Student and Postdoctoral Leadership Council (SPLC)

Identity and purpose

This organization is known as the Student & Postdoc Leadership Council (SPLC) for the Internet of Things for Precision Agriculture (IoT4Ag). The IoT4Ag is an Engineering Research Center (ERC) funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF). IoT4Ag unites faculty, postdoctoral fellows and students from the University of Pennsylvania, Purdue University, the University of California - Merced, and the University of Florida with industry and government partners to transform agriculture using advancing technologies.

The purpose of the Student & Postdoc Leadership Council (SPLC) is as follows:

- To serve as a liaison between the student and postdoctoral fellow community and the Center's leadership team
- To encourage students and fellows to network, collaborate, and build friendships
- To educate and mentor students
- To promote connections and opportunities between students, fellows and industry
- To conduct an annual SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis of research, education, community, and industry and entrepreneurial activities

Membership

A. The Student & Postdoc Council is comprised of seven core positions: President, Vice President, Professional Development Chair, Engineering Workforce Development Liaison, Community Liaison, Innovation Ecosystems Liaison and Postdoctoral Fellow Representative. In addition to these, four supplementary positions exist that serve as liaisons between the SPLC and the partner institutions.

B. Students can be selected for the SPLC in two ways. The student may either fill out the interest form to be invited to an information session held annually in the fall semester and to be considered for SPLC positions or the Site Directors from partner institutions can put forth the name of the student.

C. In the event of an inability to fulfill duties, or other factors which may call for dismissal, officers may be removed from the office with 2/3 of SPLC members' votes.

SPLC Structure and Responsibilities

A. Presidential Line:

1. ***President:*** The President shall preside over meetings, set meeting agendas, coordinate and oversee the activities of the SPLC group, and keep the center administration and industry partners informed of these activities.

2. ***Vice-President:*** The Vice-President shall assist the president and take part on the coordination and oversight of the activities of the SPLC group. They shall also host the SPLC meetings each semester and conduct the yearly SWOT analysis for the center.

B. Liaison Officers:
1. ***Engineering Workforce Development (EWD):*** The EWD Liaison should attend the EWD working group meetings and update the SPLC and student members about the opportunities and events.

2. ***Community:*** The Community Liaison should attend the EWD working group meetings (along with the EWD liaison) and update the SPLC and student members about opportunities. The Community Liaison plays a key role in helping the Center leadership facilitate a community of scholars, educators, learners and practitioners among Center Members and for the audiences served by the Center. IoT4Ag envisions a Center where everyone feels supported and enabled to do their best research, teaching, learning and outreach, as individuals whose work contributes synergistically to outcomes aligned with the Center's Mission.

3. ***Innovation Ecosystem (IE):*** The IE liaison should attend the industrial/practitioner advisory board (IPAB) meetings and update the SPLC and student members about the opportunities and events. The IE liaison shall create connections across related and disparate research groups to foster innovation throughout the center.

C. Committees:
The <u>Chair</u> leads the committee and organizes the meetings and activities within each committee. The <u>Chair</u> along with the <u>Co-Chairs</u> shall take responsibility and accomplish the goals set by the committee members. The <u>Consultants</u> can voluntarily take the responsibilities for an event or activity but shall participate in the committee meetings and events.

1. ***Professional Development:*** The Professional Development committee is comprised of a <u>Chair</u>, <u>Co-Chairs</u>, and <u>Consultants.</u> This committee works with the industry partners and facilitates communication between the industry associates and the student community.

   a. The committee shall actively reach out to industry and university personnel to establish and host professional development activities.

   b. The committee shall update students with job/internship opportunities as well as workshops, webinars, industry-university networking events or other professional activities.

   c. Maintain the SPLC's social media pages.

   d. Record events via photographic and written descriptions to be used on the SPLC's social media pages and the IoT4Ag website.

   e. Recruit volunteers from the student body to carry out the professional events when needed.

Meetings
1. SPLC members are required to attend the monthly SPLC meetings (as well as the committee meetings if they are a member). Failure to attend enough meetings could result in the removal from the SPLC.

2. The SPLC members shall turn on their cameras during the virtual meetings to help improve the interpersonal connections and foster better involvement among the members.

Elections
1. The presidential line will rotate January 1st of each year, and the Vice-President of the previous year will be given preference for the Presidency of the subsequent year.

2. To be considered for membership, a student may either fill out the interest form to be invited to the information session taking place in the fall semester and to be considered for SPLC positions or the Site Directors from Center institutions can put forth the name of a student.

3. When multiple self-nominations exist, members shall be appointed to the roles by simple majority votes. If there is a tie, a drawing will determine the winner.

4. When there are no self-nominations or vacant positions exist, the remaining nonelected members may be appointed to the roles whether through another self-nomination or by drawing.

5. All votes shall remain anonymous during the election.

Conflict Resolution
Should an IoT4Ag student encounter conflict (ethical, professional or any other), we advise the parties involved to discuss the issue in private. However, if discussion is unfruitful, it is recommended that an IoT4Ag student appeals to one of the following bodies:

1. IoT4Ag students may contact the President or Vice-President regarding any unprofessional or unethical conduct. Contingent upon the nature of the problem, the SPLC may bring the issue to the attention of IoT4Ag Administration.

2. If the student is uncomfortable contacting the President or Vice-President about the issue, the student may contact any other member of the SPLC instead.

3. If the student is uncomfortable contacting any of the SPLC about the issue, the student may contact the center Administrative Director, Bob Brier (brierbob@seas.upenn.edu).

IoT4Ag Student Members' Expected Participation
1. Be actively involved in the SPLC events.

2. Provide feedback through Surveys, and the SWOT analysis.