

## Scientific Slug Constitution

### Preamble:

Oh, what wonders are the scientific explorations! On the UC Santa Cruz Campus and off of it, there is much scientific imagery that should be shared and enjoyed by all, but are lost in the opaque mathematical methods and rigorous jargon of research papers. And thus the journal *Scientific Slug* was founded by one Nick Lounsbury, to wed the two forever more: Science & Art.

I. Name: The name of this organization shall be *Scientific Slug*.

II. Statement of Intent:

For the statement of intent, we borrow the following words of Richard Feynman.

“I wanted very much to learn to draw, for a reason that I kept to myself: I wanted to convey an emotion I have about the beauty of the world. It's difficult to describe because it's an emotion. It's analogous to the feeling one has in religion that has to do with a god that controls everything in the whole universe: there's a generality aspect that you feel when you think about how things that appear so different and behave so differently are all run "behind the scenes" by the same organization, the same physical laws. It's an appreciation of the mathematical beauty of nature, of how she works inside; a realization that the phenomena we see result from the complexity of the inner workings between atoms; a feeling of how dramatic and wonderful it is. It's a feeling of awe — of scientific awe — which I felt could be communicated through a drawing to someone who had also had this emotion. It could remind him, for a moment, of this feeling about the glories of the universe.”

– Richard Feynman

III. Mission Statement:

The mission of *Scientific Slug* is to showcase scientific research and science education through journalism and creative works. We deeply value diversity, activism, and collaboration throughout the science community by engaging with a diverse number of communities on campus. What sets *Scientific Slug* apart is that we are a student-run science magazine and aim to communicate science in a way that is accessible to an audience of scientists and nonscientists alike, in turn fostering an environment where scientific and artistic collaboration can flourish. We hope to provide the opportunity for our members to learn the technical processes of producing a magazine and to improve journalism skills.

IV. Guidelines:

- A. *Scientific Slug* shall publish (1) science journalism, (2) science research, and (3) creative works pertaining to science.
  1. Science journalism should pertain to research happening at any of the UC campus with an emphasis on research at UC Santa Cruz.
  2. Original science research must have been conducted by UC affiliated undergraduate or graduate students.

3. Creative works are free to be of any form, but the ultimate decision on whether or not to publish a work is left to the editors.
  - B. *Scientific Slug* shall be a student journal.
  - C. *Scientific Slug* shall be printed in a format democratically voted on by the editorial board.
  - D. *Scientific Slug* shall post all issues and corrections to the *Scientific Slug* blog.
- V. Diversity Guidelines
- A. *Scientific Slug* is a community that values and respects the orientations, backgrounds and experiences of its members.
  - B. *Scientific Slug* provides a safe space for all scientists, journalists, and artists, no matter their background, to explore ideas and engage with the community at large
- VI. Code of Ethics
- A. *Scientific Slug* shall endeavor to publish only work that is accurate and considerate of the diverse perspectives of the campus at large. If work is potentially divisive, we shall strive to respect all differences in opinions and support the rights of all to express their views. The organization will exercise caution in publishing works that may potentially violate federal, state, or local laws and will strive to foster an environment free of discrimination or prejudice of any form.
- VII. Membership:
- A. All registered students at UCSC interested in *Scientific Slug* are eligible to be contributors or staff members.
    1. Contributors do not attend weekly meetings or participate in production weekend, but their work may be published in the magazine.
    2. Staff members attend weekly meetings and participate in production.
      - a) Staff Members are also considered Voting Members, who democratically vote on all matters except Constitutional amendments, impeachment, dismissal of staff, and budgets.
        - (1) Quorum is a minimum 60% of membership
      - b) All Staff Members are part of a Small Group, each of which is headed by a signer.
        - (1) Small groups function to keep signers and members in contact with each other via messaging so that:
          - (a) Members have a person within the leadership to which they can reach for support, notify of absence, etc.
          - (b) Signers keep in touch with members in case of issues, needing support in their tasks, etc.
- VIII. Signers:
- A. All Signers are legally and fiscally responsible for *Scientific Slug*.
  - B. If unanimously in disagreement with the outcome of an organization-wide vote, Signers may override the decision.

- C. The Signers make up the Editorial Board and will act as a collective, or horizontal organization. No Board Member has a higher rank than any other Board Member. Instead, Board Member duties will be divided up according to sections VIII.E.1-4.
- D. No more than three Board Members in a given year shall be on track to graduate that year.
- E. The Editorial Board Members shall sign onto at least one of the following positions at the beginning of each school year. All positions must be filled before the magazine can begin work.
  - 1. Publicity: Updates website, posts on social media, designs and executes submissions framework
  - 2. Funding: Acts as financial signer, assigns and organizes funding requests, coordinates Giving Day
  - 3. Membership: Sends out weekly meeting email, keeps attendance, takes charge of recruitment, stays in tune with group dynamics
  - 4. Content/Enrichment: Facilitates article discussion, leads content discussion, coordinates training/workshops.
- F. All Signers democratically vote on what submissions go to press.
- G. New Signers:
  - 1. All staff members select new Signers for the following school year by a democratic vote.
  - 2. Prospective new Signers must submit an application (electronically in an email to scislug@gmailcom) to the existing Signers at least 24 hours before election day.
  - 3. Every prospective signer must have committed at least a quarter of work to *Scientific Slug*.
  - 4. At least one Signer shall not be on track to graduate the year of their duties. In other words, there shall never be a year when all Signers graduate at once.
  - 5. On the day of elections, all applications will be distributed to voting members present.
    - a) Existing signers will outline the main points from each application with the group
    - b) All members are invited to ask questions concerning any of the candidates or applications
    - c) The vote is conducted via zoom poll
      - (1) The vote is rank choice—All voters rank all the candidates from most to least preferred.
    - d) Current membership signer will tally the votes
    - e) If there is a tie in the Signer election process democratic vote, then existing signers break the tie; if there is a tie amongst the signers, then known signers for next year discuss and come to a unanimous decision.
  - 6. If a prospective Signer is due to graduate early, the following year, then an additional Signer (total 5) shall be added to the board.

7. If a Signer must be appointed after elections due to certain circumstances, Scientific Slug will appeal to the referring members and obtain approval for leadership changes which must be enacted.

IX. Impeachment

- A. Impeachment and replacement of Signers can be proposed by any staff Member and voted on by the Signers.
- B. The Signers will then decide when to remove the officer. It must be completed within three weeks of impeachment.

X. Dismissal of Staff

- A. Any Staff Member can be dismissed from Scientific Slug Meetings by the Signers, granted there is a democratic majority that wants the Staff Member dismissed.
- B. Those that are dismissed can still contribute to the magazine, but cannot until the editorial board re-invites them, again through a democratic voting process.

XI. On Media Law Violations

- A. *Scientific Slug* will, in general, support its writers in the midst of a media crisis. However, each case must be dealt with separately and shall be discussed with the print media advisor.
- B. Any statement on behalf of the magazine must be democratically voted on with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority by Signers. If there is vehement disagreement on the statement, then an anonymous vote-outcome can be printed along with the statement. (e.g. "Four out of seven editors agreed with the opinion published.")

XII. On Deciding Student Media Council Representatives

- A. There shall be one primary representative: Mrunal
- B. And there shall be one alternate representative: Maggie (fall, winter), replacement in spring
- C. If there is no volunteer, then the newest signer must participate. If there are two or more 'newest signers', then it comes down to a flip of the coin.

XIII. On Monetary Decisions

- A. If there is disagreement on how much to spend on different features of the magazine, then Signers can write budgets that will be voted on.
- B. Also, if there is a decision on funding that is a cause for 50/50 vehement disagreement, then a Signer can declare a Stalemate. To declare a Stalemate, an email must be sent out to all signers and Susan Watrous with subject title "Stalemate"; this email begins the two week period where budgets are to be created and debates held.
- C. When the stalemate is finished, and Signers did not find the time to create budgets within two weeks that the stalemate was declared, then it comes to a one time Voting Staff Member vote. Only Voting Staff Members can vote in the popular election: to be a voting Staff Member one must have been a Staff Member for an entire quarter.

XIV. Constitutional Amendments

- A. In order to make an amendment to the constitution, a Signer can plan a separate meeting among Signers devoted to democratically voting upon the proposed changes.

XV. Ratification

- A. All signers must sign the constitution, and thus it is ratified.

Signed: Olivia Hatheway Irons, Mrunal Sathe, Samuel Ross, Emily May