

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA THETA CHAPTER  
PI SIGMA ALPHA**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name and Location of Organization**

*Section 1.* This organization shall be known as the Gamma Theta Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

*Section 2.* This chapter shall be situated at Duke University.

*Section 3.* This document supersedes any previously approved By-Laws.

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose of Organization**

*Section 1.* The objectives of this organization shall be as follows:

- a. to stimulate productive scholarship and intelligent interest in the subject of government;
- b. to seek to promote a better understanding of government among its members;
- c. to promote worthwhile curricular and extracurricular activities related to political science;
- d. to advance and diffuse knowledge and interest in political science;
- e. to organize and conduct seminars, conferences, research, discussion groups, and publications in the subject of political science.

*Section 2.* It is a professed goal of this chapter to recognize superior scholastic ability in the field of political science at Duke University and to ensure that those possessing these qualifications will be afforded the opportunity to become a proponent of the above principles in Pi Sigma Alpha.

**ARTICLE III**

**Membership**

*Section 1.* Membership in this chapter shall be active, faculty or honorary, as detailed below.

*Section 2.* Primary qualifications of student candidates for active membership include high scholarship, manifested interest in political science, and promise of achievement in their chosen field. Election to active membership shall be from among such juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are majoring in political science at Duke University and meet each of the following qualifications:

- a. completion of at least three political science courses, at least one of which must be at the 100-level or higher. Transfer students must have completed at least two of the three courses at Duke;
- b. a minimum of a 3.3 GPA overall;
- c. not less than a 3.5 GPA in political science courses;
- d. rank in the top quarter of one's graduating class.

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA THETA CHAPTER  
PI SIGMA ALPHA**

*Section 3.* Any member of the faculty of the department of political science at Duke may be elected to faculty membership. Faculty members shall possess all the privileges of active members.

*Section 4.* Any person of recognized ability and achievement in the field of political science, and who is deemed worthy of special recognition by the chapter for her/his contribution to the objectives for which this chapter strives, may be elected as an honorary member. No more than two such members may be elected in any one year. Honorary members shall possess all the privileges of active members except that of holding office. The election of an honorary member must take place at any general membership meeting throughout the year. In order to be elected, 2/3rds of the membership present at that meeting must concur with the nomination of the honorary member. Officers, excluding the president, are allowed to vote. The president will preside over the voting.

*Section 5.* Any persons duly elected to membership (other than honorary) at another institution, who subsequently enroll as students or are serving as faculty members at Duke, shall be deemed members of this chapter.

*Section 6.* The Gamma Theta chapter shall initiate new members at such time as is deemed advisable by the organization's officers and faculty advisor. Initiations must occur annually, but can also occur biannually.

*Section 7.* The privileges of membership of an active member once initiated may be suspended or revoked by the unanimous vote of the entire chapter.

**ARTICLE IV  
Officers & Committees**

*Section 1.* Officers of this chapter shall be those provided by the national constitution, to wit: a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor.

*Section 2.* All officers shall be elected by majority of those present and voting at the Spring initiation meeting, to be held on or before May 10th of each year. The current president will preside over the elections. Potential officers can nominate themselves, or can be nominated by other members of the Gamma Theta chapter. Nominees may make brief speeches before the votes are cast. Votes will be cast by secret ballot. The president will cast a vote only in the case of a tie. If the election is close, the president may choose to have a run-off election between the leading candidates. Officers shall serve a term of one year.

*Section 3.* The duties of the President shall be as follows:

- a. to call special meetings of this chapter;
- b. to appoint committees and committee chairmen as s/he deems necessary;
- c. to be responsible (with the Faculty Advisor) for arranging speakers, programs, and entertainment for meetings of the chapter;

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA THETA CHAPTER  
PI SIGMA ALPHA**

- d. to see to it that the chapter follows the general policy direction as set forth in Article II;
- e. to name the time and location of the meetings.

*Section 4.* The Vice-President shall assist the President and Faculty Advisor in any way possible and fulfill the duties of the President in the President's absence.

*Section 5.* The Secretary-Treasurer shall handle all correspondence of the chapter, including the following:

- a. notification of members of the time and place of meetings;
- b. keeping the minutes of the proceedings thereof;
- c. collect and handle all dues, fees, etc., which pertain to this organization.

*Section 6.* The Faculty Advisor shall assist the President in arranging speakers, programs, and entertainment for the meetings of this chapter. S/he shall also seek to provide greater communication between the student and faculty members of the organization.

*Section 7.* Chairmen of such committees as the President may appoint shall designate the meeting times and places for the members of their respective committees as they shall deem appropriate. Important chairships to consider include a social chair, a publicity chair, and a chair for a speakers committee.

*Section 8.* Vacancies occurring on committees or in any elected office shall be filled by appointment of the President of the chapter.

*Section 9.* Any officer of the chapter may be removed by the concurrence of three-fourths (3/4ths) majority of the entire active membership of the chapter.

**ARTICLE V  
Fees and Dues**

*Section 1.* For initiation into the chapter, a one-time membership fee, including national dues and dues to the local chapter, shall be due and payable to the Secretary-Treasurer or the political science department administrative assistant by the day of initiation, or by a time pre-arranged as deemed necessary by the officers.

*Section 2.* Annual dues, if assessed, shall be approved by the active and faculty members present at the first business meeting held during the fall semester. Payment of such dues will be required for participation in chapter activities.

*Section 3.* In the case of the initiation of honorary members, the chapter treasury shall be assessed for the initiation fee payable to the national office.

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA THETA CHAPTER  
PI SIGMA ALPHA**

*Section 4.* All initiation fees of active, faculty, and honorary members shall be paid by the Secretary-Treasurer or political science department administrative assistant to the national office within ten days of the initiation date.

*Section 5.* No other dues or fees will be assessed or collected by the officers of this chapter except by majority resolution of those present and voting at any business meeting; such fees shall be payable to the Secretary-Treasurer or political science department administrative assistant.

**ARTICLE VI  
Meetings**

*Section 1.* Business meetings of this organization shall be held as necessary during the period September through May (excluding midsemester break) at a time and place determined by the president to be most convenient and expedient.

*Section 2.* Attendance of all active members is required at all business meetings and initiations. Notice of time and place of meetings shall be made by the officers of the chapter at least three days prior to the date of the meeting.

*Section 3.* Special meetings may be called at any time when deemed necessary by the President of the chapter.

*Section 4.* The procedure at all meetings, chapter and committee, shall be governed by accepted Parliamentary rules of order, and members shall observe proper decorum during the sessions of the chapter and its various committees.

**ARTICLE VII  
Constitution and Amendments**

*Section 1.* The chapter shall have the power to make and amend these by-laws not inconsistent with the word and spirit of the national constitution, as may be deemed necessary.

*Section 2.* Amendments shall be adopted by the favorable concurrence of not less than two-thirds (2/3rds) of those members present and voting, provided that such amendment or amendments shall have been read in full to the chapter.

*Section 3.* This constitution, containing amendments to the original constitution of 11 October, 1979, shall be ratified by no fewer than two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members present and voting at the business meeting of 16 October, 1993.

Approved this Sixteenth Day of October, in the Year One Thousand, Nine-Hundred Ninety-Three.

**BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA THETA CHAPTER  
PI SIGMA ALPHA**

Jennifer S. McCall  
President, Gamma Theta chapter  
Pi Sigma Alpha

Amy Vernick  
Vice President, Gamma Theta chapter  
Pi Sigma Alpha

Aaron A. Saguil  
Vice President, Gamma Theta chapter  
Pi Sigma Alpha