

Phi Beta Kappa Constitution and Bylaws

Alpha of Oklahoma Chapter

(Including all amendments up to and including those passed October 20, 2005.)

CHAPTER CONSTITUTION

- I.** This society is one of the co-ordinate branches of the body known as the Phi Beta Kappa Society and shall be called the Alpha Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in the state of Oklahoma.
- II.** The Chapter is under the general supervision of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The object of the Phi Beta Kappa Society is the promotion of the scholarship and friendship among students and graduates of American colleges.
- III.** The members of the chapter shall be elected primarily from the best scholars of the graduating classes of the college, secondly from those graduates of the college whose post-graduate work entitles them to such honor, and lastly from any persons distinguished in letters, science, or education; provided however that the selection from each graduating class shall not exceed one-fourth of the number graduated. But the Chapter may make further limitations or restrictions.
- IV.** In addition to scholarship, good moral character shall be a qualification of membership, and any member who is found to have lost this qualification may be expelled from the society by a four-fifths vote of the members present at a regular annual meeting of the society.
- V.** This Chapter shall send a delegation to represent it at each National Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, shall contribute its equal part to the financial support of the national Society, and shall conform to the constitution of the National Society and all lawful requirements of the National Council.
- VI.** This Chapter shall, by the enactment of suitable bylaws, provide for its election of officers, the initiation of members, the conduct of its meeting, and for such other matters as it may deem wise to regulate.
- VII.** This Chapter is organized and is to be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of the Internal Revenue code §501(c)(3) (references herein to the Internal Revenue Code, hereinafter "IRC," include the corresponding section(s) of any future United States tax code).

No part of the net earnings of this Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, members, trustees, or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Chapter shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, the Chapter shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under IRC §501(c)(3) or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under IRC §§170(c)(2), 2055(a)(2), or 2522(a)(2).

Upon the dissolution of this Chapter, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the lawful debts and liabilities of the Chapter, the assets shall be distributed to one or more of the following categories of recipients, as the Chapter shall determine:

- 1.** A nonprofit organization or organizations which may have been created to succeed the Chapter, as long as such organization or each such organization shall qualify as an organization described in §501(c)(3); and/or

2. The Phi Beta Kappa Society, provided that it shall qualify at the time of distribution as an organization described in IRC §501(c)(3); and/or
3. A nonprofit organization or organizations having similar aims and objectives as the Chapter and which may be selected as an appropriate recipient of such assets, as long as such organization or each such organization shall qualify as an organization described in §501(c)(3); and/or
4. The Federal government, or to a State or local government, but only if such assets will be used for a public purpose.

BYLAWS OF ALPHA OF OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

I. Officers

The officers of this Chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer, whose duties shall be those usually appertaining to such officers. These four shall constitute the Executive Committee. They shall be elected annually from those members of Phi Beta Kappa who are voting members of this Chapter. The Secretary and Treasurer shall respond promptly to all communications from the national Phi Beta Kappa society, prepare all registration and other cards, and shall transmit to the Treasurer of the Phi Beta Kappa Society the sums prescribed by the Society to be paid to that body upon the initiation of members in course, alumnus/alumna members, and honorary members.

The nomination of officers shall be made by a nominating committee of five to be appointed by the President at least one week before the meeting at which the election takes place.

II. Members

Section 1. The membership of this Chapter shall consist of the following classes:

- A. Charter members, those to whom the Chapter was originally granted
- B. Members in course, those elected from the student body of the University.
- C. Alumnus/Alumna members, those elected from the alumni and alumnae of the University.
- D. Honorary members, those elected in recognition of personal distinction.
- E. Associate members, those originally initiated into other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who express a wish to join our chapter and who pay dues.

Section 2. Voting membership of the chapter shall include all members of the Alpha of Oklahoma chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. A quorum shall consist of not fewer than 15 voting members.

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 enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences or the equivalent and candidates for the liberal bachelor's degree may be considered under the following conditions:

- a. The candidate shall be majoring in liberal subjects and studies and be taking a degree program at least three-fourths of which is in liberal work.
- b. The candidate shall have completed at least four full semesters of work in residence at the University of Oklahoma and be fully registered for the fifth semester.

- c. For election as a junior, the candidate shall have completed at least one academic term of the junior year of college work. The caliber of his or her work shall be of exceptional distinction, including for all graded work, a quality point ratio of at least 3.90 or better on work taken at the University of Oklahoma. Nominations of students in their junior year who meet these requirements may be made by advisors and members of the Chapter.
- d. Grades earned in applied or professional work shall not be counted in computing the quality point ratio for purposes of eligibility. Applied or professional work shall be understood to include all training intended to develop skills or vocational techniques.
- e. Weight shall be given to the breadth of the program of each candidate as shown by the number and variety of courses taken outside his or her major. Weight shall also be given to balance and proportion in the candidate's degree program as a whole.
- f. 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, including those who may be elected as juniors, shall not exceed ten percent of the undergraduates expected to receive the liberal bachelor's degree in that class. A maximum of one-fifth of the members elected from any class may be elected on the basis of junior standing.

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 the minimum quality point election to membership in course.

Section 4. Alumnus/Alumna and Honorary Elections

- a. The President-Elect shall appoint in the spring a Committee on Alumnus/Alumna and Honorary Elections. The Committee may propose for election to membership the names of a limited number of graduates and former students of any division of the University from classes of more than ten years' standing. Such graduates and former students must be persons who have won distinction in letters, science, education, or other intellectual pursuits, or who have rendered to the nation or the region in which they live signal public service of such a nature as to manifest the possession of high intellectual attainments and scholarly interests. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote shall be necessary for election.
- b. The Committee may propose the names of persons for Honorary membership. Honorary elections may be made from time to time, but they shall be limited in number and confined to persons of distinction. Such elections shall require a three-fourths (3/4) vote. The ground of the election in each case shall be entered upon the minutes and reported to the national Phi Beta Kappa Society, and a certificate of membership presented.
- c.
 1. The Committee will make its selection of persons to be recommended at the Fall meeting.
 2. If nominations are made from the floor at the time of election, they will be referred to the Committee to be considered for the next election;
 3. The Committee is to meet regularly in the Fall before the scheduled Fall business meeting at which time it will receive a vita on each candidate nominated. A resume of each candidate nominated by the Committee will be included with the agenda of the Fall meeting. The full vitae will be available for review by members of the Chapter at a stated location for a stated period of time before the meeting.

IV. Meetings

- a. Four regular meetings shall be held in each academic year: one in December on or about the annual Founders' Day of Phi Beta Kappa; one business meeting during the fall semester; one in March or April; and the annual initiation, on dates fixed by the Executive Committee. Election of Alumnus/Alumna and Honorary members shall be the business of the fall business meeting. Undergraduate elections shall be the regular business of the March or April meeting. The March or April meeting shall be the regular annual business meeting of the chapter. The last order of business thereat shall be the election of officers of the chapter. Such officers shall serve one-year terms beginning July 1, or until such later date as their successors are elected. The Secretary and Treasurer must transmit to the national Phi Beta Kappa Society before that date all required reports.
- b. Special meetings may be called by the President upon his or her own initiative and shall be called upon the written request of three voting members. Notice of all meetings shall be given, but only voting members shall be present at elections.
- c. If elections are to take place at any time except as specified in a. above or if amendments to the Bylaws are to be considered at any except regular meetings, written notice to that effect must be given in the call.
- d. The Executive Committee shall have charge of all matters concerning Phi Beta Kappa interests when the Chapter is not in session.

V. Fees

Section 1. Initiation fees for members elected in course and for persons elected as Alumnus/Alumna or Honorary members shall be set annually by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Secretary and the Treasurer. The initiation fee is to be paid before initiation. Each initiate is to bear the cost of any key ordered by him or her.

Section 2. Each voting member of this chapter shall pay annual dues in the sum of twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), payable November 1, of each year.

VI. Membership

Initiation shall take place either shortly after the election or at the May meeting, as determined by the Executive Committee.

VII. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at the annual business meeting held in March or April. Amendments also may be made at other meetings if notice of all such proposed amendments is sent by the Secretary to all voting members together with the notice of the calling of such meeting. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of the quorum present is necessary to the adoption of an amendment, which shall not become effective until approved by the Senate of the national Phi Beta Kappa Society.

VIII. Miscellaneous

Section 1. An annual Phi Beta Kappa public meeting or banquet shall be held at such time and under such arrangements as the Executive Committee shall prescribe.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall also have power to invite from time to time a prominent member of the society to deliver a Phi Beta Kappa Oration.

Section 3. The Treasurer shall expend the funds of the Chapter for the ordinary and legitimate expenses of the Chapter, any extraordinary expenditure to be approved by the membership and/or the Executive Committee. (S) He shall submit his or her books and the accounts to the Auditing Committee, to be appointed by the President, who

shall report their findings at the annual business session.

Section 4. It is suggested that every initiate purchase a key at once. The key may be procured only through the Secretary.

Section 5. Power to interpret and construe these Bylaws is hereby vested in the President during meetings and in the Executive Committee at other times, subject in all cases to be overruled, modified, or approved by the Chapter.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall constitute a standing committee on membership and may appoint sub-committees.

Section 7. At all regular meetings the order of business shall include communications from the national Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Section 8. The Secretary shall receive a salary of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) a year.