

January 2003

A constitution is required to officially register any student organization with the Department of Student Life at Michigan State University. The following constitution was designed to meet the specific guidelines outlined by the MSU Department of Student Life (www.studentlife.msu.edu).

Neuroscience Program Graduate Student Council (NSP GSC) Constitution

ARTICLE I: NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be: Neuroscience Program Graduate Student Council (NSP GSC)

Section 2. The purpose of this organization shall be to a) increase the role of the NSP graduate students in the organization and running of the NSP; b) facilitate camaraderie among NSP graduate students; and c) facilitate communication between NSP graduate students and faculty.

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Any MSU student may be a member. The NSP GSC will not discriminate on the basis of age, color, gender, disability status, height, marital status, national origin, political persuasion, race, religion, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight. Also, only NSP graduate students may be officers and/or voting members.

Section 2. A person becomes a member (for the following academic year) by expressing their interest at the NSP graduate student annual meeting (to be held the week following the final research forum in the Spring semester). Incoming NSP graduate students will be offered membership at the first research forum of the academic year. A person remains in good standing by obeying the rules of the NSP GSC that are written in the constitution. Also, the term of membership is one year (from September 1 to August 31).

ARTICLE III: OFFICERS

Section 1. All members of the NSP GSC that are NSP graduate students are officers. There will be no specific titles or ranks as all officers are considered equal. One officer will be elected Chair for a term of one academic year (from September 1 to August 31) but may serve for more than one year if voted by the NSP graduate students. The responsibilities of the Chair include presiding over meetings of the NSP GSC and

communication with faculty and staff of the NSP. Any officer is eligible to serve as Chair with the exception of 1st year NSP students.

Section 2. Nominations and elections for the position of Chair will take place at the NSP graduate student annual meeting. Any NSP graduate student may make a nomination for Chair and all NSP graduate students have equal voting. Elections shall be held by secret ballot and require a simple majority of voting members present.

Section 3. Officers shall have the following duties: to attend meetings and contribute to the management of the NSP GSC as well as assist with the execution of the duties of the NSP GSC (e.g. organization of annual NSP retreat, faculty awards, etc). The Chair shall have the following duties: to organize and convene all meetings and to serve as official (but certainly not only) liaison between the NSP GSC and the NSP program director.

Section 4. Membership in good standing consists of attendance at 75% or more of the general meetings as well as contribution in NSP GSC governed planning and activities.

ARTICLE IV: OPERATING PROCEDURES

Section 1. Meetings will occur on the first Monday of every month (time and place to be determined for each meeting). Supplementary meetings may be scheduled as required. Quorum consists of 5 officers in attendance.

Section 2. Meetings will follow Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 3. The NSP GSC as a whole will serve as a committee (with the formation of sub-committees as necessary) for the following purposes: organization and execution of the annual NSP retreat; organization of nominations for and awarding of faculty awards; student mini-symposium selection; and organization of NSP social events. Also, officers of the NSP GSC will serve as student representatives on the following NSP committees: Graduate Affairs Committee (GAC); Dean's Student Advisory Committee (DSAC); hiring committee; and the NSP faculty advisory committee.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments may be proposed by any NSP GSC officer in good standing at any scheduled NSP GSC meeting.

Section 2. Proposed amendments will be voted on by the officers of the NSP GSC at the meeting in which the proposal was made. Amendments require a 2/3 vote from the NSP GSC officers in order to be approved.

Section 3. Amendments will be sent to the NSP GSC faculty advisor (the head of the GAC) for final approval.