



# University of Pittsburgh

*Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Physics and Astronomy*

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Greetings,

As you may or may not be aware, the graduate students of the department of Physics and Astronomy participate in the Dietrich School of Arts & Sciences Graduate Student Organization (A&S GSO). The GSO is the primary means of communication between the university administration and graduate students in the arts & sciences. The GSO provides funding to each individual department with the intent that the money will be spent directly on the graduate students of that department. Historically, our department has used the funding for several yearly student mixers. More information about the GSO can be found on their website: <http://pre.asgso.pitt.edu/>. The GSO also runs the yearly grad expo and provides supplementary travel grants for those in need.

Representation of a department in the GSO is enacted through a system of representatives and each department has two representatives. In this department, our representatives are the Co-Presidents of the Association of Physics and Astronomy Graduate Students (APAGS) and perform those duties as well. We are contacting you in the hopes that two of you would be interested in filling the roles as Co-Presidents and A&S GSO representatives.

As the Physics and Astronomy GSO representatives, your (quite minimal) duties would include attending one-hour monthly meetings (with free pizza), passing along communications from the GSO to the department. As APAGS Co-President your duties are assisting in departmental functions and assisting with finances allocated for our graduate students. The responsibilities are quite minimal and provide additional experience which you can always list on your CV. Additionally, if you so choose, you have the option of serving in a more involved capacity with the GSO. There are numerous opportunities to join subcommittees that address the concerns of all graduate students (example: GSO budgets, GS Unionization, travel grants, grad expo, teaching award, etc). In addition to padding your CV, this is a good opportunity to make new friends outside of our department.

We hope you'll consider serving our department in this capacity starting Fall 2017. To qualify, you need to be a full-time graduate student that already passed the comprehensive exam. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact either Leyla, Kara or Zhuoni. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Leyla Hirschfeld: [lmh@pitt.edu](mailto:lmh@pitt.edu)  
Kara Ponder: [kap146@pitt.edu](mailto:kap146@pitt.edu)  
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