

# **Constitution of The Graduate Student Organization of Plant Physiologists**

(This constitution was approved by the IPPM students in April, 2008.  
It is pending approval from the Student Organization Review Board within the Student  
Activities Center.)

## **Article I Name**

The name of this organization shall be “The Graduate Student Organization of Plant Physiologists (GOPP).”

## **Article II Purpose and Goals**

### **Section A**

The objectives of this organization shall be to encourage learning and research in plant biology (include but not limited to physiology, cell and molecular biology, biochemistry, genetic, evolution and ecology, etc.) through sponsoring and providing an arena for the communication of plant biology information from research of interest to plant biologists. This objective will be met through weekly seminars during the academic year, holding an annual retreat, hosting off-campus speakers during the annual Loomis Lecture and mini-symposium and organizing informal social events.

### **Section B**

“The Graduate Student Organization of Plant Physiologists” abides by and supports established Iowa State University policies, State and Federal Laws.

## **Article III Membership**

Membership shall be open to all registered students at Iowa State University. Students enrolled in the Interdepartmental Plant Physiology Major at Iowa State University are automatically members of the organization. Any Post Doctorate Researcher interested in plant biology may become members of the organization with non-voting standing. The Graduate Student Organization of Plant Physiologists along with Iowa State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability or status as a U.S. Veteran. As a member, one is required to pay dues and actively support organization projects. Members who fail to pay dues for two consecutive semesters and do not participate in at least one social event (Loomis Lecture, Annual Retreat or P Phys 696P seminar) during one academic year will be given a written warning explaining that they have a four-week grace period to pay for past dues. If the dues are not paid after the grace period membership will be revoked by a simple majority vote by the general membership through a secret ballot.

## **Article IV Officers and Adviser**

### **Section A Officer Positions and Academic Requirements**

Officers will be elected to the following positions and make up the Executive Committee: Co-President(s), Co-Vice President(s), Treasurer, Secretary, GPSS-Senate Representative, and Social Chair(s) (duties are outlined below). Members interested in becoming an officer must meet the following academic requirements:

- (a) Have a minimum grade point ration (GPA) of 3.00 and meet that minimum GPA in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment and semesters during the term of office.
- (b) Be in good standing with the university and enrolled full time as a graduate student (unless fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement) during the term of office.
- (c) Be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b).

### **Section B Officer Duties**

Co-President(s) duties include presiding over meetings, promote interest of organization, appoint members to specific committees, sit on any committee as a non-voting member, member of the Loomis planning and IPPM mini-symposium organizing committee, work with advisor and faculty committees, work with new Co-Vice President(s) in planning semester seminars, participate at IPPM faculty meeting, and member of search committee for IPPM students applying for grant to regional conference.

Co-Vice President(s) duties include organizing semester seminar series, chair seminar committee, assume duties of president if president is unable, main contact for seminar speakers, prepare speakers abstracts and introduce speakers, and serve as a contact person for retreat organizer.

Treasurer duties include managing funds, report income, expense and balance information at meetings, apply to GPSS for annual funding, collect and record dues, authorizes expenditures along with advisor.

GPSS-Senate Representative duties include attending GPSS senate meetings, represent the interest of the organization, report senate proceedings to officers and serve as a bridge between graduate students and the university administration.

Secretary duties include keeping records of organization proceedings, assist treasurer in collection and recording of dues and work with department secretary to print ad distribute seminar flyers.

Social Chair(s) duties include organizing social and/or education events, bring refreshments to weekly seminar, serve as the contact person for new student/faculty recruitment committee, organize dinners during student recruitment visits and work with program chair to pair new student with student buddies.

### **Section C Election of Officers**

Elections will be held annually in December to fill officer positions during the following calendar year. All officers will hold a one-year term from January to December. Candidates will be nominated for Executive Committee offices, if there are no nominations the Co-President(s) and/or Co-Vice President(s) will randomly select members to be nominated for office positions. Election of officers will require a simple

majority vote from the general membership. Votes will be cast by a secret ballot during a regular weekly seminar. If a candidate fails to receive a majority of votes, a run off election will be held within the top two candidates that received the most votes.

#### **Section D Removal of an Officer**

Officers may be removed from office by a ½ vote of the other officers and ¾ of the general memberships if actions are deemed inappropriate by the membership, such actions include but are not limited to failure to fulfill responsibilities outlined in Article IV Section B and unexcused absences (2 or more) from Executive Committee meetings/functions. The officer is permitted to speak before the Executive Committee and the general membership about the charges made concerning his/her performance. The officer is not permitted to participate in the deliberation of the Executive Committee regarding the charges.

#### **Section E Replacement of Officer**

If an officer position becomes open due to removal or graduation of the student serving that officer position the Co-President(s) will ask for volunteers from the general membership to fill the open position. The Co-President(s) may also nominate one or two members to fill the officer position. Volunteers and nominated member must fulfill the academic requirements specified in Article IV Section A. A simple majority vote by the general membership will be required to fill the officer position, which will be done through a secret ballot.

#### **Section F Adviser**

Adviser duties include maintaining communication and meeting with officer(s) regularly, awareness and approval of financial expenditure and ensure that the organization is operating in conformity with the standards set forth by Iowa State University and Student Activities Center. The Adviser for GOPP will be filled automatically by the Director of Graduate Education (DOGE) of IPPM. The DOGE is elected by the faculty of IPPM and is held for three years.

### **Article V Finances**

The organization may establish reasonable dues that must be paid by all members. The amount of dues will be determined in the beginning of the academic year by the Executive Committee and presented to the general membership for a simple majority vote. The member dues will not exceed \$10 per semester but shall be no less than \$5 per semester. Dues must be paid by the third week of the semester. The treasurer shall maintain all financial records. All monies belonging to this organization shall be deposited and dispersed through a bank account established for this organization at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institutions/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). Following the recommendation of the Campus Organizations Accounting Office, all funds must be deposited within 7 days after collection, unless amount exceeds \$100 which must be deposited within 24 hours. The Adviser to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure before payment.

**Article VI Amendments and Ratification**

This constitution shall become effective upon approval by two-thirds vote of the general membership. Ratified constitution must be submitted to Student Activities Center with in 10 days of final approval

Amendments to the constitution must be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at least two weeks in advance of the meeting for distribution to members. New amendments must be read/distributed to members at least one week prior to initial voting. Amending the constitution will require a two-thirds vote of at least fifty percent of the general members. If the amendment is defeated in the initial vote there will be a second vote at least one week after the initial vote and requires a two-thirds vote of at least fifty percent of the general membership to pass. All votes will be done by show of hands. If the amendment is defeated twice it cannot be resubmitted for one semester. Once an amendment has received a two-thirds vote by fifty percent of the general membership the Executive Committee will submit the amended constitution within 10 days to Student Activities Center for approval.

_____	_____	_____
Co-President Signature	Co-President Name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Co-President Signature	Co-President Name	Date
_____	_____	_____
Adviser Signature	Adviser Name	Date