

SASS Constitution

November 22, 2008

ARTICLE I. THE SLAC ASSOCIATION FOR STUDENT SEMINARS

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be the SLAC Association for Student Seminars (SASS).

Section 2: Purpose

SASS is an organization dedicated to the betterment of SLAC students: learning, improving communication skills, exploring potential research and careers, and establishing a community.

Section 3: Membership

All students at SLAC are encouraged to participate in SASS. Undergraduate students and non-physics students are welcome, though talks are most suited for physics graduate students.

ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION

Section 1: Czars

Two students hold the positions of SASS Czars. The position rotates about every 6 months.

Section 2: Czar Responsibilities

The Czars are responsible for room reservations, acquiring food, publicity, the website, communication with speakers, and arranging the speaker schedule. The Czars should enforce the constitution, including the atmosphere of the talks.

Section 3: Planning Meetings

About twice a year, planning meetings are to be held. These are opportunities for students to provide feedback about the structure of SASS and to influence its future. Upcoming talks will be scheduled.

Section 4: Communication

Communication about SASS and upcoming talks is primarily conducted through the got-sass e-mail list and SASS website.

ARTICLE III: TALKS

Section 1: Purpose

SASS primarily consists of weekly talks given by students to students. Talks are given at a first-year graduate level and should be accessible to a student in any physics discipline. Talks may be on any topic appealing to students at SLAC, including current SLAC research, research conducted elsewhere, practical skills, and fundamental knowledge. Talks need not have specific physics content. A speaker needs not be an expert on a topic to present it and the audience must be respectful of it.

Anyone at SLAC (non-students) can listen to talks, but they must be mindful of SASS as an environment that exists for students.

Section 2: Speakers

As SASS exists to benefit SLAC students, SLAC students are given preference in scheduling talks. A secondary priority are talks by outside speakers - preferably with ties to SLAC - on topics that directly benefit the majority of students, such as career possibilities.

Section 3: Format

Talks should be prepared to last about 20 to 30 minutes, which allows plenty of time for questions and discussions. Talks should be accessible to a first-year physics graduate student in any research field.

Section 4: Speaker Responsibilities

Speakers will present a talk within the guidelines of SASS. Speakers will provide to the Czars a title and short promotional blurb about their talk at least a week in advance. Speakers will be in communication with the Czars about technology needs within the week prior to the talk. On the day of the talk the speaker will arrive at the room at least 15 minutes early to set up. During the talk, speakers will be open to questions and do their best to answer them respectfully.

ARTICLE IV. AMENDMENTS

Section 1: Any member may propose Amendments to this Constitution.

Section 2: Once an amendment is proposed, its text will be visible on the website for at least 2 weeks and members will have at least 2 weeks of notification of when the vote will occur.

Section 3: Amendments shall be adopted upon two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting where the vote is conducted.

Section 4: Any Amendment to this Constitution shall take effect upon the date specified by the Membership at the time the Amendment is ratified.

ARTICLE V. RATIFICATION

Section 1: This document will take immediate effect upon ratification by simple majority vote of all the members present.