

**ALPHA OF VERMONT ☐.☐.☐.****CHAPTER BYLAWS**Article I. Officers and Organization

*Section 1.* The membership of the chapter includes:

- a) Resident Members: members of other chapters who become members of the faculty or staff of the University of Vermont;
- b) Members in Course: all members of the chapter elected as undergraduates or as graduate students;
- c) Alumni/ae Members: graduates of the University of Vermont elected in recognition of scholarly achievement after graduation;
- d) Honorary Members: non-graduates of the University of Vermont chosen on the same basis as alumni members.

*Section 2.* Members of the chapter who hold faculty or staff positions at the University of Vermont shall constitute the resident membership, together with members in course on campus. Other members of the chapter shall have full membership privileges, except the privilege of voting on candidates for election to membership and on amendments to these bylaws.

*Section 3.* The officers of the chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Register, and a Treasurer. Officers shall be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting. Vacancies may be filled between annual meetings by the Executive Committee.

- a) The President shall preside over the meetings of the chapter, and in case of equal division in voting shall have a deciding vote. The President shall act as the representative of the chapter when called upon to do so, or may appoint a deputy or deputies to serve in such capacity.
- b) The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and, in case of a vacancy in that office, shall assume the duties of the President until the next annual meeting. The Vice President shall annually attempt to ascertain the presence of new persons who are eligible to be resident members and to invite them to participate in the chapter's activities.
- c) The Register shall keep the records of the meetings of the chapter, and act as custodian of the chapter archives. The Register shall also conduct the

correspondence of the chapter, shall keep a catalogue of all persons elected to membership in the Society, and in cooperation with the Treasurer shall keep a record of the names and addresses of living members. The Register shall present at each annual meeting a list of the members deceased during the previous year, together with the dates of their induction to membership in this chapter.

d) The Treasurer shall collect, administer, and disburse the funds of the chapter at its direction. The Treasurer shall submit at each annual meeting a report of receipts and expenditures during the year, and of the funds on hand.

*Section 4.* The Executive Committee shall be composed of the elected officers, and one or two additional members appointed by the President. The appointed members may be an undergraduate or graduate student member of the chapter. The Executive Committee shall have authority to conduct the affairs of the chapter between meetings, subject to instruction from the chapter and save as otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws.

*Section 5.* The Membership Committee shall be composed of six resident members, at least four of whom shall be members of the teaching faculty, and the Register of the chapter *ex officio*. Two members of the committee shall be appointed by the President each year for a term of three years. Members of the committee shall be chosen predominantly from teachers of liberal subjects. The chapter shall determine any participation of undergraduate members in course. The Membership Committee shall study the records of all senior undergraduates in the University, and in its discretion nominate for membership in the Society students whose scholastic records are deemed acceptable by the Committee. The Membership Committee shall also be responsible for considering graduate students proposed for election as members in course, and for considering nominations to alumni/ae and honorary membership.

*Section 6.* The President shall appoint annually a Nominating Committee which shall present to all resident members at least one week before the annual meeting nominations for officers for the ensuing year. Other nominations for officers may be made from the floor.

*Section 7.* An Financial Committee of three resident members shall be appointed annually by the President to review the accounts of the Treasurer and make a report at the annual meeting.

*Section 8.* Special committees may be appointed by the President or the Executive Committee.

## Article II. Meetings

- Section 1.* Arrangements for the annual meeting and for other regular meetings shall be made by the Executive Committee.
- Section 2.* Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee, and shall be called upon written request by four members. At the special meeting no business shall be transacted other than that stated in the notice of the meeting.
- Section 3.* Notice of meetings shall be sent by the Register to all resident members of the chapter at least one week in advance of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and the business to be considered.
- Section 4.* Any vote shall be by secret ballot if requested by one or more of the members present.
- Section 5.* Members of other chapters living in the area who do not qualify for Membership as defined in Article I, Section 1, of these bylaws may be invited to any meeting, but they shall not participate in the transaction of business.

## Article III. Election and Admission of New Members

- Section 1.* Members in course shall be elected primarily on the basis of broad cultural interests, scholarly achievement, and good character. Juniors and seniors who are matriculated as candidates for the bachelor's degree in any College or School of the University of Vermont may be considered under the following conditions:
- a) The candidate shall be pursuing coursework that is primarily liberal in character.
  - b) The candidate shall have completed at least sixty credit hours of academic work in residence at the University, have attained a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5.
  - c) Weight shall be given to the breadth of the program of each candidate as shown by the number and variety of courses taken outside of his or her major. Weight shall also be given to balance and proportion in the candidate's degree program as a whole.
  - d) Candidates shall have demonstrated a knowledge of mathematics and of a foreign language at least minimally appropriate for liberal education.

- Section 2.* The number of undergraduates elected from any class, shall ordinarily not exceed ten percent, and in no case shall exceed fifteen percent, of the undergraduates expected to receive the liberal bachelor's degree in that class.
- Section 3.* Election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa is wholly within the discretion of the members of this chapter, subject only to the limitations imposed by the constitution and bylaws of the chapter, and no right to election shall adhere to any student solely by reason of fulfillment of any degree requirements or of any minimum quality point ratio.
- Section 4.* Graduate students shall be elected to membership in course only in strict accord with the provisions of the chapter constitution. The number of graduate students elected in any year shall be limited to a maximum of five percent of the candidates for advanced degrees in the University.
- Section 5.* Nominations for membership in course shall be made by the Membership Committee. Election shall require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the qualified members present. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor; but in such cases an affirmative vote by four-fifths of the qualified members present shall be required for election.
- Section 6.* Nominations for election to alumni/ae membership shall be referred to the Membership Committee. No nomination for alumni/ae membership shall be brought before the chapter for action unless favorably reported by the committee. The committee shall be guided by criteria defined in Article III, Section 5, of the chapter constitution, and committee recommendations shall include a written statement of the qualifications of each nominee. Election shall be by secret ballot if requested by any member present; two negative votes shall serve to reject. Normally no more than two alumni members may be elected in any year, nor more than four in any triennium.
- Section 7.* Procedures for the nomination and election of honorary members shall be the same as for alumni/ae members, except that one negative vote shall serve to reject. A statement of the qualifications of each candidate elected to honorary membership shall be sent to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, as provided in Article III, Section 10, of the chapter constitution. No graduate of another institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa shall be recommended for election unless the parent chapter has been notified and has raised no objection within a two-month period. A substantial explanation should accompany any negative response from the parent chapter. Normally no more than two honorary members may be elected in any year, nor more than four in any triennium.
- Section 8.* Members elected by the chapter must formally accept their invitation to membership and must present themselves for initiation, at which time they shall sign the Chapter's Constitution.

*Section 9.* Since good character is a qualification for membership, any member of the chapter found, after being given due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to have lost this qualification may be expelled from Phi Beta Kappa by a four-fifths vote of the qualified members present at the annual meeting. The name of any member so expelled shall be reported to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, with a statement of the grounds for the action.

#### Article IV. Fees

*Section 1.* The initiation fee for members in course and for alumni members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. It shall normally cover, as a minimum, the registration and Council Fund payments to the Society. The chapter shall be responsible for registration and Council Fund payments for all members initiated and such payments shall be forwarded to the Treasurer of the Phi Beta Kappa Society by the Treasurer of the Chapter.

*Section 2.* Each member initiated by the chapter may be asked to contribute annually a sum as the Executive Committee shall direct, or in its stead to pay a life membership fee to be set by the chapter.

*Section 3.* Special assessments may be levied against resident members by majority vote of the members present at any meeting, provided that written notice of the intention to propose such an assessment is given in the announcement of the meeting.

#### Article V. Amendments

Amendments to these bylaws, not inconsistent with the Constitution and other lawful regulations of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the qualified members present at any regular meeting, either upon motion presented and tabled at the preceding meeting or special meeting, or upon condition that written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to all qualified members at least three weeks in advance of the meeting.