

**Constitution**

**of**

**Polish Student Organization**  
**(PSO)**

**Purdue University's**  
**Student organization**

## **Preamble:**

The following Articles and Bylaws of this document are the official laws of the Polish Student Organization. They form the Constitution, which is the written law that every member of the organization must follow in order to become and continue to be part of this organization. This means that every member is responsible for knowing the Constitution, its Articles and Bylaws.

## **Article I:**

The chosen name for this organization is the Polish Student Organization, in abbreviation PSO. This abbreviation will be used when referring to the organization.

## **Article II:**

The purpose of the PSO is to allow Polish students to continue their heritage and have close contact with the Polish culture. Also, the organization will serve as an opportunity for other interested students and members of the Purdue family to experience the Polish culture and its beauties. They will have the opportunity to meet Polish people, watch the latest Polish cinema, taste Polish cuisine, see how the Polish culture has integrated into the American culture, and much, much more.

## **Article III:**

One of the most important laws that must be followed within the organization is the following: Membership and participation are free from discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or ancestry, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, disabilities, or status as a disabled or Vietnam-era veteran.

As mentioned above, anyone can participate within the organization and its activities. However, full membership is only eligible to Purdue University students. This means that only those members are allowed to vote or hold office positions. The other members are granted adjunct membership, with no privileges of voting or holding office. The “other members” refers mainly to Purdue University staff and faculty, and also alumni.

In addition to all the general members of the PSO, there is also an advisor who is a non-student member. This person is granted all the rights and privileges as all the other members, except for the right of voting and holding office, since he/she is not a student of Purdue University, but has affiliation with Purdue University as being a professor or part of the Purdue staff.

## **New Membership:**

Accepting of new members into the organization is very simple. A person interested in joining must contact the president of the PSO and provide to him/her some form of proof of affiliation with Purdue University. Once these two requirements are fulfilled, the

person becomes a member of the organization, either a full or adjunct member, which ever applies.

#### **Article IV:**

The organization contains three officers: President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

#### **Qualifications:**

The only qualification a member needs in order to become an officer of the PSO is to be a full member, meaning that he/she is a student of Purdue University. However, the student must be enrolled as a full-time student. Students that are not enrolled full-time are not eligible. This applies to all three offices mentioned above.

#### **Elections:**

Elections of new officers, the President and Treasurer, are to take place every school year at the end of the spring semester. The elections will be held for the President and Treasurer's positions. The election will be a secret ballot. The date of the election will be decided by the organization no later than the end of March. The newly elected officers, those who acquire majority, most, of the votes, will take office upon the start of the new fall semester following summer vacation. In case of a tie, the current officers are to have a secret meeting where they are to decide on how to break the tie. Every current student of the organization, full or part-time, is able to vote, even those students who are leaving the organization before the start of the new school year. The position of the Secretary's office is not to be elected. This position is to be filled by a person that is appointed by the newly elected President. However, the Treasurer must approve this appointment.

#### **Article V:**

Duties of the officers:

#### **President:**

The President is the most important person of the organization. He/she is the person who represents the organization as a whole. The President must always show himself/herself in mature manner. The President must treat all of the members of the organization equally. Additionally, the President is in charge of organizing and monitoring all the events, and summing up meetings. Lastly, the President has the power over who is to be the Secretary of the PSO. This means that the President appoints the Secretary.

#### **Treasurer:**

The Treasurer keeps accounts, deposits the organization's funds, and makes expenditures in a manner approved by the Business Office for Student Organizations.

#### **Secretary:**

The role of the Secretary is to aid the President in his/her duties. Mainly this means that the Secretary helps to keep track of all the paper work that must be done during meetings or while organizing or monitoring events that the PSO holds.

## **Article VI:**

### **Amendments:**

Amendments are allowed. In order to amend the constitution there must a popular appeal. Popular appeal means that more that 50% of the PSO full members are in favor of the amendment. Once this is achieved, the amendment must be written and all of the full members in favor of the amendment must sign under the amendment. Then the President, and Advisor must sign and date the amendment. After all of these tasks are completed, the amendment must be turned over to the Office of the Dean of Students in order to receive approval of the amendment. All amendments to the constitution and bylaws are subject to the approval of the Office of the Dean of Students. No amendment can take place unless the Office of the Dean of Students approves it.

### **Bylaws:**

In addition to all of the rules written within this Constitution, the organization must also follow all the rules set forth by the Office of the Dean of Students.

Any transaction that will take place within the PSO, including but not limited to adopting of amendments, organizing meetings, and events must be supported by a majority of the PSO full members being present. At the moment there are no committees within the PSO, but amendments are allowable in order to change that status. The election procedures are as listed within Article IV. If there is to occur a vacancy within the organization, a special election will be arranged in order to fill this vacancy. The election procedures are the same as the ones that take place for the annual scheduled elections. For a time of vacancy for any office, all the full members will make all of the decisions needed. In order for any decision to be passed it must be supported by the majority of the full members by a popular vote. If any signatures are required, then any of the other officers available, are allowed to sign in replacement of the vacant office. In case of the advisor's position being vacant, he/she is appointed by the organization as a whole, where majority of the organization must approve the advisor that is being appointed. Also, if the organization decides to replace the advisor due to the demand of the at least a majority of the organization, then the organization is allowed to appointed a new advisor following the normal procedures of appointing an advisor. The dues and assessments of the PSO will be decided as needed and will need an approval of the majority of the full members. In addition, this decision must also have the support of all the officers and the advisor of the organization. All of the proceeds will go to benefit the organization equally as a whole. Amendments are allowable to the bylaws and they follow the same procedures as amending the Articles of the Constitution. Finally, proper and mature behavior is expected from all of the members of the PSO.

If any of the members of the PSO will not be able to follow the rules written above they may not become members of the organization. Also, if any person breaks any of these rules, he/she is subject to immediate expulsion from the organization.

Damian Stefanczyk, September 26, 2002

**Signatures of Approval:**

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Date of Adoption

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Date of Recognition

\_\_\_\_\_  
President's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of the Dean of Students

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Advisor's Signature