



Constitution for OPTICA at The University of Alabama

I. Name and Overview

OPTICA at The University of Alabama is a chapter of OPTICA for undergraduate and graduate students of STEM at The University of Alabama. OPTICA is a society dedicated to promoting the generation, application, archiving, and dissemination of knowledge in the field of advanced optical science. Founded in 1916, it is the leading organization for scientists, engineers, business professionals, students, and others interested in the science of light. Optica's renowned publications, meetings, online resources, mentorship opportunities, and in-person activities fuel discoveries, shape real-life applications and accelerate scientific, technical, and educational achievement.

II. Purposes

The purpose of the OPTICA at The University of Alabama is to provide students with opportunities to learn about precision laser sciences and grow connections in this field for potential employment after school. The following objectives shall be met:

- a) Create and maintain optical experiments at the University of Alabama
- b) Host routine meetings to accomplish the objective (a)
- c) Link students to virtual webinars, conferences/seminars, and scholarship opportunities.
- d) Establish professional contacts with industrial and government collaborations.
- e) Carry out community optics awareness outreach yearly.
- f) Student Members will be opportune to participate in optics experiments.
- g) Create a foundation for future students with an interest in developing technical skills and professional connections in the field.
- h) Visit renowned laboratories and facilities around the environs.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 *Membership requirements.* Membership in the OPTICA at The University of Alabama shall be open to any interested UA students who are registered members of OPTICA in accordance with OPTICA guidelines. This organization does not discriminate based on race, religion, sex, ability status, nationality, color, age, sexual identity, or veteran status.
- 3.2 *Voting eligibility.* All club members are eligible to vote
- 3.3 *Termination.* Advisors and officers determine unexcused absences and club neglect on a case-by-case basis and reserve the right to terminate a UA CHAPTER membership.
- 3.4 *Laser Safety.* All members are required to complete the UA environmental health and safety training once per year before handling any equipment in the laboratory.

IV. OFFICERS

- 4.1 *Eligibility requirements.* The club will consist of at least three officers, all of which are of good academic standing and possess the drive and determination required for this leadership position as decided by the other officers and advisor.

- 4.2 *Officer Duties.* The responsibility of the officers is to lead weekly meeting proceedings and coordinate with advisors on research projects.
- President. The President shall preside over the weekly meeting with a set agenda prepared. They shall serve as the representative to OPTICA and the university as required or appropriate.
- Vice President. The Vice President shall assist the President in his or her duties as directed or appropriate. In the absence of the President, the Vice President may conduct his or her duties.
- Treasure. The Treasure shall maintain all financial records of the club and carry out all necessary transactions in the name of the club.
- Other officers. Other officers shall be instated as necessary and perform duties assigned by the executive committee.
- 4.3 *Transition of Authority.* Time will be set aside to train new officers for leadership transitions to ensure smooth club operation. New officers will be selected and notified at least 2 months prior to the last date that the outgoing officer will be serving his or her position.
- 4.4 *Officer Selection.* A majority vote of all members is required to select the officer positions outlined above in addition to advisor considerations during the officer election meeting.
- 4.5 *Officer force removal.* A 75% majority vote is required to remove an officer prior to the end of his or her term of service.

V. SCHOOL/FACULTY ADVISOR

The faculty advisor is Dr. Thejesh Bandi, an OPTICA Life member with more than 15 years of experience in scientific research and work in precision navigation timing and frequency.

If the club requires a new advisor, the said advisor would preferably be from the Physics department or the College of Engineering. The advisor, when chosen, will serve indefinitely until position termination or job re-assignment.

VI. MEETINGS

- 6.1 *General Meetings* will be held once weekly during the school year according to the time chosen by the officer staff and advisor.
- 6.2 *Attendance.* Attendance is mandatory. Communication on the inability to attend must be communicated to avoid membership termination.

VII. FINANCES

- 7.1 *General.* The club may raise funds from
- (1) direct contributions from OPTICA
 - (2) fundraisers organized.

The club will not charge local dues. However, OPTICA costs a student twenty dollars per year of membership, which will be paid to OPTCICA, not the student chapter. The maintenance of all financial transactions in the club's name will be used to maintain the highest standards of morality and comply with all university regulations pertaining to student club finances.

7.2 *Distribution of funds upon club dissolution.* Upon termination of this club and in effect the termination of this constitution, all club funds shall be dispersed to the University of Alabama exempt from federal taxes under section 501(c)(3) of the internal revenue code.

VIII. RESRICTIONS ON ACTIVITES

The club shall not carry on any activities prohibited by The University of Alabama under its bylaws or by Sections 501(c)(3) and 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code. Without the prior written consent of the University of Alabama, the club shall not: 1) be a voluntary party in any litigation; 2) lobby (including the publishing or distribution of statements) or otherwise attempt to influence legislation; or 3) participate or intervene in any political or judicial campaign on behalf of any candidate for office. Under no circumstances is hazing of any form acceptable. No part of the net income of the club shall inure to the benefit of its officers or other private persons, except that the club shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of its purposes.

IX. Amendments and Interpretation

8.1 *Amendments.* The club may amend this Constitution by a 75% member vote. All proposed amendments must be discussed in full at a group meeting prior to the voting process.


8.2 *Interpretation.* Any conflict or disagreement among club officers or members as to the meaning or interpretation of this Constitution shall be settled by both a 75% member vote and the explicit agreement of the faculty advisor.

XI. Force and Effect of Constitution

This Constitution shall take effect once OPTICA UA STUDENT CHAPTER is an approved university student club and shall remain in effect until termination of the club.

Adopted on: 11/08/2024

Signed by three student officers:



----- **President**

Asagwegbe Catherine Obaze-Adeleke



----- **Vice President**

Charles Rasor



----- Treasurer

August Connors