

Texas A&M University Chapter of The Society of Physics Students (Including Sigma Pi Sigma)

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be “The Texas A&M University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students, TAMU SPS, or simply SPS”. This organization includes a subsidiary honors society which shall be “The Texas A&M University Chapter of Sigma Pi Sigma, TAMU ΣΠΣ, or simply ΣΠΣ”.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this Chapter shall be the advancement and diffusion of knowledge of physics, the encouragement of interest in physics throughout the academic and local communities, and the introduction of students to the professional community.

Specifically, the encouragement and promotion of fellowship between physics majors, both undergraduate and graduate, physics faculty members, Texas A&M University in general and the Bryan/College Station community through community service projects demonstrating the principles of physics as well as intra-university events.

This organization shall also strive to fulfill the objectives set forth by the national constitution of SPS, and shall uphold the good name of SPS, the American Physics Society, or APS, the Texas A&M Department of Physics, the Texas A&M College of Science, and Texas A&M University.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Society of Physics Students Membership

Membership in this Society of Physics Students Chapter shall be open to any and all individuals interested in physics provided they become members of the national organization known as the Society of Physics Students.

Members will adhere to the Texas A&M University Code of Student Rules as found at <http://student-rules.tamu.edu/> or will face disciplinary action as outlined in ARTICLE III. Section 3.

Membership can be attained at any time.

Section 2. Sigma Pi Sigma Membership

Membership in Sigma Pi Sigma, the physics honor society included within this Society of Physics Students Chapter, shall be based upon character and academic and

professional attainments and is not restricted to physics majors. Election to Sigma Pi Sigma members from among those candidates presented by the Sigma Pi Sigma nominating committee appointed by the Chapter Advisor.

Clause 1. For undergraduate students in physics or related fields, the minimum requirements for Sigma Pi Sigma membership within this Chapter shall be as follows:

- (A) All members-elect shall have completed at least the equivalent of four semesters of full-time college work.
- (B) All members-elect shall have completed at least four semester courses in physics, each of at least three credit hours, which may be credited toward a physics major.
- (C) All members-elect shall rank in the upper one third of their college class.
- (D) All members-elect shall have attained at least a 3.0 grade point average on a 4.0 system for physics courses and for cumulative course grades in all courses.

Clause 2. For graduate students in physics or related fields, all members-elect either (a) shall meet the requirements for undergraduate members-elect, based upon their undergraduate records, or (b) shall have completed at least one year of graduate work, meeting departmental standards for satisfactory progress towards an advanced degree.

Clause 3. For faculty members, research staff members, and other qualified individuals, who are in physics or related fields, election to membership shall be based upon their professional attainments.

Section 3. Local Membership Discipline

If a member fails to adhere to the policies of the Texas A&M Student Rules, in addition to discipline by Texas A&M university, said member will be notified by email, at least two weeks in advance, to attend a special hearing of the officers elect and Chapter Advisor. In said hearing, the member's association with the Texas A&M Chapter of the Society of Physics Students will be reviewed and voted on. The member will be given a chance to state his/her case in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. By a two thirds vote of the officers-elect and approval of the Chapter Advisor said member shall then be disassociated from the TAMU SPS/ΣΠΣ for a period of at least one Chapter event and not to exceed one academic year, as determined by a mutual agreement

between the officers-elect and Chapter Advisor.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 1. Chapter Officers

The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Webmaster, a Graduate Representative, a Senior Class Representative, a Junior Class Representative, a Sophomore Class Representative, and a Freshman Class Representative; succession shall be in accordance with this order. Any two of the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Webmaster may be combined. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by this Chapter.

Section 2. Elections

Officers shall be elected at a scheduled meeting in April of each year. Nominations shall be by open nomination at a meeting in the previous month. Nominees shall give a short statement of their goals as officer on the day of elections. The election shall be by closed ballot, requiring a simple majority to win. In case of a tie the winner shall be selected by a two thirds vote of the previous officers as well as approval of the Chapter Advisor. Officers-elect shall assume their offices immediately following the election and shall hold office for one year or until their successors are duly elected.

The office of Freshman Representative will be appointed by mutual agreement of the President and Chapter Advisor at the beginning of each Fall semester; ideally at the first SPS meeting following Texas A&M University's open house.

Section 3. Officer Requirements

The officers of this organization must meet the following requirements:

(A) Have a minimum grade point ratio (GPR) as stated below and meet that minimum GPR in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.

1. For undergraduate students, the minimum GPR is 2.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least six credit hours

must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s).

2. For graduate level students the minimum GPR is a 3.00. In order for this provision to be met, at least four hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration. In one limited circumstance, summer semester hours may be applied to this provision. In order for summer coursework to qualify toward a grade point ratio prior to election/appointment, at least four credit hours must have been taken during the course of either the full or two summer session(s) unless fewer credits are required as they complete the final stages of their degree.

(B) Be in good standing with the university and enrolled:

1. At least half time (six or more credit hours), if an undergraduate student (unless fewer credits are required to graduate in the spring and fall semesters) during the term of office, and
2. At least half time (four or more credits), if a graduate level student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during their term of office.

(C) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (A) and (B).

Individual officer requirements:

- President
 1. Must have at least junior (U3) classification at Texas A&M University.
 2. Must have been a member for at least one semester prior to election.
- Vice-President
 1. Must have at least sophomore (U2) classification at Texas A&M University.
- Webmaster
 1. Have basic knowledge of Hyper Text Markup Language, or HTML, as set forth by the World Wide Web Consortium, or W3C, at <http://www.w3c.org>, or the desire and ability to learn said language.
- Class Representatives
 1. Be classified as respective class, e.g. have sophomore (U2) classification as Sophomore Representative.

Section 4. Officer Responsibilities

The officers of this chapter shall perform the following duties:

- All officers are expected to attend chapter events unless prior authorization is obtained from the President and Chapter Advisor to miss said events.

- President
 1. Organize and run Chapter meetings and events.
 2. Promote the Chapter around the Bryan/College Station area.
- Vice-President
 1. Shall fill the role of the President if he/she is unable to attend to duties.
 2. Assist the President in organizing and running Chapter meetings and events.
 3. Assist the Secretary in borrowing and keeping track of equipment for physics demonstrations.
- Secretary
 1. Keep logs of all events and proceedings during Chapter meetings.
 2. Take attendance at Chapter meetings and events.
 3. Be responsible for sign-up sheets as well as attendance for Chapter events.
 4. Borrow and keep track of equipment for physics demonstrations.
 5. Keep track of, and fill out as necessary, all paperwork pertaining to Chapter business.
- Treasurer
 1. Handle and keep strict logs of all Chapter monetary transactions.
 2. Help new members to transmit dues to the National office.
 3. Run the Chapter account found in the Texas A&M University Student Organization Finance Center, or TAMU SOFC.
- Webmaster
 1. Update and maintain the Chapter website found at <http://sps.physics.tamu.edu> preferably on a weekly basis, but not to exceed more than a monthly basis.
- Class Representatives
 1. Notify and distribute information to respective classes concerning Chapter news, events and meeting, including times and locations.

Section 5. Sigma Pi Sigma Responsibility

Upon the installation of a Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter within the Society of Physics Students Chapter, one of the officers, who is a Sigma Pi Sigma member, and the Chapter Advisor shall be given specific responsibility of the affairs of the Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter.

Section 6. Officer Discipline

If an officer fails to adhere to the policies set forth by this the Texas A&M University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students, in addition to any discipline by Texas A&M university, said officer will be notified by email, at least two weeks in advance, to attend a special hearing of the other officers-elect and Chapter Advisor. In said hearing, the officer's association with the Texas A&M

Chapter of the Society of Physics Students will be reviewed and voted on. The officer will be given a chance to state his/her case in a friendly, non-judgmental environment. Only by a unanimous vote of the officers-elect and approval of the Chapter Advisor shall said officer then be disassociated from the TAMU SPS/ΣΠΣ for a period of at least one semester. Said officer shall also lose his/her officer-ship. Officer succession shall then proceed according to the procedures set forth in this constitution and any office left empty will be filled by an election to replace said officer in two weeks, with at least one week notice to members. Said election will follow the rules governing officer elections as set forth in ARTICLE III. Section 2.

ARTICLE V. CHAPTER ADVISOR

The Chapter Advisor shall be a faculty member appointed by the Chairman of the Physics Department, after consultation with the Chapter officers. The Chapter Advisor shall provide liaison among the Chapter, the Physics Department, and the National Office of the Society of Physics Students. The Chapter Advisor will supply counseling to the Chapter, furnish continuity of experience in Chapter operations, and provide long-range perspective to insure departmental interest in and support of the Society of Physics Students. The Chapter Advisor shall assist the Secretary in furnishing the National Office with the required data and shall assist the Treasurer in transmitting fees and dues to the National Office.

The Chapter Advisor is expected to attend SPS meetings and events unless more pressing matters prevent him/her from doing so.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

Regular meetings shall be held at least monthly as determined by the officers-elect. Special meetings may be called by the President or Vice-President. There shall be at least six meetings per year and at least two per semester. Community service events and other gatherings may be substituted as meetings provided there remain at least two meetings per semester to address official business of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VII. FINANCES

No local dues shall be collected by the Treasurer in addition to the dues required by the National Office.

All monies belonging to this Chapter shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this organization at the Student Organization Finance Center and/or the Fiscal Office. All funds must be deposited within 24 hours after collection.

The Chapter Advisor must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

Should this Chapter dissolve, all monies shall be given to the Texas A&M University Department of Physics to distribute as they deem fit.

ARTICLE VIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this Chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this constitution and any special rules of order the Chapter may adopt.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment shall have been proposed at least one meeting previous to the time of vote, and at least half of all active members are in attendance. Such amendments shall conform to the regulations established by the National Constitution of the Society of Physics Students.

Amendments may occur at any time, however, at the time of officer elections, this constitution must be reviewed, amended as needed, and submitted to the Texas A&M University Department of Student Activities, along with necessary paperwork for official recognition of this organization.

Chapter President Name

Chapter President Signature Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

Chapter Advisor Name

Chapter Advisor Signature Date (mm/dd/yyyy)