

# THE SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

## ALPHA PSI CHAPTER BYLAWS



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# THE SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

*Founded 1855*

## ALPHA PSI CHAPTER

# VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

*Founded 1891*

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*A note about the text.* The existence of committees at both the undergraduate and General Fraternity level can be confusing. For the sake of clarity, General Fraternity committees are capitalized. Thus, “Executive Committee” refers to the General Fraternity’s governing board, while “executive committee” signifies the counterpart at the undergraduate chapter.

# BYLAWS OF THE ALPHA PSI CHAPTER OF THE SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

(Revised by the Bylaw Review Committee, Spring 2005)

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## **PREAMBLE**

Believing that where there is law there is liberty, and under the obligation of Statute 6.02.b of Sigma Chi Fraternity's Governing Laws, we the members of the Alpha Psi Chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity do hereby establish and solemnly promise to obey these bylaws to supplement and support the Ritual, Constitution, and Statutes of the Sigma Chi fraternity for the government of our chapter.

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## **ARTICLE I – MEMBERSHIP**

### **SECTION 1 – BID VOTING**

- A. No more than two ballots shall be held on any candidate for pledging in a single chapter meeting.
- B. No person shall be pledged to membership in the Sigma Chi Fraternity except by not less than a 75 percent vote of the members of the active chapter present and voting at a regular or special meeting. Upon an affirmative chapter vote, 100 percent approval of the brothers is granted to the candidate (in accordance with Sigma Chi Statutes, Statute 3.10). A second ballot will be held for the candidate if he receives support greater than 60 percent and less than the required 75 percent.
- C. The first vote will commence following a round of discussion regarding the candidate. At any time during the discussion a voting member can make the "motion to vote." If seconded, a majority vote will commence that will determine whether discussion is to continue or if the candidate in question shall be voted upon immediately.
- D. Upon completion of the first vote, if the candidate has not received the required 75 percent approval but has received a minimum of 60 percent of the vote, a second round of discussion will commence followed by a second and final round of voting whereupon a candidate must receive a 75 percent approval.
- E. A candidate will not be given a bid only in the case that he does not receive the required support from the voting chapter; no other means can be used. (i.e. "black balls", etc...)

### **SECTION 2 – PLEDGESHIP**

- A. No person shall be pledged to membership in the Sigma Chi Fraternity unless he qualifies under Statutes 3.07.a, 3.07.b, 3.07.c and 3.07.d of the Sigma Chi Constitution.
- B. No person shall be pledged until the chapter has received confirmation from the Interfraternity Council of Vanderbilt University that the student is academically eligible for the pledgeship process.
- C. Formal pledging shall commence according to the Magister in cooperation with the rules dictated by the Interfraternity Council of Vanderbilt University, the Sigma Chi Constitution, and the Alpha Psi Chapter Bylaws.

D. According to Sigma Chi Statute 5.08 at the time a candidate for membership is pledged, the chapter shall collect for the Fraternity from the candidate a fee equal to the current dues of members, set by the Quaestor, for the use and benefit of the General Fraternity and the Alpha Psi Chapter, for which the candidate shall receive a copy of the Fraternity Pledge Manual and a pledge pin to wear during his pledgship. If at any time the candidate is removed from pledgship after having paid his dues he will receive a pro rata refund as calculated by the Quaestor.

E. If a pledge, because of his financial or scholastic ineligibility, has not been initiated by the end of his second semester of pledgship, including the semester pledged, his pledgship will be automatically terminated.

F. The Magister shall determine three votes of confidence to be held during the pledgship process; Any brother may also call for an added vote of confidence with reason. According to Sigma Chi Statute 3.12, pledgship shall be terminated only by the candidate's initiation, by agreement between the candidate and the chapter, or by a vote of not less than 20 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter.

G. All pledging activities and initiation procedures not included in the Ritual or Preparation for Brotherhood Manual of the Sigma Chi Fraternity are prohibited, particularly any type of "hazing"; dangerous, wasteful or fatiguing activity in accordance with the Sigma Chi Constitution, governing laws and guidelines, and policy issued forth from the Executive Committee of the Fraternity in its August 14<sup>th</sup> Session, 1977. (Resolution and Policy; Statement of Position concerning Pledge Training and the Ritual).

H. All informal pledge procedures not included in the Ritual of the Sigma Chi Fraternity shall be concluded at least 18 hours prior to the formal initiation. Furthermore, such informal initiation procedures are subject to the provisions of the Sigma Chi Constitution.

### **SECTION 3 – INITIATION**

A. No person shall be initiated into membership as an undergraduate unless he has received instruction under the tutelage of the Magister and has passed the Official Pledge Examination and after certification in writing from the Grand Praetor that the person desiring initiation has passed said examination.

B. No person shall be initiated into membership as an undergraduate unless he qualifies under Sigma Chi Statute ECR 3.07-3. This eligibility will be affirmed according to Sigma Chi Statute 3.13.a. which is a formal vote of final approval by not less than 80 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter.

C. According to Sigma Chi Statute 5.09 before a candidate for membership may be initiated, the chapter shall collect for the Fraternity from the candidate an Initiation Fee of \$150.00 for the use and benefit of the General Fraternity, and shall receive therefore a certificate of membership and an initiation badge. This fee is included in the initial pledge fee set by the Quaestor.

### **SECTION 4 – AFFILIATION**

A. Any member of another chapter of the Sigma Chi Fraternity may affiliate with this chapter only after written confirmation from both the college or university which he previously attended, and his original chapter that he was in good standing, financially and otherwise.

B. An affiliated member is subject to all the provisions of the bylaws of this chapter.

C. The policy for granting a person affiliation with the Fraternity shall be decided by the executive committee at the beginning of the school year subject to the approval of two-thirds of

the active members present at a regular chapter meeting one week after the executive committee decision is reached and posted.

#### **SECTION 5 – ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP**

A. According to Sigma Chi Statute 3.04 any brother, duly initiated or affiliated into the Alpha Psi Chapter shall be active unless he is declared an alumni member.

B. Any active member who is enrolled in the University may request alumnus status if he is a graduate student.

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## **ARTICLE II – MEETINGS**

#### **SECTION 1 – CHAPTER MEETINGS**

A. A regular formal chapter meeting shall be held weekly on Monday evening at 6 p.m. Any deviation from this schedule shall be announced by the Consul at least 24 hours prior to the regular meeting time.

B. Special chapter meetings may be called by the Consul at any time, and shall be called by him upon the written request of any five brothers. In both cases, due notice shall be given in writing concerning the time of the meeting.

C. All regular chapter meetings shall be conducted according to the provisions of Division 1 in the Ritual of the Sigma Chi Fraternity. Procedures not covered in the Ritual of the Sigma Chi Fraternity shall be conducted according to Robert's Rules of Order.

D. A copy of the Alpha Psi Chapter bylaws shall be present at all chapter meetings.

#### **SECTION 2 – ATTENDANCE**

A. In accordance with Ritualistic Statutes, it is mandatory for all members to attend the regular chapter meetings, with the exception of legal excuses as hereinafter prescribed.

B. Attendance at the Ceremonies of Initiation is mandatory, with the exception of legal excuses as hereinafter prescribed.

C. Attendance at formal rush events is mandatory, with the exception of legal excuses as hereinafter prescribed.

D. Attendance at two of three recruitment meetings, to be arranged at the discretion of the Recruitment Chair, will be mandatory for bid voting eligibility. This will be in addition to, not in substitute of, Article II Section 2.F.

E. Attendance is mandatory at the discretion of the Consul, acting House Manager, or the executive committee for any work or philanthropic functions.

F. An attendance of 75% of the previous 12 chapter meetings is required to preserve regular voting eligibility for all members.

#### **SECTION 3 – ABSENCES AND EXCUSES**

A. There are four legal excuses for absence:

1. Personal illness
2. Serious illness or death of a member of the immediate family
3. Employment or class conflicts

4. Excuses approved by the chapter executive committee
- B. Whenever possible, a brother who anticipates an absence shall present his reason to the chapter executive committee one week prior to his proposed absence. The chapter executive committee shall approve all legal excuses.
- C. A brother absent from more than the allotted number of regular chapter meetings, required rush meetings, work or philanthropy programs, or an Initiation Ceremony without a legal excuse shall be held accountable by the Judicial Board.

#### **SECTION 4 – QUORUM**

- A. Quorum shall consist of at least 50 percent of the active chapter membership. Quorum shall be required to hold a chapter meeting, and for all voting and elections.

#### **SECTION 5 – VOTING**

- A. All chapter members shall have a vote except as hereinafter provided.
- B. Voting (with the exception of amendment approvals, see Article VI Section 1.B) shall be by acclamation and a majority vote of the active chapter members present shall decide all questions unless otherwise provided by law. Any member may demand a secret ballot. The Consul shall vote only to break a tie.
- C. There shall be no voting by proxy.
- D. Voting rights of individual members are subject to Article II Section 5.f of the Alpha Psi Chapter bylaws. The executive committee may also suspend the right of any member to vote with reason.
- E. A member's voting rights will be suspended in the case of financial delinquency unless excused by the Quaestor.
- F. Any member of an active chapter whose scholarship record causes disciplinary action to be taken against him by the chapter's host university or college shall lose automatically the right to vote in all chapter meetings until he files with the chapter a written certificate from the proper officers of his college or university verifying his good scholastic standing.
- G. No member of the chapter shall become inactive through any provision of this bylaw.
- H. Newly initiated brothers will not be given a vote until they meet the memorization requirements prescribed by the ritual. The Magister will specify a date by which all newly initiated brothers should have met the proper requirements.
- I. Any decision established by the Consul, executive committee, or other officers may be overruled by a majority vote of the active chapter.

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### **ARTICLE III – OFFICERS**

#### **SECTION 1 – CHAPTER OFFICERS**

- A. The officers of the chapter shall be those prescribed in the Sigma Chi Ritual and in addition such officers as are necessary to perform the administration of the chapter, including the Social Chairman, Recruitment Chairman and any others.
- B. Any officer, at his discretion, may select an assistant officer.

#### **SECTION 2 – NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

A. Nominations for officers will be made in the final January chapter. One week shall pass between nominations and elections. Thusly, elections will occur at the first regularly scheduled chapter in February.

B. Any brother in good standing may make additional nominations from the floor of the chapter meeting during which elections shall be held.

### **SECTION 3 – TERM OF OFFICE**

A. The term of office for officers, both appointed and elected, shall be for one year beginning at the second regular chapter following the initiation of the recent pledge class.

B. An office shall be declared vacant upon the filing of a written resignation stating reasons, submitted to the executive committee. The vacant office will be immediately filled using the regular process.

### **SECTION 4 – ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY**

A. No person in the active chapter may hold office or be nominated for an office unless he has maintained, in the semester or quarter prior to his nomination, a scholastic average of all subjects carried equivalent to the required scholastic average which is a prerequisite for initiation into Sigma Chi and outlined in ECR 3.07-3.

B. No person in the active chapter may hold office or be nominated for an office if he has not maintained academic standards set forth by the Interfraternity Council of Vanderbilt University.

C. If at any time during his term of office a brother falls below the aforementioned scholastic average, his office may be declared vacant under the authority and provisions of Statute 7.05.

### **SECTION 5 – APPOINTED OFFICERS**

A. The executive committee shall appoint such other officers as they deem necessary, subject to the approval of the chapter.

### **SECTION 6 – IMPEACHMENT**

A. Any officer of the active chapter may be impeached for non-exemplary conduct or conduct unbecoming a Sigma Chi.

B. A two-thirds vote of the active chapter shall impeach any officer, provided charges have been openly proffered against the officer by a member of the chapter one week prior to the meeting at which the impeachment vote is to be taken. Upon an officer's impeachment, his office shall be declared vacant.

### **SECTION 7 – LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP**

A. It shall be mandatory that the Consul, Pro Consul, Quaestor, Magister and Recruitment Chairman attend the Sigma Chi Balfour Leadership Training Workshop during the summer of their term of office.

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## **ARTICLE IV – COMMITTEES**

### **SECTION 1 - COMMITTEES**

A. There shall be the following standing committees:

1. Chapter executive committee
2. Bylaw Review Committee
3. Judicial Board

#### **SECTION 2 – THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

- A. The executive committee shall be composed of the Consul, the Pro Consul, the Annotator, the Magister, the Quaestor, the Recruitment Chairman, the Tribune, the Social Chairman and the IFC Representative.
- B. The Pro Consul shall be the Chairman of the executive committee.
- C. The executive committee shall meet weekly to plan the chapter meeting agenda and for the purpose of assisting the Consul in the planning and fulfillment of a well-rounded active chapter program. In addition, the executive committee shall ensure that all of the officers have set proper goals for their term of office; shall establish long-range goals; and shall conduct an adequate and regular evaluation of all chapter operations and programs.
- D. To expedite the chapter meeting and enable the executive committee to better plan chapter operations, each committee and officer report to be heard in the chapter meeting shall first be presented in the executive committee meeting.
- E. All members of the chapter who desire to attend the meetings of the executive committee may do so, but may not exercise a vote in committee proceedings.
- F. The Annotator shall post a copy of the minutes of each executive committee meeting within 24 hours after its adjournment.

#### **SECTION 3 – BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE**

- A. The Bylaw Review Committee shall meet at the request of the Consul or the executive committee in order to efficiently review and update bylaws deemed inaccurate by precedent or out datedness.
- B. The Bylaw Review Committee shall be composed of two members elected from the sophomore, junior and senior class.
- C. The Bylaw Review Committee will be chaired by the Pro Consul and an elected member of any class.

#### **SECTION 4 – COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT**

- A. Any officer holds the right to appoint a committee related to his specific office.
- B. The elected officer will chair the committee and establish all guidelines as needed.

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## **ARTICLE V – FINANCIAL POLICY**

#### **SECTION 1 – PLEDGE FEES**

- A. The pledge fee of the Alpha Psi Chapter shall be included in the initial payment which shall be paid prior to the formal pledge ceremony.

#### **SECTION 2 – INITIATION FEES**

- A. The initiation fee of the Alpha Psi Chapter shall be included in the initial payment which shall be paid prior to the formal initiation ceremony.

**SECTION 3 – SEMESTER DUES**

A. The semester dues of the Alpha Psi Chapter shall be set by the Quaestor from which allocations will be made to a social program and the active chapter program, but which will be collected as one fee. Exceptions to this payment plan must be approved by the Quaestor.

**SECTION 4 – SEMI-ANNUAL DUES TO THE GENERAL FRATERNITY**

A. In various cases a deferred dues payment may be approved by the executive committee. However, in order to maintain active membership, the member must agree to pay the semi-annual dues to the General Fraternity for the semester missed and he must also agree to compensate the chapter at a later date for the total sum owed.

B. The Quaestor shall submit these dues to the Executive Secretary along with the Semi-Annual Report before the prescribed deadline for submission.

**SECTION 5 – CHAPTER HOUSE ENDOWMENT**

A. The sum of \$5 per brother per month per semester shall be subtracted from the dues and shall be paid by the Quaestor in lump sum to the treasurer of the House Corporation of the Chapter to be used as a permanent endowment.

B. The active chapter shall have no voice except in an advisory capacity concerning the administration of the aforementioned endowment.

**SECTION 6 – PAYMENT OF BILLS**

A. All bills will be due and payable to the chapter as determined by the Quaestor.

B. The Quaestor can, at his discretion, suspend the rights of any brother who fails to fulfill his financial obligations to the chapter. An unapproved excuse or no excuse will be grounds for social probation. Social probation prohibits attendance at social functions and suspends the privilege to vote in any matter. This sanction will be lifted upon payment.

**SECTION 7 – PAYMENT PLANS**

A. All payment plans must be approved by the Quaestor and will only be allowed when necessary. The need for a particular payment plan will be assessed on an individual basis.

**SECTION 8 – FINANCIAL SUSPENSION**

A. Financial suspension proceedings will begin at such a time any brother shall become delinquent.

B. Financial suspension shall be carried out as prescribed in the Sigma Chi Statute 7.02.

C. Once a brother is suspended from the chapter, a local collection agency shall be contacted to recover the money rightfully owed to the chapter and General Fraternity.

D. Brothers who are financially suspended, who are in the process of being suspended or expelled, or who are not current with their financial obligations to the chapter shall abide by the following stipulations:

1. Said brother will not be allowed to attend or participate in any chapter activities, including but not limited to social events and intramural sports.
2. If said brother lives in the chapter house, he will be served notice that he will have to find another place of residence within thirty days or pay his bill.

**SECTION 9 – OCCUPANCY OF THE HOUSE**

- A. The House Corporation bylaws shall govern the occupancy of the house.
- B. If a brother is granted permission to live in the house, he must satisfy all Fraternity and University regulations concerning his residence.

**SECTION 10 – EDUCATION AND PREVENTION**

- A. These bylaws shall be given to all pledges at their first pledge meeting where the Quaestor will address the pledge class about their fiduciary responsibility. The Quaestor will also review this Article V Financial Policy with the chapter annually.
  - 1. No pledge shall be allowed to take the International Pledge Exam or enter into I-Week unless he has paid his pledge fee.
  - 2. No pledge shall be initiated into the chapter who has an outstanding balance with the chapter.
- B. Upon Initiation, each new brother shall:
  - 1. Fill out a membership contract under the guidance of the Consul, the Magister and the Quaestor. The contract shall be signed by the brother and his parents.
  - 2. Fill out his financial suspension form (Form 50) to be kept in the chapter files.

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**ARTICLE VI – AMENDMENTS****SECTION 1 – AMENDMENTS**

- A. To amend these bylaws, a proposal must be presented to the executive committee in writing, after which the proposal shall be presented at the next regular chapter meeting.
- B. The proposal shall not be voted upon until the regular chapter meeting after the one in which it is first read. A two-thirds affirmative vote of the active chapter present shall constitute approval of said amendment, provided quorum is met in the chapter meeting as prescribed in these bylaws. The amendment shall go into effect immediately, unless otherwise stated in the amendment if it is approved.

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**ARTICLE VII – JUDICIAL POLICY****SECTION 1 – PERSONAL CONDUCT**

- A. Any violation of the Oath of Initiation in the Ritual or of Statute 3.18 of the Governing Laws shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the Judicial Board.

**SECTION 2 – CONDUCT WITH PLEDGES**

- A. Every active shall treat the pledges of the chapter with a level of respect and esteem appropriate with the ideals of the White Cross.

B. Any brother in violation of the foregoing rulings shall be subject to the disciplinary action of the Judicial Board and at their discretion be subject to the action as put forth in Statute 7.01 of the Governing Laws.

### **SECTION 3 – JUDICIAL BOARD**

A. The Judicial Board has three purposes:

1. To hold brothers accountable to the expectations of the Sigma Chi Ritual.
2. To respond fairly and decisively to brothers who have brought dishonor to the chapter and the General Fraternity through their actions at any time, while in or out of the chapter.
3. To hold brothers accountable for violating any Sigma Chi Governing Law and/or chapter bylaw.

B. The judicial board shall consist of the Pro Consul, who shall act as chairman; and six brothers, comprised of two sophomores, two juniors, and two seniors, who shall each be elected not by the chapter as a whole but by members of their respective class. The Annotator will also be present in order to transcribe the case proceedings.

C. Any case tried by the Judicial Board must be properly transcribed and filed using the form in Appendix B. A refusal to meet this requirement is grounds for an appeal by the accused.

### **SECTION 4 – JUDICIAL PROCESS**

A. Accusation

1. An accusation occurs when the chapter Consul or member of the executive committee is informed of an infraction by a member of the community:
  - a. A witness
  - b. Another brother
  - c. The Interfraternity or Panhellenic Councils
  - d. The University
  - e. Another credible source
2. The executive committee, if appropriate, will automatically and immediately suspend from all chapter activities (social events, intramurals, pledge interaction, etc.) the brother(s) involved in the incident. The suspension shall not exceed fifteen (15) days and shall be pending the outcome of an investigation and decision by the Judicial Board.

B. Investigation of incident

1. The Pro Consul, who in his capacity as chairman of the Judicial Board shall notify the other board members, will begin collecting facts and, if necessary, set a trial date. The trial must take place within the fifteen (15) day suspension period outlined in Article VII Section 4.A.2, above.
2. The Pro Consul shall notify the brother(s) accused immediately and give him (them) forty-eight (48) hours to respond to the allegations. Responses should be given to the Consul and the Pro Consul.
3. Failure of the brother(s) to reply within the designated time period will result in a plea of no contest. (*“No Contest” does not imply guilt or innocence.*)

C. Trial

1. A trial shall be held on the date set by the Pro Consul unless the brother admits guilt, in which case a trial is waived and the judicial board shall apply the appropriate punishment.

a. The date shall be set far enough in advance to provide participants and witnesses ample time and notice to make arrangements to attend.

2. The board shall be presented with all the facts and either

a. Make a ruling.; or

b. Choose to hear further testimony from the witnesses, the accused brother(s), and any other person(s) the board deems relevant. In this case, a decision will be rendered after the additional testimony.

D. Punishments: If the brother(s) is found guilty, the punishment shall be assigned according to a tier system. The Judicial Board will levy a first offense punishment from the first tier unless the incident is of a serious enough nature to warrant the introduction of the General Fraternity trial board proceedings. On a second offense, the Judicial Board may assign a punishment from the second tier if the offense is repetitive in nature or more severe. The Judicial Board may also again apply first tier punishments if the offense is of little severity.

1. First Tier Guidelines:

a. Verbal reprimand.

b. Designated party patrol duty.

c. Ten (10) hours of service to the chapter, university, or community, to be decided by the chapter executive committee.

d. Half-hour (30 min.) of study time devoted to the Sigma Chi Ritual.

e. If necessary, an acceptable letter of apology shall be written by the brother(s) involved in the incident approved by the Pro Consul and Consul. The Judicial Board may instead decide that the brother(s) should formally address the chapter in person.

f. In a financial case, this will be a rectification of the situation and a social probation until having done so. A payment plan will be established with the advisement of the Quaestor and relative punishment for not meeting deadlines will be imposed.

*(The above may be replaced and/or supplemented by voluntary emotional or substance abuse counseling)*

2. Second Tier Guidelines:

a. Designated party patrol duty

b. Fifteen (15) hours of service to the chapter, university, or community, to be decided by the chapter executive committee.

c. One (1) hour of study time devoted to the Sigma Chi Ritual.

d. If necessary, an acceptable letter of apology shall be written by the brother(s) involved in the incident approved by the Pro Consul and Consul. The Judicial Board may instead decide that the brother(s) should formally address the chapter in person.

e. Social probation designated by the Judicial Board.

f. For repeat financial delinquency, past precedent will be examined by the Judicial Board in order to delegate an appropriate punishment.

*(The above may be replaced and/or supplemented by voluntary emotional or substance abuse counseling.)*

3. Third Tier Guidelines:

- a. The chapter will conduct expulsion proceedings pursuant to Statute No. 7.01 of the Sigma Chi Governing Laws and Executive Committee Regulations 7.01-1 through 7.01-8.

H. Appeals: Any appeal will be heard by the executive committee and, if needed, the Chapter Advisor within fifteen (15) days of the decision by the judicial board. To file an appeal, the brother(s) must make a written request to the Pro Consul and Consul, who will forward within three (3) days all relevant information, including transcripts from the trial, to the executive committee. Before an appeal is heard, the executive committee and Chapter Advisor must agree that due process was not served due to a deprivation of one or more of the following rights: the right to face one's accuser, the right to be privy to all evidence, the right to an appeal, and/or the right not to testify against oneself.

#### **SECTION 5 – ACADEMIC DEFICIENCY**

A. All members are subject to a Judicial Board hearing if they fall below academic standards set forth by the chapter. This proceeding will be led by the Scholarship Chairman. Any punishments will be decided according to the updated scholarship policy and the discretion of the Judicial Board. Further delinquency may result in an official Judicial Board hearing.

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## **ARTICLE VIII – GENERAL**

#### **SECTION 1 – DISTRIBUTION OF BYLAWS**

A. The Magister is responsible for distributing to each pledge a copy of the bylaws and house rules ensuring that each pledge is familiar with the bylaws within three weeks of formal pledging.

B. Each brother is entitled to a copy of the bylaws and house rules. In addition, copies shall be given to the Chapter Advisor, the Grand Praetor, the General Fraternity Headquarters, and the University Office of Greek Life. Distribution of the bylaws shall be the responsibility of the Pro Consul.

#### **SECTION 2 – READING OF THE BYLAWS**

A. The Consul shall be responsible for a complete reading of these bylaws in a regular active chapter meeting at least once a year.

#### **SECTION 3 – REGULATIONS REGARDING ACTIVE CHAPTER BYLAWS**

A. According to the Statute 6.02.b of the Sigma Chi Constitution, active chapters shall adopt bylaws for the government and for the regulation and control of their revenues and property and shall file a copy thereof with the Executive Secretary immediately upon adoption; provided that no such bylaw shall be valid which conflicts with any provision of the Constitution, Statutes, Ritual, or any enactment of the Fraternity.

#### **SECTION 4 – ILLEGAL DRUGS AND MARIJUANA**

A. Per the Governing Laws, the Sigma Chi Fraternity and the Alpha Psi Chapter do not condone the possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs or marijuana.

- B. The sale of illegal drugs and marijuana, on or off campus, will result in expulsion.
- C. There should be no illegal drugs or marijuana present at any function associated with Sigma Chi or any other function where Sigma Chi is represented or on any property owned or operated by Sigma Chi.
- D. Possession and/or use of illegal narcotics on Sigma Chi property shall result in the immediate expulsion from the Alpha Psi Chapter of Sigma Chi with a recommendation for expulsion from the Sigma Chi Fraternity.

#### **SECTION 5 – PARTY PATROL**

- A. At any Sigma Chi-sponsored event a Party Patrol must be present. The Party Patrol will consist of six sober monitors who will remain present for the duration of the party. The Party Patrol will setup any fences, tables, and stages as necessary to ensure the safety of the chapter house.
- B. One Officer will command Party Patrol at each event.
- C. A maximum of three pledges are allowed to be on Party Patrol.
- D. Party Patrol will adhere to all IFC policies. It is the responsibility of the Pro Consul to ensure that all members are aware of these policies and properly adhere to them.
- E. Each brother is required to serve on Party Patrol once per semester, excluding any members in senior-status who do not serve in an office.

## **APPENDIX A – STATUTES**

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**STATUTE 3.04** – The designation “alumni member” shall apply to any member who is not an active member.

**STATUTE 3.07.A-D** – Except as provided in section 3.08, each person initiated into membership in the Fraternity shall, at the time of his initiation,

- a. Be a bona fide male student in good academic standing, not enrolled for the sole purpose of establishing membership eligibility, at the institution specified in the charter of the initiating chapter;
- b. Not be or have been a member of any other fraternity of like character, except as specifically approved by the Executive Committee;
- c. Be judged to meet the Standards of Membership set forth by Founder Isaac M. Jordan, namely, that no man shall be admitted to membership who is not believed to be a man of good character, a student of fair ability, with ambitious purposes, a congenial disposition, possessed of good morals, and having a high sense of honor and a deep sense of personal responsibility; and
- d. Have satisfactorily completed the chapter’s program of Pledgeship, including the official Fraternity examination.

**ECR 3.07-3** – To be eligible for initiation a pledge must:

- i) have attained an accumulated scholastic grade point average of at least 2.0 on a 4.0 scale or the equivalent to that mandated for graduation from the host institution specified in the charter of the initiating chapter. If the student, at the time of pledging, has never attended a post-secondary institution then he must have attained a score of at least 800 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT); or attained a score of at least 15 on the American College Test (ACT); or graduated in the top 25% of his high school (or equivalent) graduating class;
- ii) be paid up and current in all financial obligations to the chapter and Fraternity, including any chapter dues as well as chapter and General Fraternity pledging and initiation fees; and
- iii) pass the General Fraternity Official Pledge Examination during a closed book exam with a score of 75% or better, as determined by the Grand Praetor. A pledge receiving a lower score may take the exam a second time prior to the scheduled Initiation only if authorized by his Magister and the Chapter Advisor due to extenuating or aggravated circumstances. These academic standards shall be considered a minimum and, therefore, chapters may define higher academic standards.

**STATUTE 3.10** – A candidate for membership shall be pledged, i.e., accepted into the pledgeship program of an active chapter, only upon formal approval of not less than 90 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter. Pledgeship shall begin with the formal Pledge Ceremony.

**STATUTE 3.12** – Pledgeship shall be terminated only by the candidate's initiation, by agreement between the candidate and the chapter, or by a vote of not less than 20 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter, unless the chapter bylaws prescribe some higher percentage.

**STATUTE 3.13.A-B** – Prior to his initiation, each candidate's eligibility under Section 3.07 shall be affirmed by:

- a. A formal vote of final approval by not less than 80 percent of the active members present and voting at a regular or special meeting of the chapter, and
- b. The tacit approval of the Grand Consul, who shall disapprove only for a stated cause based on the provisions of Section 3.07.

**STATUTE 3.18** – Each member shall be responsible to the Fraternity and to his own good conscience for his observance of:

- a. The oath and obligation taken at the time of his initiation;
- b. The governing laws of the Fraternity and, when applicable, the bylaws of a chapter;
- c. The lawful decisions and orders of the Grand Consul and of any regularly constituted body of the Fraternity;
- d. The laws of the land;
- e. The laws, rules and regulations, when applicable, of the institution at which a chapter is located; and

f. A personal code of ethics which shall preclude any conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or unbecoming a member of the Fraternity within the meaning of its laws.

**STATUTE 3.19** – Each member shall faithfully discharge his financial obligations to the Fraternity and to any chapter thereof.

**STATUTE 3.20** – Alumni members, when on the premises of an active chapter, shall be subject to the bylaws of the chapter.

**STATUTE 5.08** – At the time a candidate for membership is pledged, the chapter shall collect for the Fraternity from the candidate a Pledge Fee of \$60.00. The Pledge Fee shall be transmitted to the Fraternity with the report of pledging, for which the chapter shall receive a copy of the Fraternity pledge manual and a pledge button for the candidate to wear during Pledgeship.

**STATUTE 5.09** – Before a candidate for membership may be initiated, the chapter shall collect for the Fraternity from the candidate an Initiation fee of \$150.00. The Initiation Fee shall be submitted to the Fraternity with the Report of Initiation.

**STATUTE 6.02.** – Each active chapter shall:

b. Adopt bylaws for its government, and file a copy thereof with the Executive Committee.

**STATUTE 7.01-1** – The Executive Committee may appoint a subcommittee (the “committee”) to execute certain of its responsibilities pursuant to Statute 7.

**STATUTE 7.01-2** – An undergraduate chapter, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, may impose any or all of the following penalties upon undergraduate members for violation of Statute 3.18:

1. suspension of membership for a period of less than one year;
2. community/campus/chapter service not to exceed 300 hours;
3. restitution of actual out-of-pocket losses;
4. social probation for a period of less than one year;
5. loss of live in privileges for a period of less than one year;
6. loss of voting privileges for a period of less than one year;
7. other, with prior approval of the committee.

The undergraduate chapter shall report its action in writing within ten (10) business days following such vote by such chapter on a Form 51 available from Headquarters or its equivalent. The identity of the accused, the section(s) of the Governing Laws violated, the charges, and the penalty assigned shall be reported on such form.

**STATUTE 7.01-3** – When the committee receives a report of action taken by an undergraduate chapter pursuant to ECR 7.01-2, it may impose such penalty or it may modify the penalty provided that such modified penalty does not exceed the limits specified in ECR 7.01-2. The Executive Secretary shall notify the member disciplined, the undergraduate chapter, the Chapter Advisor and the Grand Praetor if the committee has modified the action taken by the undergraduate chapter.

**STATUTE 7.01-4** – An undergraduate chapter, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, or five alumni, may bring charges and recommend to the committee the imposition of any of the following penalties upon members for violation of Statute 3.18:

1. expulsion from membership;
2. suspension from membership for a period of one year or more; or
3. suspension from membership in accordance with ECR 7.01-5 below. Such recommendation shall be reported on a Form 51 available from Headquarters or its equivalent. The identity of the accused, the section(s) of the Governing Laws violated, the charges, and the recommended punishment shall be reported on such form.

**ECR 7.01-4** – If the Executive Committee receives a request for suspension from membership for less than one year, the committee is authorized to impose such penalty or it may reject or modify the recommended punishment by imposing a lesser penalty. The Executive Secretary shall notify the five alumni, if appropriate, the accused, the active chapter, the Chapter Advisor and the Grand Praetor when the committee has acted on the request of suspension.

**ECR 7.01-5** – In the event of an allegation that one or more members has committed a serious violation of the Governing Laws of the Fraternity, the committee may suspend all privileges of such member(s) for a period not to exceed forty-five (45) days during the investigation of the allegation.

**STATUTE 7.01-6** – If the committee receives a recommendation pursuant to ECR 7.01-4 above and it deems such recommendation to have merit, it shall request that the Grand Praetor of the relevant province recommend, within thirty (30) days of such request, three members to comprise a trial board with one to serve as Chief Judge. The Grand Praetor shall comply with the following guidelines in formulating his recommendation:

1. The trial board shall be composed of three impartial judges who shall be alumni members.
2. Consideration will be given to recommending alumni members from the same undergraduate chapter as the accused.
3. Consideration will be given to recommending a qualified attorney who is a member in good standing of a U.S. federal, state or Canadian Provincial bar association to be at least one of the judges.

The Chairman of the committee shall appoint a trial board and designate the Chief Judge forthwith. He shall consider the recommendations of the Grand Praetor when making such appointments. The Executive Secretary shall notify the accused, the five alumni (if appropriate), the undergraduate chapter, the Chapter Advisor and the Grand Praetor of the trial board's appointment and composition. The Chief Judge, following appointment of the trial board shall, with due dispatch, arrange for a time and place for trial at the earliest possible date mutually agreeable to the members of the trial board, giving due regard to the availability of the Chapter Advisor, witnesses and the accused. In no event shall the accused be required to stand trial less than twenty-one (21) days from the date of the issuance of the notice of the appointment of the trial board. The Chief Judge shall serve written notice on all essential parties of the date, time

and place for trial and the accused's right to be represented by counsel, who must be a Sigma Chi and a member in good standing of a U.S. federal, state or Canadian Provincial bar association. The notice also shall advise the accused of his right to call and cross examine witnesses.

The trial board shall hear the evidence, make written findings of fact and decide if the charges are true and, if true, recommend penalty. The Chief Judge shall forward the trial board's written findings, decision and recommendations to the Executive Secretary with a copy to the Grand Praetor. The Executive Secretary shall forward a copy of the trial board's report to the accused, the five alumni (if appropriate), the undergraduate chapter, the Chapter Advisor and the Grand Praetor. The parties shall have the right to submit additional new information to the committee. Such new information shall be in writing and shall be served on the Executive Secretary within fifteen (15) business days of issuance of the trial board's report. The committee may forward a recommendation for expulsion from Fraternity membership for approval by the Executive Committee or may impose such lesser penalty as it may deem proper, giving due consideration to the recommendation of the trial board and any new information submitted. The imposition of a sentence of expulsion from Fraternity membership may only be done by the Executive Committee. The Executive Secretary shall immediately notify the accused, the five alumni (if appropriate), the undergraduate chapter, the Chapter Advisor, the Grand Praetor, and the university/college (if appropriate) of the Committee's decision.

The length of the trial board process, from the date of authorization of the trial board by the committee to the date of submission of the trial board's recommendations to the committee by the Chief Judge shall not exceed one hundred and twenty (120) days. In the event this time limit is exceeded, the committee may disband the trial board and appoint a new trial board to hear the charges. The committee may, upon written appeal of either the accused or the Chief Judge, waive this one hundred and twenty (120) day limitation to accommodate extenuating circumstances.

**ECR 7.01-7** – Suspension from membership or of voting rights shall not relieve the suspended member from compliance with the provisions of Section 3.18 through 3.20.

**ECR 7.01-8** – Consideration of reinstatement of a member suspended or expelled from membership for reasons other than financial delinquency will be conditioned upon the recommendation of the active chapter, if any, or alumni which proposed his suspension or expulsion. The reinstatement of any member shall be subject to approval by the Executive Committee.

**STATUTE 7.02** – The Executive Committee shall be empowered to suspend from membership in the Fraternity any member charged with violation Section 3.19. In the event a suspended member has not paid or settled his delinquent financial obligation within twelve (12) months from the date of suspension and signed a promise to pay future financial obligations promptly, such suspended member shall be expelled from membership in the Fraternity without further action.

**STATUTE 7.05** – An active chapter may, under its bylaws, by a two-thirds vote of its members present and voting, remove the occupant of any chapter office in the event such occupant is placed on academic probation by the institution at which the chapter is located, is enrolled in less

than the number of academic hours required by the school to be considered a full-time student or his Grade Point Average (GPA) falls below the GPA required for initiation by that active chapter.

**SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY  
ALPHA PSI CHAPTER, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**



**MEMBERSHIP CONTRACT and NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT**

**GENERAL**

I have read and understand the Sigma Chi Constitution and the Alpha Psi Chapter Bylaws. I am familiar with fraternity and chapter operations and with my responsibilities as a member. I understand that the perpetuity of my membership hinges on my fulfillment of these obligations.

**PRIVACY**

I understand that my exposures to the Ritual and to Ritualistic procedures are privileges. I understand that any knowledge and information regarding the Ritual is the private property of Sigma Chi Fraternity and is to be kept permanently in the utmost secrecy, regardless of my status or affiliation with Alpha Psi or Sigma Chi.

**FINANCIAL**

I agree to meet my financial obligations this semester and of amounts to be determined during each of my remaining semesters at Vanderbilt University. I understand that financial delinquency will result in my expulsion from the chapter and the revocation of my status as Sigma Chi.

**SCHOLARSHIP**

As mandated by the University and the National Interfraternity Conference, I agree to maintain a minimum GPA of 2.3 during my remaining tenure at Vanderbilt. I understand that I will be placed on social probation should my GPA fall below these standards. I also recognize that 2.3 is a minimum requirement; therefore I shall exceed this standard in order to better represent myself and Sigma Chi.

**PARTICIPATION**

I understand that my role in Sigma Chi is important and that the fraternity expects and shall receive my full participation in its operation and activities. I understand and will abide by the attendance policies as outlined in the Ritualistic Statutes, the Sigma Chi Constitution, and the Alpha Psi Bylaws. I understand that I must meet specific community service obligations each semester. Further, I know that my duties do not end with pledgship – in fact, they only begin – and I will continue to fulfill these obligations with the same enthusiasm I learned to exhibit during my pledgship.

I \_\_\_\_\_, hereby agree to adhere to the terms outlined in this contract, in the Ritualistic Statutes, in the Sigma Chi Constitution, and in the Alpha Psi Chapter Bylaws. Further, believing that the world expects more of me than the world expects of other men, I shall to try to exceed these minimum expectations and will ever strive to attain the ideals represented by the White Cross of Sigma Chi.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date