Physics Graduate Council Bylaws

Draft v9 :: August 2, 2016

Election Bylaws

ARTICLE I: STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
The purpose of these Bylaws is to define procedures for annual election of Members and Co-Chairs of the PGC, special election of Members and Co-Chairs of the PGC, and interim elections of Members and Co-Chairs of the PGC.

ARTICLE II: ANNUAL ELECTION OF PGC MEMBERS

SECTION I: Date of Election
Annual election of PGC Members shall occur before the last regular PGC meeting of the Spring quarter. Newly elected positions take office after the last meeting of the Spring quarter.

SECTION II: Announcement of Annual Election
All physics department students shall be notified of the date and time of the election at least one week in advance. A notice containing this information shall also be published in any electronic media generally utilized for graduate student communication.

SECTION III: Nomination of Candidates for Membership
Nominations for elective offices shall be opened no later than one week prior to the election. Candidates for PGC membership must be nominated by a physics department student. Nominations for PGC membership shall remain open until one day prior to the vote. Current nomination lists shall be sent to physics department graduate students, and published in any electronic media generally used for graduate student communication no later than one week prior to the election. These notices shall indicate that nominations shall remain open until one week prior to the vote.
ARTICLE III: REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FIRST-YEAR CLASS

SECTION I: Purpose
The PGC shall provide for the admission of up to two members of the first-year class after the second regularly scheduled meeting of the Fall quarter but before the beginning of the Winter quarter.

SECTION II: Nomination
Nominations of members of the first-year class to the PGC may be made at any time after the beginning of the Fall quarter and before the admission of new members. Any graduate student of the physics department may nominate an eligible member of the first-year class to the PGC. All graduate students of the physics department shall be notified of the nominations period no later than the second week of the fall quarter, by means of any electronic media generally used for graduate student communication.

SECTION III: Election Procedure
If the number of nominees among the first-year students exceeds the number of available positions, an election shall be held among the members of the first-year class. The nominees receiving the largest number of votes shall be considered elected, up to the number of positions available. The existing membership of the PGC shall break any tie votes. If the number of nominees does not exceed the number of available positions, each candidate shall be separately considered by the PGC, with the approval of a majority of the membership sufficient for election. Members of the first-year class so elected shall be considered to take office immediately. Elected members of the first-year class may serve following their first year as the second year representative without election.

ARTICLE IV: ANNUAL ELECTION OF CO-CHAIRS

SECTION I: Election of GSAUCSD physics department representatives
All GSAUCSD representatives for the physics department will be elected according to the guidelines for departmental elections outlined in Article VI of the GSAUCSD Election Bylaws. One of these elected representatives, referred to as the alternate, will serve as a stand-in for the remaining GSAUCSD physics representatives and will only be able to vote at any GSAUCSD meeting by proxy of one of the other representatives. The alternate representative will be assigned by the Chair and Co-Chairs of the PGC.
SECTION II: ANNUAL ELECTION OF THE CHAIR
The chair may be nominated by any student in the physics department. The chair shall be elected by a majority vote of PGC members at the first meeting of fall quarter providing quorum is met. The nominations for chair will be asked to leave the room prior to the vote.

ARTICLE V: SPECIAL ELECTION OF MEMBERS OR CHAIRS

SECTION I: Special Election
In the event of a PGC member vacancy, the position shall be offered to a previously nominated student of the same representative year who ran in the preceding election of the vacant position and received a non-zero number of votes. The position shall be offered to each of the previously nominated students in order of number of votes received, provided that the nominee still meets all eligibility criteria. In the case of a tie between multiple nominees, the existing membership of the PGC shall decide by a majority vote to whom to offer the position.

In the case that no such nominees exist or all such nominees decline the position, a special election shall be held for the vacant position no later than two regular PGC meetings after the position becomes vacant.

SECTION II: Announcement of Special Elections
All physics department students shall be notified of the date and time of the Special Election at least two weeks in advance.

SECTION III: Nominations
Special Election nominations for vacant member or chair positions shall be open no later than the regular PGC meeting prior to the election. Nominations shall remain open until immediately prior to the PGC vote for that office.

SECTION IV: Voting Procedure
Voting Procedure shall follow the same format as the annual election procedure outlined above in the Election Bylaws.
SECTION V: Installation, Rights and Responsibilities
Members and chairs elected by Special Election shall be installed in office immediately following the election. Members and chairs elected by Special Election shall be accorded the full rights and responsibilities due the office.

ARTICLE VI: Validity of Elections
In order to be valid an election must have a minimum voter turnout of 20% of the physics department graduate student body.

ARTICLE VII: Volunteer Appointments
Members of the council may appoint up to two additional members, referred to as volunteer appointments. Volunteers may be approved by council with a two-thirds vote of current members and serve until the end of the year in which they are appointed.

ARTICLE VIII: Committee Appointments
SECTION I: External Committee Appointments
The PGC committee appointments which work with committees or individuals as defined and requested by the Chair of the physics department will be referred to as external committees. The PGC representatives to serve on these committees will be appointed by the PGC chair at the beginning of the Fall quarter.

SECTION II: Internal Committee Appointments
The PGC committee appointments which work with committees or individuals as defined and requested by the PGC will be referred to as internal committees. The PGC representatives to serve on these committees will be appointed by the PGC chair at the beginning of the Fall quarter.