

# CONSTITUTION OF THE BETA MU CHAPTER OF PI SIGMA ALPHA 1985 REVISION

## ARTICLE I

### **Description and Purpose of the Beta Mu Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha**

SECTION 1. Pi Sigma Alpha is the national political science honor society with chapters established in colleges and universities of accredited and recognized standing that offer a prescribed minimum of work in political science.

SECTION 2. The Beta Mu Chapter was established in 1952 and is the officially recognized chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha at Brigham Young University. Its objectives are to promote a greater understanding by students of issues relevant to political science, to encourage scholarship, and to recognize students who have achieved academic excellence in the discipline. The Chapter functions as an integral part of the Department of Political Science, providing extracurricular activities related to the above objectives.

## ARTICLE II

### **Membership**

SECTION 1. There shall be three classes of membership in the Beta Mu Chapter--Associate, National and Faculty.

SECTION 2. Requirements for associate membership shall be the following:

- a. Have an overall grade point average of at least 3.0;
- b. Have completed or be currently enrolled in at least one social science course;
- c. Pay the annual Chapter dues.

SECTION 3. Requirements for national membership shall be the following:

- a. Be an associate member in good standing of the Beta Mu Chapter;
- b. Be a junior, senior or graduate student;
- c. Have completed or be enrolled in ten hours of political science credit with at least three of the hours at the 300 level or above;
- d. Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 and a political science grade point average of 3.3 as well be in the upper third in overall academic standing in his or her college class
- e. Complete one committee assignment for the Chapter;
- f. Pay the national dues as established by the national Pi Sigma Alpha office.

SECTION 4. A faculty member shall be any member--full-time, part-time or retired--of the Brigham Young University Political Science Department faculty.

### **Dues**

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SECTION 5. The annual dues for associate membership in the Beta Mu Chapter shall be established at the beginning of each school year by a vote of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Beta Mu Chapter Executive Committee**

SECTION 1. The Beta Mu Chapter Executive Committee shall be the decision making organ of the Chapter and consist of the Chapter's officers and advisor. The officers shall be the president, secretary and the following vice-presidents: publicity, speakers, colloquial and socials.

### **Appointment and Qualifications of officers**

SECTION 2. The officers of the Beta Mu Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha shall be appointed by the chair of the Department of Political Science. Nominees shall be recommended to the chair by a committee consisting of the Beta Mu Chapter Advisor, outgoing Chapter officers and members of the Political Science Department Undergraduate Committee.

SECTION 3. The qualifications to hold office in the Beta Mu Chapter shall be as follows:

- a. Be an outstanding representative of the Political Science Department and its students;
- b. Qualify for national membership as stated above;
- c. Be a full-time student during the upcoming school year (Spring and Summer terms excluded);
- d. Be able to commit a minimum of five hours per week to Chapter business;
- e. Be able to attend the weekly executive committee meeting;
- f. Be a political science or international relations major or minor.

### **President**

SECTION 4. The president is the official representative of the Beta Mu Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha. His or her responsibilities are as follows:

- a. Schedule and conduct weekly executive committee meetings;
- b. Prepare and submit an annual budget to the Beta Mu Chapter Advisor and Political Science Department Chair;
- c. Manage the budget and approve all expenditures;
- d. Represent the Chapter to the Political Science Department and other University organizations (i.e. ASBYU, etc.);
- e. Coordinate and oversee the various Chapter activities;
- f. Solicit funding from available sources (i.e. ASBYU, National Pi Sigma Alpha Office, colleges and departments at BYU, etc.).

### **Secretary**

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SECTION 5. The secretary of the Beta Mu Chapter shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Organize and conduct the annual writing contest;
- b. Edit and publish the Pi Sigma Alpha Review;
- c. Maintain membership records;
- d. maintain Chapter records and files.

**Publicity**

SECTION 6. The vice-president for publicity shall have the following responsibilities:

- a. Insure that all Chapter activities and announcements are well publicized in a timely and efficient manner;
- b. Maintain a calendar of upcoming events;
- c. Create and post flyers and posters;
- d. Write a regular (i.e. monthly) newsletter and memos to faculty;
- e. Submit announcements for publication in newspapers;
- f. Generate and maintain a mailing list of current Chapter members.

**Speakers**

SECTION 7. The vice-president for speakers shall be responsible for arranging for individuals to address open meetings of the Chapter on issues of general interest to the members. Generally these addresses are part of the Dialogue and Donut series but may also include speakers in other forums. The arrangements for these activities include scheduling rooms, ordering refreshments, coordinating travel arrangements when necessary, obtaining an advance copy of the speaker's vita and introducing him or her at the meeting, and informing the publicity officer of the topic, time and place of each meeting well in advance of the event.

**Colloquia**

SECTION 8. The vice-president for colloquia shall have responsibility for the Beta Mu Chapter Colloquia Series. The Colloquia Series is a forum for the formal presentation and critique of faculty and student papers on a monthly basis. The vice-president for colloquia receives recommendations from the Political Science Department Chair and the Chapter advisor about which faculty should be approached to present papers. He or she then contacts the faculty and one or two other individuals who act as critics, and schedules the time and place for the colloquia. Additionally, this officer arranges to have the papers duplicated and available for general distribution approximately one week before the colloquia are scheduled.

**Socials**

SECTION 9. The vice-president for socials shall have responsibility for arranging the Chapter open house at the beginning of each school year, the closing banquet, the oktoberfest, and the monthly Welches and Cheese socials held in faculty homes. For the open

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house this involves scheduling a room, ordering refreshments, arranging for speakers, and providing informational material about Pi Sigma Alpha for those who attend. The closing banquet is the last official event of the school year and requires this officer to schedule a room, order the meal, purchase the awards, arrange for a guest speaker, and print tickets and programs. The vice-president for socials also arranges the monthly Welches and Cheese socials by scheduling with selected faculty the topics of their presentation and the use of their homes, ordering refreshments, and the set up and clean up.

**Other Officers**

SECTION 10. Offices other than the above may be created on an ad hoc basis as deemed necessary by the Executive Committee or the Chapter advisor.

**Committees**

SECTION 11. Each officer should organize a committee of two or three members to assist them with their specific responsibilities. Other members should be called upon as needed.

**Executive Committee Meetings**

SECTION 12. Weekly meetings of the Beta Mu Chapter Executive Committee shall be held at a time deemed appropriate by the president and Chapter advisor. All officers are expected to be in attendance.

**Voting**

SECTION 13. Questions arising requiring a vote of Executive Committee will be treated as follows: each vice-president and the secretary will have one vote each, the president will have two votes, and the Chapter advisor or department chair will not vote, but will have veto power. No vote shall be taken unless a quorum of at least four officers including the president shall be present.

**Resignation or Dismissal of Officers**

SECTION 14. Officers who feel they are unable to fulfill their responsibilities may resign by letter to the Department of Political Science Chair. Also, officers who fail to adequately carry out the requirements of their office may be dismissed by the Department Chair from their responsibilities by written notice.

SECTION 15. The replacement for any officer who resigns or is dismissed shall be made according to the procedures established in Article III Section 2 of this constitution.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Meetings**

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SECTION 1. The Executive Committee shall establish which meetings shall be open to participation by the general University community and which shall be for members only.

ARTICLE V

**Amendments**

SECTION 1. This constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and with the approval of the Department of Political Science Chair. To allow for student comment all proposed amendments must be posted for a period of at least one week on the Pi Sigma Alpha bulletin board outside the Political Science Department office and mailed to current associate members.

ARTICLE VI

SECTION 1. This constitution shall be ratified by the procedures for amendment.