Electronic Supplementary Material (ESI) for Soft Matter. This journal is © The Royal Society of Chemistry 2021

## pH-Dependent Complexation and Polyelectrolyte Chain Conformation of Polyzwitterion-Polycation Coacervates in Salted Water

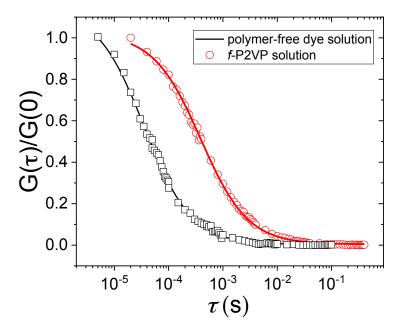
Kehua Lin, Benxin Jing and Yingxi Zhu

Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science

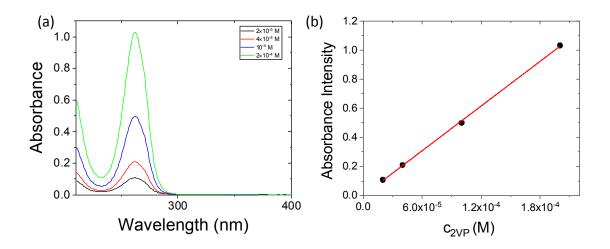
Wayne State University, Detroit, MI 48202 USA

## **Supporting Information**

**Figure S1.** Normalized autocorrelation functions,  $G(\tau)$  by G(0) of f-P2VP in dilute aqueous solution of pH=2.05 (red circles) after dialysis for 2 weeks to remove excess c-Alexa488 dye in the solution in comparison to that of polymer-free dye solution (black squares). Solid line shows the fitting by using Eq. 3 assuming one simple three-dimensional Brownian diffusion. The data for f-P2VP solution is well-fitted by Eq. 3 to confirm the absence of excess free dye in f-P2VP solution within experimental uncertainty.



**Figure S2.** (a) UV-vis spectra of plain P2VP in dilute aqueous solution of varied P2VP concentration of  $2\times10^{-5}$  M (black line),  $4\times10^{-5}$  M (red line),  $10^{-4}$  M (blue line), and  $2\times10^{-4}$  M (green line). (b) Calibrated linear relationship of UV-vis absorbance intensity at its characteristic peak wavelength of 260 nm against P2VP concentration in aqueous solution.



**Figure S3.** Fluorescence micrographs of two-aqueous-phase separated PDMAPS-P2VP coacervates formed at fixed  $c_T = 0.2$  M,  $c_{2VP}/c_T = 0.25$ ,  $c_{KCl} = 0.1$  M and varied pH =(a) 2.05, (b) 3.04, and (c) 4.37, where n-Alexa488 is added to P2VP aqueous solution before mixing. The size of each micrograph is 100  $\mu$ m by 100  $\mu$ m.

