

The Marshall University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students Constitution

Article I:

Section One: Title.

The section shall be known as “The Marshall University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students” with an honorary component called “The Marshall University Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter”

Section Two: Purpose.

The objectives of this section shall be

- a) to promote, advance, and diffuse knowledge of the science of physics especially its application to human welfare,
- b) to increase department numbers and stimulate interest in physics topics,
- c) to facilitate social and intellectual communication among physics students, Marshall faculty/administration and other students, as well as workers within physics-related fields to introduce students to the professional community; and
- d) to recognize high scholarship and achievement in physics among outstanding students by means of Sigma Pi Sigma membership.

Section Three: Non-Discrimination Policy.

This organization and its members shall not discriminate for or against any individual for reason of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, handicap, or veteran status.

Article II: Membership

Section One: Society of Physics Students.

Membership is open to any individual interested in physics. All membership dues and payments shall be collected in accordance with the by-laws prescribed by the Chapter and the Society of Physics Students.

Section Two: Sigma Pi Sigma.

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. The National Constitution and Bylaws outline membership details. Election to Sigma Pi Sigma will be 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: All members-elect shall have completed at least the equivalent of three semesters of full-time college work. Further, all members-elect shall have completed at least three semester courses in physics, each of at least three credit hours, which may be credited toward a physics major. All members-elect shall rank in the upper one third of their college class. 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 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.

Article III:

Section One: Officers.

The required officers of this section shall be: a Chapter Advisor, a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Any two of the last three offices may be combined. The duties of each officer shall be outlined in the by-laws and parliamentary authority adopted by this Chapter. In years where more assistance with facilitation is required and with the Chapter's approval other positions may be defined and filled.

Section Two: Election and Term of Office.

The officers shall be elected at the second to last meeting of the section in each spring semester, and the officers elected then shall serve until the election of the next year. In the case that any officer(s) resign their position before the normal election, the President and/or Vice President are still responsible for making certain all officer duties are performed. This can be accomplished by coordinating the duties amongst the rest of the SPS officers until an emergency election can be held. In the case that both the President and Vice Presidential positions are vacated then the remaining officers must decide who among the group has the leadership capabilities to fill the presidency.

Section Three: Sigma Pi Sigma Responsibilities.

Upon the installation of a Sigma Pi Sigma Chapter within the Marshall University Chapter of the Society of Physics Students, 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.

Article IV: Committees

The standing committees shall be: the Executive Committee and the Program Committee. Every standing committee shall serve for one year. The President shall appoint special committees when occasion demands and terminate on completion of their designed function. The duties of the standing committees shall be prescribed in the by-laws of the section and the duties of each special committee announced by the President at the time of appointment.

Article V: Relations with the American Institute of Physics

The section shall keep the Institute informed of the names of the officers and members of the section, together with such information about each as the National Secretary of SPS requires. The sectional shall, on behalf of its members, make such payments as requested by the Executive Committee of the Institute to cover dues in the Institute, subscriptions to publications, or other services. In the event of any conflict between the constitution and by-laws of this section and the constitution and by-laws of the Institute, the latter shall govern.

Article VI: Amendments

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by any member if it is in accordance with the National Society of Physics Students Constitution and By-Laws. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for review and presentation to the society at large. This constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the section by a two-thirds vote of the members present and through mail ballot, provided that the proposed amendment was submitted in writing to all members of the section, previous to this meeting. Adoption of an amendment will also require approval from the Director of the Society of Physics Students. A ratified amendment shall become effective after approval upon notification to members.

Article VII: Method of Dissolution of the SPS Chapter

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 three weeks in advance of this meeting.¹

Adopted and as amended through September 2004.