Physics Graduate Council Constitution
Draft v0.9 :: May 24, 2013

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Physics Graduate Council at the University of California, San Diego, herein referred to as PGC.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The PGC exists to vocalize and advocate for the rights, concerns, and objectives of the graduate students in the Physics Department at UC San Diego. The PGC will act as the officially recognized liaison between the Physics Department administration and faculty and the graduate student body of said department.

ARTICLE III: STATUS

The PGC is an unincorporated association of physics graduate students at UC San Diego. The members of the PGC are the duly constituted representative assembly of the graduate students in the physics department whose mandate to act on behalf of the graduate students in the physics department is derived directly from the physics graduate student body. The PGC is constituted as such according to the provisions of the United States Constitution on freedom of speech and association. The PGC is a “Student Government Organization” at UC San Diego.

ARTICLE IV: PGC MEMBERSHIP

SECTION I: COUNCIL COMPOSITION

The Council shall consist of the co-chairs and chair, herein referred to as executive officers, and two eligible Members from each entering class up to the normative number of years to receive a degree in the physics department, herein referred to as the senior year – as of Spring 2012 this is the sixth year (as set by the department).
SECTION II: ELIGIBILITY

Subject to applicable qualifications, any registered graduate student in the physics department at UC San Diego is eligible to be a Member of the PGC. To be eligible the graduate student must represent the class in which the majority of their term takes place; the exception to this is those Members representing the senior year which can be filled by a student in that class year or later. To remain eligible members must be in good academic standing as defined by the OGS.

SECTION III: RESPONSIBILITIES

All PGC Members are required to attend at minimum half the officially convened Council meetings. If a Member will not be in attendance they must inform the executive officers at least one day in advance. Said member must also verify the fellow representative for their class will be in attendance.

SECTION IV: TERM OF OFFICE

PGC Members shall serve a minimum term of one year.

ARTICLE V: GOVERNANCE

SECTION I: QUORUM

A meeting must be attended by one or more representatives from at least two-thirds of the classes with eligible Members with fifty percent total attendance for quorum to be present and for the actions taken at that meeting to be binding on the PGC.

SECTION II: BYLAWS

The PGC shall adopt Bylaws to govern its internal organization. Amendments to the Bylaws shall require a two-thirds vote and be presented in written form at least one week in advance. The Bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds vote.
SECTION III: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

*Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern this organization in all cases to which they may apply, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution or its Bylaws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

SECTION IV: REMOVAL OF MEMBERS

Any elected Member of the PGC may be removed by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the PGC over two consecutive votes at least one week apart. Should a Member be removed the physics department graduate student body must be notified of the removal and the reason within five working days.

SECTION V: RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Any Member may resign from the PGC for any reason provided that Member notifies all Members of the PGC five working days before resigning from their responsibilities.

SECTION VI: ELECTRONIC VOTING

Any member of the PGC may at any time submit a motion via electronic message to the Chair. The Chair may at his or her sole discretion submit the motion via electronic message to the entire membership for a vote, provided that a meeting is not explicitly required by the Constitution or Bylaws for a vote on a motion of its type. The period of voting shall commence immediately when such submission to the membership occurs, and shall last for a minimum of 48 hours. Votes are to be sent directly to the chair. After the prerequisite time, chair can be asked to make the voters and votes available for the minutes. The motion shall be adopted at the end of that time if approved by a quorum, with a failure to vote being counted as an abstention.

During the period of an electronic vote, any member of the PGC may request of the Chair, via electronic message or in person, that the question be deferred until the next meeting. If any two members make such a request, the Chair shall notify the membership that the consideration of the motion is suspended and place the item on the agenda for the next meeting. The motion shall be considered deferred whether or not it has garnered sufficient votes for approval at the time of the second request for deferral, provided such request is made within 48 hours of the submission of the question to the membership.
ARTICLE VI: ELECTORAL PROCEDURE

SECTION I: ELIGIBILITY

Any nominee to the PGC must be a registered graduate student in the physics department in good academic standing as defined by the OGS, and may not have plans to graduate within said term.

SECTION II: NOMINATION

Any registered graduate student within the physics department may nominate any other eligible candidate. Nominees are to be presented to the current Council in office two to four weeks prior to the PGC election.

SECTION III: ELECTION

The PGC election must be scheduled by the current Council in office no later than the end of spring quarter and earlier if required by the election bylaws.

ARTICLE VII: EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

SECTION I: MEMBERSHIP

The executive officers shall consist of the co-chairs and one executive officer who shall be an eligible Member of the PGC, herein referred to as Chair.

SECTION II: CHAIR

The PGC Chair shall be appointed by a majority vote of Council at the first meeting following the PGC Elections. The Chair may not be an existing Co-Chair. The term of office for Chair is equal to that of all other Council Members.

SECTION III: CO-CHAIRS

The physics department representatives of the Graduate Student Association (GSA) at UC San Diego, including alternate representatives, shall be ex-officio co-chairs. The co-chairs shall be ex-officio Members of the PGC. The Co-Chairs’ term of office is dictated by their membership in the GSA.
SECTION IV: OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES

The executive officers, herein referred to as officers, are responsible for assuring the PGC meets at least twice per quarter. The officers are responsible for overseeing the activities of the PGC and assuring that the PGC continues to fulfill its purpose. The officers are responsible for assuring at least one officer is present at every meeting. The officers are responsible for performing any additional duties as defined by the PGC Officer Bylaws.

SECTION V: CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the above officer responsibilities, it is the responsibility of the Chair to preside over the meetings of the PGC or to nominate an interim chair to preside over the meeting.

SECTION VI: REMOVAL OF REPRESENTATIVES

Should a Member be removed all Members of the PGC must be notified of the removal and the reason within five working days.

ARTICLE VIII: AMENDMENT TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the PGC over two consecutive PGC votes.