D  Nominations and Elections

Part 1
Nominations for all offices will be taken from the floor during a special meeting called at the end of the Spring semester each year.

Part 2
Any member may nominate any other member, including himself or herself.

Part 3
Elections will be held at the same meeting as mentioned in Part 1.

Part 4
A simple majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting will be sufficient to elect an officer. If there are more than two candidates and no candidate receives a majority vote, there will be a run-off vote between the top two vote recipients in the general voting.

Section E  Terms of Office and Vacancies

Part 1
The term of office shall be from the first day of the Fall semester to the day prior to the first day of the subsequent Fall semester.
Part 2
Should a vacancy of office occur, the President will appoint an interim officer until the next official election.

Part 3
Should the office of President be vacant, the Vice-President will assume its duties.

Article IV Meetings

Section A
GASP officers meetings will be called and chaired by the President.

Section B
GASP general meetings will be called by the officers and chaired by the President. Notice of general meetings must be communicated to all members at least 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

Article V Affiliations

Section A USC

Part 1
This organization is a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, but is not a part of the University itself.

Part 2
In all correspondence and business transactions, it may refer to itself as an organization at USC, but not as part of USC itself.

Part 3
GASP agrees to abide by all pertinent USC policies and regulations.
Part 4

This organization recognizes and understands that the University assumes no legal liability for the action of the organization, and the University is not providing blanket indemnification insurance coverage for any activities of the organization, unless those activities expressly benefit and further the goals of the University, and have received prior review, approval and consent of the Offices of Student Activities, Risk Management and/or General Council.

Part 5

GASP accepts full financial and production responsibilities for all activities it sponsors.

Article VI  Faculty/Staff Advisor

Section A  Advisor Requirements

Part 1
As a recognized student organization at the University of Southern California, GASP is required to have an official advisor from the USC faculty and staff.

Part 2
Other persons may serve as special advisors as needed.

Section B  Duties

Part 1
The advisor must sign the recognition application each year, or whenever officer information changes or amendments are made to the constitution.

Part 2
An advisor, unless she or he is also a regular voting member, may not vote in GASP matters, hold office or unduly influence decisions of the student organization.
Article VII  By-Laws and Amendments

Section A  By-Laws

Part 1

By-laws can be added to this constitution by a simple majority vote of the entire membership at a general meeting of GASP.

Part 2

This constitution takes precedence over any and all by-laws.

Section B  Amendments

Part 1

This constitution can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the entire membership at a general meeting of GASP.

Part 2

Notification of such a motion must be made to members at least one week in advance of the meeting in which the actual vote is taken.