The Constitution of the PPST Graduate Student Association

Article I: Purpose

The purpose of the PPST Graduate Student Association (hereafter referred to as PGSA) is to facilitate social and academic interaction among PPST (Program in Polymer Science and Technology) students, as well as promote the well-being and vitality of the program to maintain its status as a forum for interdepartmental polymer research.

Article II: Membership

1. PGSA is open to all members of the MIT student community.

2. One is considered a member of this organization in any given academic term if they have attended at least one activity in the preceding or current term.

3. This organization will not discriminate based on any characteristic listed in MIT’s Nondiscrimination Statement.

4. The organization’s membership will at all times consist of at least 5 MIT students.

5. Non-MIT students will not be considered eligible to become members of PGSA.

6. PGSA will not collect any monetary dues from its members.

Article III: Officers

1. This organization will have five officers:
   
a. Co-Presidents
      1. At any time there must be at least 2 co-presidents, and there must be no more than one continuous month where there is any less than 3 co-presidents, hereafter called The Triumvirate.
      2. Each member of the triumvirate will have one of three realms of responsibility:
         i. Co-President of Recruitment (responsible for interfacing with the administration on recruitment issues, such as visit weekends, admission requirements, and program advertisement).
         ii. Co-President of Academic Affairs (responsible for the periodic reevaluation of qualification exams and courses, student seminar speakers, and the oral qualifying exam practice).
iii. Co-President of Student Life (responsible for the organization of student events, such as biweekly student lunches, barbeques, socials, etc.)

3. The Triumvirate is in charge of planning, publicizing, and presiding over meetings.

4. The Triumvirate is in charge of coordinating the activities of TAPS, as well as reserving rooms in the context of the roles given above. These duties may be delegated to members if the members give consent, including other members of the Triumvirate.

5. The makeup of the Triumvirate must include at least 1 international student, 1 domestic student, and 1 of each gender unless accommodation for this is impossible.

b. Treasurer

1. The treasurer shall be responsible for the finances of PGSA.

2. The treasurer is required to sign all checks/vouchers on behalf of PGSA.

c. Web Master

1. The web master shall be responsible for the upkeep of the PGSA webpage.

2. The web master will act as a representative of PGSA that will regularly interface with the PPST administrator and aid with the upkeep of the PPST webpage.

2. All officers of this organization must be distinct persons and MIT students.

3. Elections:

a. Elections of officers shall occur during the PGSA meeting in May.

b. Emergency elections of officers shall occur within a month after a position becomes vacant through an online poll.

c. Any member of this organization is eligible to run for office.

d. Quorum for elections is one half of the group.

e. Any member is elected if he or she wins a majority of the voting members.

f. Elections for the Triumvirate will occur one slot at a time, with the winner being the candidate with the most votes. Remaining candidates are considered for
further Triumvirate slots so long as they comply with the Triumvirate restrictions considered in part III.1.a.5.

g. If more than two people are running and no one wins a majority, the person with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballot and votes are recast.

h. Further ambiguity in voting procedure will be decided upon by the Triumvirate of the previous year.

i. The term of office runs from 1 June to 31 May.

4. Removal: Officers may be removed by a five-sixths vote of the members.

Article IV: Meetings

1. Meetings shall be held at least every two months.

2. The meetings shall be presided over by the Triumvirate on a rotating basis, and at least one Triumvirate member must be in attendance.

3. All decisions shall be made by a majority vote of all members present.

4. Quorum for a meeting shall be five members of the organization.

Article V: Amendments

1. Amendments shall be presented by any member of the organization.

2. Amendments shall be passed by a 2/3 vote of the members present.

3. Quorum for amending this constitution shall be ½ of all members of the organization.

Article VI: ASA Governance Clause

PGSA agrees to abide by the rules and regulations of the Association of Student Activities, and its executive board. This constitution, amendments to it, and the by-laws of this organization shall be subject to review by the ASA Executive Board to insure that they are in accordance with the aforementioned rules and regulations.