

Constitution of the SPHS PhD Organization

May 5, 2009

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Preamble

The SPHS PhD Organization aims to bring together students enrolled in the PhD program of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences for academic and professional purposes. The function of the organization is to provide a venue for PhD students to

- Discuss and be exposed to current research in the speech and hearing sciences.
- Meet and interact with leading scientists, both within and outside of Indiana University, to discuss professional and research issues.
- Learn about professional issues associated with academic and research careers in the speech and hearing sciences.
- Exchange current research findings in a supportive learning environment.

Article I: Membership and Statement of Nondiscrimination

The SPHS PhD Organization allows any interested graduate student to participate in, become a member of, and seek leadership positions in the organization without regard to arbitrary consideration of such characteristics as age, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

Primary membership will be comprised of students enrolled in the PhD program of the Department of Speech and Hearing Sciences at Indiana University. Primary members will have the right to hold office. They will be responsible for all aspects of the conduct of the organization.

Other graduate students with an interest in research in the speech and hearing sciences may also choose to participate. They will not be eligible, however, to hold office.

Membership is self-selecting, and there are no procedures for revocation of membership. There are also no dues associated with membership.

Article II: University Compliance

This organization shall comply with all Indiana University regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.

Article III: Executive Officers

There are five executive positions to be filled voluntarily by the primary student membership.

Two students will share the office of Co-Coordinator. Co-Coordinators will be responsible for overseeing the annual activities of the organization, in consultation with the membership. They will call and conduct meetings, develop and disseminate agenda and minutes of meetings. They will ensure that all planned activities are feasible and executed to plan.

The other executive position is that of Treasurer. The Treasurer will be responsible for developing and maintaining the organization budget and for maintaining records of spending.

The other executive position is that of Representative to the Graduate and Professional Student Organization. The Representative will attend meetings of the GPSO and will disseminate this information to the primary student membership.

The other executive position is that of Secretary. The Secretary will be responsible for maintaining records to include all points of discussion and decisions taking place at regularly scheduled meetings of the organization and of the executive officers.

The five student executive officers will be in close consultation with the faculty advisor, who will be appointed by the department chair. The faculty advisor will be present at meetings of the executive officers and will oversee activities and budgetary aspects of the organization. Meetings will be monthly at the minimum, and will be convened by any of the executive officers or faculty advisor.

Article IV: Advisor

The Coordinator of Doctoral Studies is appointed by the department chair. One of the responsibilities of this position is service as the faculty advisor to the SPHS PhD Organization.

Article V: Meetings

Meetings of the membership at-large will be held at least monthly. The frequency of the meetings will largely be determined by the activities that are planned. As outlined in Article III, the executive officers and/or faculty advisor will convene the meetings. Meetings will be announced by email; attendance will not be recorded.

Article VI: Voluntary Positions

The executive offices are voluntary (not elected) positions. Any member of the organization may express willingness to hold an office. The officers will be established by discussion and consensus of the primary membership. This is necessary because the primary membership is comprised of doctoral students, who are at different stages in completion of the degree, requiring different levels of commitment. As such, each member knows if volunteering to hold an executive office is feasible given progress toward the degree.

The executive officers will be determined at the final meeting of the organization, held in the spring semester. If a member is interested in serving, but is unable to attend the final meeting, that person will communicate interest to the Co-Coordinator and the Advisor.

Executive officers will serve for 3 semesters. This is designed to facilitate transition and training from one set of executive officers to another.

Article VII: Anti-Hazing Policy

Hazing is strictly prohibited. Hazing shall be defined as any conduct which subjects another person, whether physically, mentally, emotionally, or psychologically, to anything that may endanger, abuse, degrade, or intimidate the person as a condition of association with a group or organization, regardless of the person's consent or lack of consent.

Article VIII: Dues and Budgets

There are no dues associated with membership. The membership may choose to engage in fund-raising for events and activities. Funds may also be secured through competitive grant applications that are offered intra- and extramurally. Projected budgets to cover the cost of activities will be developed by the executive officers in consultation with the faculty advisor and department chair.

Article IX: Finances

The SPHS PhD Organization will maintain a Student Organization Account. The Treasurer will have financial responsibility for the funds, with the faculty advisor as co-signatory on all financial transactions. Details of the account will be maintained by the Treasurer, with records entered to a secure website set up by the department for purposes of and use by this organization.

Article X: Amendments and Ratification

Amendments to the constitution will be considered by the membership as needed. Any member may offer an amendment for discussion. Consensus will establish ratification. Ratified amendments will be formalized and then submitted to the Student Activities Office for final approval.

Article XI: Personal Gain Clause.

This organization, if raising funds, shall ethically raise and distribute profits from organizational functions to either the organization or to members who provide a service that directly benefits the organization. Individual members may not receive compensation directly from for-profit companies if acting as a representative of a student organization.