

EUROPEAN PHYSICAL SOCIETY

PLASMA PHYSICS DIVISION

Statutes

ARTICLE 1– Scope

The Plasma Physics Division (PPD) of the European Physical Society unites European scientists engaged in the physics of fully and partially ionized gases and their applications.

ARTICLE 2 – Aims

The aims of the PPD are

- to represent the field of Plasma Physics within and outside of the European Physical Society (EPS),
- to facilitate collaboration and contacts between research institutes, universities, the Division of Plasma Physics of the APS and other national societies working in this field,
- to promote teaching and training of young researchers, and
- to organize conferences.

ARTICLE 3 – Membership

Membership of the PPD is open to individual scientists or groups or laboratories engaged in the topics specified in Article 1 of these Statutes, who are members of the EPS under Articles 4a (Individual Ordinary Members), 4b (national societies) or 4c (members of national societies), and Article 6 (associate members), and Article 7 (national society members) of the EPS Constitution. Members are admitted upon written application. Non - members of the EPS may participate in the scientific activities of the PPD about which they may receive information upon application.

ARTICLE 4 – Organization

1. The business of the PPD is carried out by a Board in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the EPS, and its General Statutes for Divisions. The composition of the Board should reflect all fields of plasma physics in a balanced way. The General Conference of the PPD should reflect all areas of Plasma Physics. The Board also decides on the attribution of prizes awarded by the PPD according to their statutes.
2. With the prior approval of the Council of EPS, the PPD may create Sections, consisting of PPD members interested in particular sub fields of plasma physics. The Sections have their own statutes and boards; the statutes of the Sections have to be approved by the PPD board.

ARTICLE 5 – The Board

1. General

- a) The Board of the PPD is composed of
- Regular members, namely
 - 12 elected members forming the Elected Board and
 - up to 3 co-opted members, and
 - ex-officio members, namely the Chairpersons of the Sections,
 - Representing members
 - a representative of the APS and
 - representatives of other societies or Divisions.

Regular Members of the Board must be Individual Ordinary Members of the EPS, Constitution Article 4a), 4c), 4d) or Article 7.

Co-option of a Board member is possible with the absolute majority of the Board.

Ex-officio and representing members are nominated by their Sections or Divisions. Which division is to be represented in the Board is decided by a majority vote of the Board.

- b) One term in the Board is normally 4 years¹. No member can stay on the Board for more than two terms. Terms end at fixed dates, each 4th year, the day before the main Board meeting. Members normally enter in function the day of the main Board meeting.
- c) The Board elects a chairperson, a secretary, a public relations officer, and two members for the Hannes Alfvén Prize Committee. They serve for four years and can be re-elected.
- d) Representing members have no voting rights.
- e) The Board must meet at least once a year preferably in conjunction with the General Conference of the PPD (this meeting is hereafter referred to as the “Main Board Meeting”). If chairpersons of Sections are unable to attend Board meetings, they must send a fully mandated substitute.

2. Chairperson

The chairperson represents the PPD, he organizes the work of the Board, the elections, the selection of co-opted members and the prizes awarded by the PPD; he is a member of the Programme Committee of the General Conference of the PPD and he deals with all financial matters of the PPD.

3. Secretary

¹ The 4-year periods start from the Main Board meeting in 2004; the period till then is regulated by transition rules (see Annex).

The secretary is proposed by the chairperson and elected by the regular members of the Board at the first Main Board Meeting of the new term. He supports the chairperson in all matters and he prepares the minutes of the board meetings.

4. Public Relations Officer

The Public Relations Officer is proposed by the chairperson and elected by the Regular Members of the Board at the first Main Board Meeting of the new term. He is in charge of the web page of the PPD and he maintains the conference software ELISE. He updates the list of Ordinary Members of the PPD and keeps e-mail connections.

5. Relation to APS and other societies

The Board decides annually on the representatives of the PPD in the American Physical Society and other societies.

ARTICLE 6 – Election of and co-option to the Board

1. Elections

In the composition of the Board, six of the elected members should be in their first term and six in their second term.

The year before the new term, elections must be organized to replace those elected members, who finish their second term (at least six elected members)

The same year, at its Main Board Meeting, the regular members of the Board

- can extend the mandate of those elected members, who finish their first term.
- elect a chairperson among those elected members, who have their mandate extended. The chairperson is elected by simple majority. The EPS Executive Committee shall confirm the election of the chairperson.
- The Board can co-opt additional members to the maximum of three.

Newly elected or co-opted members and the newly elected chairperson take office in the following year, the day of the first Main Board Meeting of the new term.

2. Organisation and announcement of elections

The elected members of the Board are elected at the main divisional conference, the year before the new term,

- by a vote of the members of the PPD participating in the conference and
- by subsequent mail vote.

All the necessary information for submission of nominations and about the elections, including the Statutes and electronic forms for submission of nominations, will be made available on the Web site of the PPD early in the election year.

The request for nominations and elections will be announced in Europhysics News and on the web site of the General Conference of the PPD, where a link will be provided to the Division's web site. Ordinary Members will be invited to submit nominations to Board members.

The chairperson compiles the list of candidates. This list is finalized at the Main Board Meeting preceding the General Conference. Rejection of a candidate is possible by unanimous decision of the Board. It is the duty of the Board to ensure that there are at least as many candidates as open positions.

3. Resignation and absence

Regular members, who resign or become unable to serve, will not be replaced before the next election.

Regular Members, who fail to attend the Main Board Meeting more than once, can only serve a second term if the Board so decides.

ARTICLE 7 – Information exchange with the members of the PPD

The chairperson will prepare, for distribution at the General Conference of the PPD, a summary of the activities of the Board and of the Sections during the last year, including a list of the Board members. He will publicly report on the Board activities during the General Conference, and invite comments where appropriate.

The public relations officer will take care that this and all other useful information is regularly updated on the web site of the PPD. In particular, conferences must be adequately advertised, Board meetings announced with preliminary agendas posted. He will also take care that adequate means are provided on the web site to allow comments and suggestions to be transmitted to the full Board or to specific members.

ARTICLE 8 – Finances

As a contribution to the expenses of the PPD, a contribution may be requested from the organisers of the General Conference. On proposition of the Board, this contribution is decided upon by common accord with the organisers of the General Conference. Half of the annual funds for prizes of the PPD come from the conference fees. The Sections also contribute to the prize funds via their conference activities.

ARTICLE 9 – Rules of good practice

1. Apart from the chairperson, Board members cannot be members of the Programme Committee of the General Conference.
2. Board members cannot be nominated for the prizes of the PPD.

ARTICLE 10 – Revision of the statutes

Subject to the approval of Council, these Statutes may be changed by unanimous decision of the regular members of the Board.

ANNEX – Special provisions for setting correct initial conditions in 2004

1. The present regulations will enter in force in 2003, with the present Board. In particular, the end of the term of all Board members including the chairman is set to Summer 2004 in agreement with Art. 5.1.b, irrespective of how long they have served on the Board.
2. In 2003, the Board will carry out the first elections under the new Statutes according to Article 6.