



ΦΣΚ

CHARTER,  
CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS - 2017

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***The Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa were revised and amended by the 66<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Grand Chapter on July 29, 2017 in Orlando, Florida***

**Charter  
Certificate of Incorporation  
of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa**

1. The name of the corporation is THE GRAND CHAPTER OF PHI SIGMA KAPPA.
2. Its principal office in the State of Delaware is located at 100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, in the City of Wilmington County of New Castle. The name and address of its resident agent is The Corporation Trust Company, 100 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Wilmington 99, Delaware.
3. The objects and purposes to be carried on are to promote brotherhood, to stimulate scholarship and to develop character among its members; to assist and further the education of its members by means of endowments, scholarships, or any other means of practical assistance; to inculcate, instill and promote among its members a high degree of morality, culture and fellowship; to charter chapters in colleges and universities; to charter alumni clubs; and to do all things incident to these purposes.
4. (a.) The Corporation is not for profit and shall have no authority to issue corporate stock.  
(b.) Conditions of membership and degrees of membership in the Corporation shall be stated in the Bylaws.
5. The names and places of residence of the incorporators are as follows:  
Robert B. Abbe, 68 Boardwalk, Groton Long Point, CT  
Donovan H. Bond, 322 Mulberry Street, Morgantown, WV  
Herbert L. Brown, 3730 Woodland Avenue, Drexel Hill, PA
6. The time of existence of this corporation shall be perpetual.
7. The members of the Corporation shall not be subject to any debts of the Corporation. No members of the Grand Council shall be personally liable to the Grand Chapter or its members for monetary damages for any breach of fiduciary duty by such Grand Council member. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, a Grand Council member shall be liable to the extent provided by applicable law (i) for breach of the Grand Council member's duty of loyalty to the Grand Chapter or its members, (ii) for acts or omissions not in good faith or which involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of the law, or (iii) for any transaction from which the Grand Council member derived an improper personal benefit. No amendment to or repeal of this section 14 shall apply to or have any effect on the liability or alleged liability of any Grand Council member for or with respect to any acts or omissions of such Grand Council members occurring prior to such amendment.
8. The affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by the Council of not less than five (5) members, the number to be fixed by the Bylaws. The Corporation shall commence with a Council composed of ten (10) members to be elected by the incorporators.
9. This Corporation shall have all powers as provided by Delaware law, now or hereafter prescribed for corporations of this character.
10. The Corporation reserves the right to amend, alter or repeal any provision contained in the Certificate of Incorporation in the manner now or hereafter prescribed by the statutes of Delaware, and all rights and powers conferred on directors and members herein are granted subject to this reservation.

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, being each of their incorporators herein before named, for the purpose of forming a corporation pursuant to the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware, do make this certificate, hereby declaring and certifying that the facts herein stated are true, and accordingly have hereunto set our hands and seals this 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, A.D. 1959.

ROBERT B. ABBE (SEAL)  
DONOVAN H. BOND (SEAL)  
HERBERT L. BROWN (SEAL)

Endorsement:

I, George J. Schulz, Secretary of the State of Delaware, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of Certificate of Incorporation of "The Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa" as received and filed in this office the twenty-third day of January A.D.1959, at 10 o'clock A.M.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal at Dover this twenty-third day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and fifty-nine.

GEORGE J. SCHULTZ,  
*Secretary of State*

M.D. TOMLINSON,  
*Asst. Secretary of State*

## **CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE**

The Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa is an international collegiate social fraternity founded on March 15, 1873, Amherst, Massachusetts, by Joseph Franklin Barrett, William Penn Brooks, Frederick George Campbell, Xenos Young Clark, Jabez William Clay and Henry Hague. On August 14, 1985, the Grand Chapter was augmented and strengthened by merger with Phi Sigma Epsilon National Fraternity, founded February 20, 1910, in Emporia, Kansas by Fred M. Thompson, Raymond Victor Bottomly, Robert C. Marley, W. Roy Campbell, Orin M. Rhine, W. Ingram Forde and Humphrey Jones. The Fraternity's members affirm their faith in the wisdom and love of God, the dignity and worth of their fellowmen, the strength and beauty of true fraternity, the history and future of their country, and the traditions and programs of American higher education. The Cardinal Principles of this Fraternity are To Promote Brotherhood, To Stimulate Scholarship and To Develop Character. The Motto of this Fraternity is the Golden Rule – Do Unto Others As You Would Have Them Do Unto You.

Phi Sigma Kappa is a lifelong brotherhood dedicated to the betterment of the individual, the university community and our world by giving its members opportunities to develop leadership skills, participate in service to others, achieve academic excellence, experience cultural diversity and practice personal integrity.

## **ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Membership in the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa shall be open only to those classes of persons described in this Article and shall be conferred only as provided in this Article.

**Section 2.** A male student, officially enrolled at a degree granting college, university, technical institute, community college or other institution of higher education may be associated and initiated into the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa as provided in the Bylaws by the local chapter of the Fraternity chartered at the institution where he is enrolled, provided he is not affiliated with any other nationally recognized collegiate social fraternity and provided he meets all financial and other requirements as set forth in the Bylaws. A male student at any such institution who meets all of the foregoing qualifications may be associated and initiated into the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa as provided in the Bylaws by a local chapter of the Fraternity chartered at an institution other than the one at which he is enrolled, provided there is no local chapter chartered at the institution where he is enrolled, and provided that his initiation would not violate the regulations or policies of the institution where the local chapter initiating him is chartered.

**Section 3.** A male graduate of, a male former student of, or a male faculty member at, a degree granting college, university, technical institution, community college or other institution of higher education may be associated and initiated into the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa as provided in the Bylaws by the local chapter of the Fraternity chartered at the institution from which he graduated, or which he attended, or where he is on the faculty, provided he is not affiliated with any other nationally recognized collegiate social fraternity, and provided he meets all financial requirements set forth in the Bylaws. A male graduate of, a male former student of, or a male faculty member at, any such institution who meets all of the foregoing qualifications may be initiated into the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa as provided in the Bylaws by a local chapter chartered at an institution other than the one from which he graduated, or which he attended, or where he is on the faculty, provided that his initiation would not violate the regulations or policies of the institution where the local chapter initiating him is chartered.

**Section 4.** Honorary membership may be conferred upon any deserving man as provided in the Bylaws.

**Section 5.** Membership in Phi Sigma Kappa shall be designated by degrees numbered consecutively from one through six, with rights and privileges appertaining to each degree as described in the Bylaws.

**Section 6.** Membership in Phi Sigma Kappa can be dissolved only by death or expulsion, as provided in the bylaws.

**Section 7.** Subject to the qualifications in Section 2, no chapter shall discriminate in recruitment or in membership based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, ethnic background, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, parental status, or political affiliation.

## **ARTICLE II ORGANIZATION**

**Section 1.** The legislative power of the Fraternity shall be vested in the General Convention, which is a biennial meeting of the members of the Corporation, herein to be known as the Grand Chapter.

**Section 2.** The executive power of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Council, consisting of the President and the Directors. The President shall serve for two years, as prescribed in the Bylaws, and until his successor be qualified and duly elected. The Directors shall serve for such period or periods of years as prescribed in the Bylaws, and until their successors be qualified and duly elected.

**Section 3.** Conclaves may be convened to hold leadership training seminars, formulate recommendations for the betterment of the Fraternity, and to bring together members for the interchange of ideas.

## **ARTICLE III COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** The following General Convention committees shall be appointed by the incumbent President as soon after the delegates have convened as may be practical.

- (1) Credentials
- (2) Resolutions
- (3) Undergraduate Members to the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Committee

**Section 2.** The following Standing Committees shall be appointed by the incoming President immediately upon his installment in office:

- (1) Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy
- (2) Alumni
- (3) Expansion
- (4) Ritual
- (5) Leadership and Volunteer Development
- (6) Scholarship
- (7) Finance

**Section 3.** The Chancellor of the Court of Honor shall appoint a Nominating Committee six months prior to the General Convention as prescribed in the Bylaws.

**Section 4.** All members appointed by the Grand President or the Chancellor of the Court of Honor to serve on General Convention committees, or as committee chairs of the Convention must be in good standing with the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa. The chief administrative officer will review all committee appointments and report any discrepancies to the Grand President and/or Chancellor prior to the opening of the General Convention. Any member appointed to a committee or as committee chair who is not in good standing with the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa shall not serve on any committee or as committee chair at the General Convention.

## **ARTICLE IV FISCAL**

**Section 1.** The fiscal year of the Grand Chapter shall begin on July 1 and end on June 30 of the following year.

**Section 2.** The accounts of the Grand Chapter shall be audited annually as of June 30.

## **ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** The Charter, Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter may be altered or amended only by action of the General Convention as provided herein. The policies of the Grand Chapter may be altered or amended and new policies adopted by action of the Council; provided, however, that the General Convention shall have the power of veto.

**Section 2.** Two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a General Convention shall be necessary to amend the Charter and the Constitution.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I DEGREE OF MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** The six degrees of membership in Phi Sigma Kappa are defined as follows:

- (a) First Degree – an undergraduate who shall have completed the Ritual of Initiation, subscribed to the Constitution and Bylaws, paid in full all financial obligations to the Grand Chapter, as set forth in Article IX of the Bylaws, and purchased one of the four official badges.
- (b) Second Degree – a member of the First Degree who is installed in any of the symbolic offices of the chapter of which he is a member.
  - 1. Any member who does not maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) is ineligible for election to the symbolic offices as described in Article 1, Section 1 (b) of the Bylaws. This subsection shall not apply to any such officer who has already been installed in his office or is awaiting installation. Symbolic officers may not be re-elected at the end of their current term unless their cumulative GPA is at or above 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale) at the time of the election.
- (c) Third Degree – a member of the First or Second Degree who graduates, or who is certified by the chapter adviser (or chapter president with concurrence of the Executive Vice President in the absence of an appointed adviser) as one who is no longer enrolled at the school, is not expected to enroll within the next year, and who would have been expected under normal circumstances to have completed undergraduate studies prior to the time of certification and whose financial obligations to the chapter and to the Grand Chapter shall have been paid in full; also any graduate, former student, faculty or honorary member who shall have completed the required Ritual of Initiation and subscribed to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter, and in respect of whom all financial obligations to the Grand Chapter, as set forth in Article IX of the Bylaws, shall have been paid in full.
- (d) Fourth Degree – a member of the Third or Fourth Degree who is named to any appointive office of the Grand Chapter.
- (e) Fifth Degree – a member of the Third or Fourth Degree who is elected to the Grand Council.
- (f) Sixth Degree – a member who is elected to the office of President of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 2.** Promotion in degree shall constitute advancement of jurisdiction and shall not deprive such advanced member of any rights and privileges of the lower-ranking degree.

**Section 3.** The highest degree status attained by a member shall thereafter be recognized as his mark of distinction, even though he retires or is subsequently appointed or elected to a station of lower ranking degree, or the status of his office is later changed.

**Section 4.** Members and alumni of expansion chapters and colonies shall, automatically upon becoming members of the Grand Chapter, be admitted to the appropriate degree of membership consistent with the offices or status they shall have held within their chapters or colonies.

## **ARTICLE II VOTING ON MEMBERSHIP**

**Section 1.** An undergraduate candidate for membership may, as provided in the Rituals, be initiated into the Grand Chapter only after receiving the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent or more present at a legally called meeting of a chapter in good standing where a legal quorum is present.

**Section 2.** An undergraduate candidate for membership through a colony may, as provided in the Rituals, become associated with the Grand Chapter at the invitation of any colony of the Fraternity in good standing only after receiving the affirmative vote of the majority of those present at a legally called meeting of the colony where a quorum is present.

**Section 3.** The Council is empowered to waive the minimum seventy-five percent vote required in Article II, Section 1, only upon written request from a chapter. In the case of a colony, the Council may authorize the association and initiation of such colony members as the chief administrative officer shall recommend, and until the colony is chartered as a chapter any candidate so initiated shall be a member-at-large of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 4.** A graduate member of the faculty or former student may, as provided in the Rituals, be initiated into the Grand Chapter as a member of the Third Degree only upon receiving the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of those present at a legally called meeting of a chapter in good standing where a legal quorum is present.

**Section 5.** A candidate for honorary membership, who may or may not be an undergraduate, graduate, member of the faculty or former student at an institution where there is a chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa, may as provided in the Rituals, be initiated into the Grand Chapter as a member of the Third Degree only upon receiving the affirmative vote of at least seventy-five percent of those present at a legally called meeting of a chapter in good standing where a legal quorum is present; provided that an application is approved by that body. With the approval of the Council, a chapter may grant honorary posthumous membership to an individual without being required to pay any fees or dues for that individual.

**Section 6.** No one shall be initiated into Phi Sigma Kappa who is a member of any other nationally recognized collegiate social fraternity nor shall any member of the Grand Chapter become a member of any such fraternity.

### **Section 7.**

- (a.) An undergraduate candidate for membership may, as provided in the Rituals, be initiated into the Grand Chapter only upon meeting the following criteria:
- (1.) The candidate must have a cumulative grade point average of 2.50 (on a 4.0 scale), or higher; or
  - (2.) The candidate's previous semester grade point average must have been a 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), or higher; or
  - (3.) If the candidate is a first semester freshman, the candidate must have had a high school cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale), or higher, and
  - (4.) If the host institution's minimum grade point average is higher than the minimums set forth in subparagraphs (1), (2), and (3), above, the candidate must meet the host institution's requirements.
- (b.) The candidate must permit the release of information to his chapter and otherwise provide proof that his grade point average meets the requirement of this section.

(c.) The Council is empowered to waive any or all of the requirements of this section upon review of a written request from a chapter.

**ARTICLE III  
THE GENERAL CONVENTION**

**Section 1.** The General Convention shall be held between the first day of June and the thirty-first day of December at such time and place as shall be determined by the Council. Notice thereof shall be given in the *Signet* no later than two weeks prior to the date of convening said Convention.

**Section 2.** Chapter delegates to the General Convention shall be selected by the chapter from among the active members of the First and Second Degree in good standing with the respective chapters and the Grand Chapter. Alumni Club delegates shall be selected from the recorded members of the respective clubs.

**Section 3.** The voting privilege of the undergraduate members present at the General Convention shall be apportioned as follows:

Chapter representation shall be allotted on the basis of the active membership as ascertained from the official member total provided by the end of the year chapter report filed prior to the convening of the Convention. Based on the above allotment, chapters in good standing shall have the following voting strength:

6 to 15 members	one vote
16 to 25 members	two votes
26 to 35 members	three votes
36 to 45 members	four votes
46 to 55 members	five votes
56 to 65 members	six votes
66 to 85 members	seven votes
86 or more members	eight votes

**Section 4.** The voting privilege of the alumni clubs in good standing with the Grand Chapter and represented at the General Convention will be apportioned according to their number of sustaining members as paid to the Grand Chapter no later than the June 30<sup>th</sup> preceding the General Convention as follows:

0 to 25 members	one vote
26 to 45 members	two votes
46 to 65 members	three votes
66 to 85 members	four votes
86 or more members	five votes

**Section 5.** Each member of the Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Degree in good standing with the Grand Chapter shall be entitled to one vote.

**Section 6.** Any delegate entitled to vote as a representative in more than one voting classification, may not cast more than the highest number of votes in any single classification. Any delegate whose expenses are paid to the General Convention by the Grand Chapter or the Foundation may vote only the number of votes assigned to the position for which his expenses are paid.

**Section 7.** All chapters in financial arrears to the Grand Chapter at the time of the Grand Chapter Convention shall be denied travel reimbursement for their chapter delegates.

**Section 8.** Delegates from a majority of chapters in good standing shall constitute a quorum at a General Convention.

**Section 9.** Election of all elective officers of the Grand Chapter may be by ballot and a majority of votes cast shall determine election.

**Section 10.** The Grand Council, in conjunction with the chief administrative officer, shall determine the Convention budget, and shall set travel reimbursement for all attendants, and registration fees for official delegates and guests to satisfy the needs of the Convention budget.

**Section 11.** Wherever the word “Chapter” appears in this article, it shall also include officially designated colonies.

**Section 12.** The Order of Business at the General Convention shall be determined by the President and shall include the following reports:

- (a) Of the Council by the President
- (b) Of the chief administrative officer
- (c) Of the Audit of the Grand Chapter Accounts
- (d) Of the Nominating Committee for the election and installation of the Grand Chapter’s Grand President and Directors

**Section 13.** The Convention shall elect by ballot the following officers of the Grand Chapter: a President and such number of Directors as shall be necessary to fill the seats on the Grand Council of the Directors whose terms expire at such Convention and any new seats on the Grand Council which may be created by action of such Convention. If during the previous biennium a vacancy has occurred in one or more of the Director positions not expiring at the time of the Convention, the Convention will also fill the open position(s) for the remainder of the term.

**Section 14.** Nominees for the offices of the Grand Chapter, as listed in Section 13, shall consist of those presented in the report of the Nominating Committee, and other nominations which may be made, at the call of the President, from the floor of the Convention by any member present who is entitled to vote. Only those members whose names have previously been submitted to the Nominating Committee are eligible to be nominated from the floor.

**Section 15.** Robert’s Rules of Order, except when inconsistent with the Charter, Constitution and Bylaws of the Grand Chapter, shall govern the conduct of the General Convention and all other meetings of the Grand Chapter Conclaves, chapters and alumni clubs.

## **ARTICLE IV COMMITTEES**

### **A. CONVENTION**

#### **Section 1.** Nominating Committee

- (a) The Chancellor of the Court of Honor shall appoint a Nominating Committee at least six months prior to the General Convention. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two undergraduate presidents, two Fourth Degree brothers (to exclude current staff), one Director whose term is not expiring, and one member of the Court of Honor. The Chancellor of the Court of Honor shall be chairman of the Nominating Committee.
- (b) The Nominating Committee, prior to the General Convention, shall call for nominations for eligible candidates for the offices of President and Directors. The Nominating Committee shall meet at the Convention and shall interview those candidates so nominated and any other candidates whom the members of the committee nominate to be considered.
- (c) The Nominating Committee will determine a slate and will present to the General Convention in writing a list consisting of one or more nominees from the Third or higher ranking Degree for President and each of the open Director positions, provided that no member who is, or within the two years immediately preceding the Convention has been, on the paid staff of the Fraternity shall be eligible for nomination.

**Section 2.** As soon after the Convention has convened as may be practicable, the President shall appoint to each of the following Convention Committees, whose duties are described herein, chapter delegates and

members of the Third or higher ranking Degree, designating the chairman of each. All such appointees shall serve for the period of the Convention and such committees shall automatically be discharged upon the adjournment of said Convention.

- (a) The Credentials Committee, which shall examine the credentials of any delegate whose qualifications to serve at the Convention may be questioned. It shall decide whether the delegate is qualified and report its findings to the President.
- (b) The Resolutions Committee, which shall present to the General Convention in writing, such resolutions of respect, gratitude, commemoration or otherwise, which in its judgment should be recognized by the Convention and spread upon the records of the Grand Chapter.

## **B. STANDING**

**Section 1.** As soon as practicable after his installation, the President shall appoint the following Standing Committees, whose duties are defined herein:

- (a) Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Committee, which upon receipt of recommendations from any member in good standing for amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws and/or changes in stated policies between General Conventions, shall decide which recommendations shall be submitted to the General Convention in the case of the Constitution and Bylaws amendments and which shall be submitted to the Council in the case of policy changes. The Committee shall be comprised of three members of the Third or higher ranking degree. It shall be augmented at the time of the naming of the Convention Committees by three undergraduate delegates.
- (b) Alumni Committee, which shall seek to establish new chartered alumni clubs, encourage active participation among existing clubs and otherwise promote greater interest among all alumni in the Fraternity. The Director of Alumni shall be the chairman of this committee.
- (c) Expansion Committee, which shall explore possibilities for new chapters or colonies at colleges, universities or technical institutions where Phi Sigma Kappa is not represented, and promote the Fraternity within any group at such schools as may appear to have the qualifications desired in a chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa. The chief administrative officer shall be the chairman of this committee.
- (d) Ritual Committee, which shall witness the exemplification of the Ritual by the chapters whenever practicable and make recommendations for improvement in performance, as well as recommendations to the General Convention for desirable changes in content.
- (e) Leadership and Volunteer Development Committee, which shall assist the Fraternity's paid staff on the development of an effective leadership orientation and development school for undergraduate members and a volunteer orientation and development program for the Fraternity's volunteer staff members.
- (f) Scholarship Committee, which shall implement and administer the Scholastic Awards Program.
- (g) Finance Committee, which shall make such recommendations to the Grand Council as may be appropriate concerning the financial operations of the Grand Chapter. The Committee shall also assist the Grand Chapter in the collection of accounts receivable.

**Section 2.** The number and personnel of each of the above committees and the chairman of each shall be designated by the President, unless otherwise specified herein.

**Section 3.** The foregoing Standing Committees shall serve until the conclusion of the next General Convention; provided, however, that the President shall have the power to replace by appointment any member or members of any committee who in his judgment are not functioning in accordance with their assigned responsibilities.

**Section 4.** The President shall have the power to create other committees, which in his judgment will contribute to the progress of Phi Sigma Kappa.

## **ARTICLE V THE COUNCIL**

**Section 1.** The Council shall consist of the President and six Directors. It may also be referred to as the Grand Council, and it shall function as the board of directors of the Grand Chapter. New members of the Council shall be formally installed as provided in the Rituals as soon after their election as may be practicable.

**Section 2.** The powers and duties of the Council shall be:

- (a) To maintain the Charter, Constitution, Bylaws and Policies of the Fraternity.
- (b) To prepare, with the assistance of the chief administrative officer, and adopt an annual budget.
- (c) To act upon all requests for major expenditures.
- (d) To supervise the condition and the programs of the chapters and chartered alumni clubs.
- (e) To act upon all petitions for chapter charters, alumni club charters, and chartered alumni clubs.
- (f) To ratify the appointments by the President to appointive offices and standing committees.
- (g) To appoint and contract for a chief administrative officer from among the members of the Third or higher ranking Degree and fix his compensation and period of employment.
- (h) To fix the number of regional advisers, if any, and to appoint them from among members of the Third or higher ranking Degree.
- (i) To appoint a Chaplain and an Historian from among the members of the Third or higher ranking Degree.
- (j) To determine the location of the International Headquarters of Phi Sigma Kappa.
- (k) To fill vacancies, either in assembly or by mail vote, in its own body or any office of the Grand Chapter, except in the Court of Honor, created by resignation, disability, disqualification or death. In the case of a Director whose term does not expire at the next General Convention, the interim appointee will serve only until the office is filled in the manner prescribed in the Bylaws at the next General Convention.
- (l) To act upon matters of discipline, the suspension of a chapter or alumni club, and the revocation of a charter of a chapter or alumni club.
- (m) To promulgate, alter or revise the Policies of the Grand Chapter between General Conventions.
- (n) To select, when necessary, from among its members a President pro tempore, who will preside at its meetings or any meeting of the Grand Chapter in the event of the absence of the President or his inability to preside.
- (o) To act upon an appeal by a Council member with respect to the credentials of a Convention.
- (p) To approve all loans and refinancing of loans.
- (q) To select investment counsel and authorize the investment of funds.
- (r) To have full authority to control all the affairs of the Grand Chapter, to manage all property belonging thereto, and transact all its business.

**Section 3.** A majority of the members of the Council shall constitute a quorum and the vote of a majority of those present at any meeting shall be necessary to decide all matters before the Council.

**Section 4.**

- (a) No person may serve on the Council who is simultaneously an officer, director, or trustee of the Phi Sigma Kappa Foundation, Inc. or Phi Sigma Kappa Properties, Inc., or any successor to either organization.
- (b) Any such person serving on the Council at the time this section is adopted may serve the balance of his term on the Council of the Grand Chapter but may not serve any subsequent term without first resigning his position with the organizations named in subsection (a).

## **ARTICLE VI OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Grand Chapter and a member of the Council. He may also be referred to as the Grand President. The term of office of the President is two years. There is no limit to the number of terms which a member may serve as President.

**Section 2.** The Directors shall serve as members of the Grand Council. The term of office of a Director is four years. A Director may serve three terms, no more than two of which may be consecutive. The Directors' terms of office shall be staggered with three Directors elected at each General Convention.

**Section 3.** The regional adviser and regional counselor shall work with a chapter/colony or chapters/colonies as assigned by, and for a period to be determined by, the Grand Council.

**Section 4.** The Director of Alumni shall be the chairman of the Alumni Committee and shall act as the liaison between the Grand Chapter and the alumni body.

**Section 5.** The chief administrative officer shall be the secretary, correspondent, and business manager of the Grand Chapter. He shall engage such assistance as shall be required to operate the business of the Grand Chapter with the approval of the Council.

**Section 6.** The Editor of the *Signet* shall ensure that regular publications of the *Signet* are edited, published, and distributed to all eligible members each year.

**Section 7.** The Chaplain shall perform those duties which usually devolve upon such an official.

**Section 8.** The Historian shall perform those duties which usually devolve upon such an official.

**Section 9.** The Adviser shall represent the Grand Chapter in the chapter to which he is appointed.

**Section 10.** The Director of Fraternity Operations, who is appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the chief administrative officer, shall perform such duties as directed by the chief administrative officer.

**Section 11.** The Council shall have the power to specify the duties of the above officers and of any other officers not herein designated, such duties to be detailed and published in the Grand Chapter Policy Manual.

## **ARTICLE VII COURT OF HONOR**

**Section 1.** The Court of Honor shall be composed of all living members of the Sixth Degree, not including the current Grand President or a Sixth Degree member serving as a Director on the Grand Council.

**Section 2.** Members of the Court of Honor shall be eligible and welcome to attend all meetings of the Grand Council and shall be allowed to fully participate in the Council meeting discussion and activities. They shall participate in the Council meeting discussion and activities. They shall participate with voice but without vote (only elected Council members shall have a vote at Grand Council meetings.) The Chancellor of the Court shall be elected from its membership by the Court of Honor. As long as the Chancellor of the Court is serving in that position he will not be eligible to serve in any other elective office within the Grand Chapter. The Chancellor shall be the presiding officer of the Court of Honor.

**Section 3.** The Court of Honor shall elect its own Recorder.

**Section 4.** The Court of Honor shall hold a meeting at each Convention. The Chancellor and the Recorder shall be elected during that meeting. The Chancellor and the Recorder will serve until the next Convention. Should there be a vacancy between Conventions in either office it will be filled by a mail ballot by members of the Court of Honor.

**Section 5.** The quorum of the Court of Honor shall consist of three members.

**Section 6.** The Court of Honor, its members individually or collectively, shall serve the Fraternity in an advisory capacity as requested by the Council and its President.

**Section 7.** The Court of Honor shall sit as a court of impeachment of any officer of the Fraternity, against whom charges of acts in violation of the Constitution or Bylaws or conduct treasonable or detrimental to the best interests of Phi Sigma Kappa are preferred.

## **ARTICLE VIII CONCLAVES**

**Section 1.** Conclaves shall be convened at regular intervals in various locations, as determined by the Grand Council, and the chief administrative officer shall assign the particular Conclave to which each chapter colony and alumni club shall send delegates.

**Section 2.** The purpose of the Conclaves shall be to hold leadership training seminars, formulate recommendations for the betterment of the Fraternity, and to bring together members for the interchange of ideas.

**Section 3.** In scheduling Conclaves, efforts shall be made to accommodate geographic diversity.

**Section 4.** Volunteers who are pre-registered attendees of a conclave will pay a reduced rate of 50% of the standard registration.

## **ARTICLE IX FEES AND DUES**

**Section 1.** Every undergraduate candidate for membership shall make the following payments into the treasury of the Grand Chapter as a condition of membership.

- (a) A non-refundable association fee of eighty-two dollars and fifty cents (\$82.50), payable prior to his association. This fee includes both an associate pin, a copy of *Hills and a Star*, and may include a packet with important documents and/or materials provided by the Grand Chapter.
- (b) A non-refundable fee of three hundred one dollars (\$301), payable prior to his initiation. This fee includes a standard membership badge and an official roll number based on the next available roll number of the initiating chapter. This also covers the risk management/insurance fee for that member for the remainder of the current term of insurance.
- (c) The associate and/or initiate fee may be increased by vote of the Grand Council in accordance with the fiscal year of Phi Sigma Kappa and the corresponding Consumer Price Index for each year thereafter.
- (d) Both the associate and initiate fees shall be the obligation of the individual candidate for membership. Any chapter which initiates a candidate without having collected all such payments and forwarding them to the Grand Chapter shall be jointly liable on such obligation. Said payment shall entitle the candidate, upon his initiation, to all the privileges of membership in the Grand Chapter for life and as long as he is not suspended or expelled.

**Section 2.** Each Chapter shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Chapter an undergraduate member census fee, computed and payable as follows:

- (a) fall census fees, set at fifty-two dollars (\$52) per member shall be assessed and billed on September 15 and shall be due to the Grand Chapter no later than October 15,
- (b) spring census fees, currently set at fifty-two dollars (\$52) shall be assessed and billed on February 15 and shall be due to the Grand Chapter no later than March 15.

- (c) Census count will be determined by the chapter roster on file with the Grand Chapter on the date on which it is to be assessed.
- (d) No member shall be assessed a census fee for the semester in which he initially associates with the Fraternity.
- (e) The census fee may be increased by vote of the Grand Council in accordance with, and up to a maximum of, the Fiscal Year Consumer Price Index for each year thereafter.
- (f) For the purpose of the member census fee under this section, a member is considered to be an undergraduate until he leaves school or graduates, regardless of his degree of membership.
- (g) The payments required by this section shall be the obligation of each chapter. Failure to pay on time will invoke the accounts receivable policy (Appendix Q of the Policy Manual of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa.)

**Section 3.** A chapter shall purchase one of the four official badges and shall pay into the treasury of the Grand Chapter for each graduate, former student, faculty or honorary member it initiates an initiation fee of fifty dollars (\$50) prior to his initiation, except in the case of a graduate who was a member of a local fraternity prior to its induction into Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Section 4.** All members regularly initiated after paying the Grand Chapter initiation fee in effect at the time of their initiation shall be entitled to receive an annual issue of the *Signet* without paying any further subscription fees so long as they remain members. The Council shall provide full subscriptions to undergraduate members. The Council may provide full subscriptions to the *Signet* to alumni members upon such terms and at such rates as the Council shall determine.

**Section 5.** The Grand Council is authorized to establish an alumni dues program. Members of the Third, Fourth, Fifth or Sixth Degrees who pay dues, or have dues paid for them by an alumni organization, will be considered Sustaining Members.

## **ARTICLE X SUSPENSION**

**Section 1.** Suspension of a member is the temporary removal of chapter privileges, including social privileges, house privileges and participation in meetings. The causes for suspension may be infraction of house rules, or chapter Bylaws, and/or conduct unbecoming a member of Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Section 2.** A member of the First or Second Degree may be suspended by the president of his chapter, the chapter, the adviser, or the Council or its representatives in this order of increasing authority.

**Section 3.** The order of suspension shall become effective immediately and shall stand effective until terminated by the power imposing the suspension or a higher authority.

**Section 4.** The financial obligations of a suspended member to the Grand Chapter shall continue during the period of suspension.

## **ARTICLE XI EXPULSION**

**Section 1.** Expulsion of a member is the permanent removal of all privileges inherent to all who are duly initiated into the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa. The causes for expulsion may be failure to meet financial obligations to the Grand Chapter or the chapter, violation of the law or of any oath made pursuant to the Rituals, or any repeated or flagrant conduct unbecoming a member of Phi Sigma Kappa.

**Section 2.** Charges of expulsion against any member shall be made in writing to the chief administrative officer. Such charges may be brought by the affirmation or sworn statement of:

- (a) Two or more members of the Third or higher ranking Degree
- (b) A chapter president where a majority of a legal quorum of the chapter agrees to prefer charges
- (c) A chapter treasurer with respect to financial delinquency
- (d) A chapter adviser

Upon receipt of such charges, the chief administrative officer shall cause notice of the charges to be given to the accused member. If the accused fails to respond to the charges or waives a hearing, the chief administrative officer shall sustain or reject the charges and shall notify the accused and the Grand President of his decision. If the accused requests a hearing, the Grand President shall appoint three responsible members, at least one of whom shall be a member of the Third or higher ranking Degree, who shall hear the charges and the response of the accused, take such evidence as they deem suitable and recommend a disposition to the Grand President. Upon receiving such recommendation, the Grand President shall sustain or reject the charges and shall notify the accused and the chief administrative officer of his decision.

**Section 3.** All financial obligations to the Grand Chapter of a chapter in respect of the accused shall cease to accrue as of the date the charges are filed with the chief administrative officer. In the event they are withdrawn or the chief administrative officer or Grand President rejects them or they are rejected by the Court of Honor Committee on appeal, the member is reinstated retroactive to the date of the filing of the charges and the chapter treasurer shall forthwith forward to the Grand Chapter all undergraduate membership census fees in respect of the member for the entire period his case has been pending.

**Section 4.** If expulsion charges are sustained by the Grand President, the accused may have recourse of appeal. The appeal must be made in writing within 30 days after the accused is notified of the Grand President’s decision, to the Chancellor of the Court of Honor, who will appoint three members from the Court of Honor to consider the charges. If no appeal is made, then upon the expiration of the period for appeal, or if an appeal is made and disapproved by the Court of Honor Committee, then immediately upon the disapproval of the appeal, the accused shall be expelled forever from the Fraternity.

## **ARTICLE XII RITUALS**

**Section 1.** Candidates shall, prior to their initiation, complete a course of training prescribed by the chapter. This course shall include the following:

- (a) A constructive orientation program looking toward making the associate a better student, fraternity man and citizen.
- (b) Instruction in the History of Phi Sigma Kappa.
- (c) Committing to memory the Creed and Cardinal Principles of Phi Sigma Kappa.
- (d) Indoctrination in the traditions and customs of the chapter and the institution. The course of associate training may include duties about the chapter house and other duties for the chapter, but shall not include any personal services for members of the chapter or visiting alumni. Extra associate duties may be imposed as discipline, but no associate shall be paddled or subjected to any form of corporal punishment or mental harassment or be placed in physical peril. Undignified conduct, either in private or public, and all practices which have been known as “Hell Week” are strictly forbidden.

**Section 2.** There shall be a Ritual for each of the following purposes:

- (a) The Conduct of Chapter Meetings
- (b) The Installation of Chapter Officers
- (c) The Ritual of Association
- (d) The Final Examination of Associate Members
- (e) The Initiation of New Members
- (f) The Instruction and Examination of New Members

- (g) The Funeral Service
- (h) The Induction of New Chapters
- (i) the Installation of Grand Chapter Officers
- (j) The Third Degree Obligation
- (k) A Public Lecture on the Principles of True Fraternity

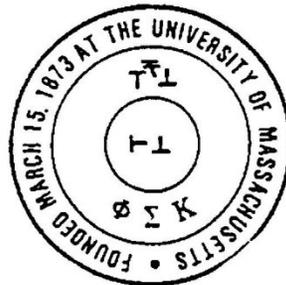
**Section 3.** All of the Rituals, except the Funeral Service and the Public Lecture, shall be strictly confidential and their use limited to the specific purposes and only under conditions as expressed therein respectively.

**Section 4.** The Rituals shall not be altered in any way except by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a General Convention.

**Section 5.** Nothing in the Constitution/Bylaws and Policies of the Fraternity may contradict the Rituals of Phi Sigma Kappa.

### ARTICLE XIII GRAND SEAL AND EMBLEM

**Section 1.** The following shall be the Grand Seal and the only seal allowed to be used on all official papers of the Grand Chapter required to be under seal:



**Section 2.** The official membership emblem of the Grand Chapter, which must be ordered from the chief administrative officer, shall be a badge of the three Greek letters - - Phi, Sigma, Kappa. The letter of Phi in the badge, either in plain or gold electroplate or plain gold or crownset with fifteen (15) pearls, either whole or half, shall be superimposed upon a rose engraved and rose finished chased gold electroplate or gold letter Sigma to the left, and similarly engraved and finished chased gold electroplate or gold letter Kappa to the right; the total dimensions being seventeen (17) millimeters in length and ten and one-half (10 ½) millimeters in height.

**Section 3.** As a mark of distinction, members of the Fourth Degree may wear an emerald instead of a pearl as the center jewel of the Phi in the badge; members of the Fifth Degree may wear a ruby instead of a pearl as the center jewel of the Phi; members of the Sixth Degree may wear a badge set with diamonds instead of pearls with the center jewel of the Phi a ruby instead of a diamond.

**Section 4.** All items of ritual equipment, including the Ritual Book and members' ritual roll, shall be and forever remain the property of the Grand Chapter. In the event a chapter charter is revoked, all ritual equipment must be returned to the Grand Chapter.

### ARTICLE XIV COLORS, FLOWERS, FLAGS AND CREST

**Section 1.** The official colors of Phi Sigma Kappa shall be silver and red.

**Section 2.** The official flowers of Phi Sigma Kappa shall be the red carnation and the white tea rose.

**Section 3.** The official flag of Phi Sigma Kappa, in dimension seven (7) feet by five (5) feet, shall consist of three lengthwise horizontal bars. The bottom bar, emblematic of the basis of the Fraternity, the First and Second Degree members, shall be plain red. The middle bar; emblematic of the wide field of fraternal service, the Third and Fourth Degree members, shall be silver with the Greek letters, Phi, Sigma, and Kappa in red centered therein. The top bar, emblematic of administration and meritorious service to the Grand Chapter, the Fifth and Sixth Degree members, shall be red with the original three T's, and circle emblem located within and tangent to a silver triangle at the extreme left.

**Section 4.** The official crest of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa shall be the crest approved by the 51<sup>st</sup> General Convention, August 15, 1987 and as pictured below:



#### **ARTICLE XV NOTICES**

**Section 1.** Unless otherwise provided for herein, notices of Conventions, Conclaves, meetings or other assemblies may be served upon members, chapters and clubs by the insertion of such notice in the *Signet*. The nonreceipt of the *Signet*, however, shall not constitute a valid excuse for failure to receive any notice contained therein.

**Section 2.** A member is required to continue to provide Headquarters with an up-to-date address, and failure to do so shall allow the Fraternity to presume that the last known address is the proper address, and mail sent to that address is presumed to be delivered and read.

#### **ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1.** Two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast at a General Convention shall be necessary to amend these Bylaws.

**Section 2.** The General Convention shall consider and act only upon amendments presented to it for consideration at the Convention by the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Committee.

**Section 3.** All proposals to be considered at the opening session of the Convention must be made available in writing to the delegates no later than two weeks prior to the opening of the Convention.

#### **ARTICLE XVII EMERGENCY**

In the event the United States is engaged in war, declared or undeclared, or in the event of a national emergency declared by the President or Congress of the United States, or in the event of a nationwide depression, panic, catastrophe, or other condition, which is determined by the Council as affecting the effective operation of the Grand Chapter, the Council may suspend any Article, Section, or sub-section of the Constitution and Bylaws for a period not extending beyond six months

from the termination of said condition or periods, and promulgate and enforce such rules and regulations, as it may deem necessary for the proper management and operation of the affairs of the Grand Chapter, Conclaves, and subordinate chapters, provided such rules and regulations shall not be contrary to the Articles of Incorporation of the Grand Chapter, amendments thereto or to the laws of the State of Delaware.

## **PERMANENT APPENDIX**

**Section 1.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Sections 1, 2 and 3 of Article I of the Constitution, men who are or have been affiliated with the national fraternity Phi Sigma Epsilon shall be eligible for membership in the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa as provided in this Permanent Appendix.

**Section 2.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article I, Section 1 of the Bylaws, members admitted to the Grand Chapter as a result of the merger of Phi Sigma Epsilon with the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa, as approved by the two fraternities on June 1, 1985, and August 14, 1985, respectively (hereafter referred to as the “Merger”), shall be admitted to the appropriate degree of membership as provided in Article I, Section 4 of the Bylaws and further as follows: any member who shall have served at any time as an appointive or elected national officer of Phi Sigma Epsilon (other than as a member of the national board of directors thereof) shall be admitted to the Fourth Degree; any member who shall have served at any time as a member of the national board of directors of Phi Sigma Epsilon shall be admitted to the Fifth Degree; and any member who shall have served at any time as national president of Phi Sigma Epsilon shall be admitted to the Sixth Degree.

**Section 3.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article II of the Bylaws: In view of the Merger, all initiated members of Phi Sigma Epsilon who were in good standing as of August 14, 1985, and who were affiliated with a chapter of Phi Sigma Epsilon no longer existing on said date, or with an active chapter of Phi Sigma Epsilon as of August 14, 1985, (except for the chapter located at Cornell University Ithaca, New York) shall automatically become members of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa. All pledges (associates) of Phi Sigma Epsilon who were in good standing as of August 14, 1985, and who were affiliated with a chapter or colony of Phi Sigma Epsilon (except for the chapter located at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York), shall automatically become associates of the Grand Chapter. All undergraduates admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger shall undergo the Initiation Ritual and other appropriate Rituals as soon after the Merger as may be practicable. All graduates, former students and faculty members so admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter shall also be permitted and encouraged to undergo or observe the Initiation Ritual and other appropriate Rituals.

**Section 4.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article V, Section 2, paragraph (e) of the Bylaws: each chapter of Phi Sigma Epsilon in active status as of August 14, 1985 (except for the chapter at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York) is hereby designated a chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa, and colony status in Phi Sigma Kappa is hereby granted to each colony of Phi Sigma Epsilon in active status as of August 14, 1985. The Executive Director shall give notice of this action to all such new chapters and colonies immediately. Each such new chapter or colony shall provide the Executive Director, as soon after the adoption of the Permanent Appendix as may be practicable, with a list of its active undergraduate members and associates.

**Section 5.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article VI, Section 2, of the Bylaws, one of the Directors elected at the 1985 Convention shall be elected to an initial term of two years. One of the Directors elected to a four-year term at the 1985 Convention and the Director elected to a two-year term at such Convention shall be members of Phi Sigma Epsilon who shall have been admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article III, Section 14 of the Bylaws. At the 1985 Convention, the list of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee shall include the name of at least one member of Phi Sigma Epsilon who shall have been admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger in respect of one of the four-year Director’s terms to be filled, and at least one such member so admitted to membership in respect of the two-year Director’s term to be filled.

**Section 6.** Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in Article IX of the Bylaws, any member of Phi Sigma Epsilon who shall be admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger shall be exempt from making payments required by Section 1 of said Article. Any pledge (associate) of Phi Sigma Epsilon who shall become an associate of the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger shall be exempt from paying the association fee required by paragraph (a) of Section 1 of said Article, but not from making the payments required by paragraphs (b) and (c) of said Section. The provisions of Section 3 of said Article shall not apply with respect to any graduate, former student or faculty member of

Phi Sigma Epsilon who may elect to undergo or observe the Initiation Ritual after being admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter pursuant to the Merger. Any initiated member of Phi Sigma Epsilon admitted to membership in the Grand Chapter as aforesaid shall be entitled and encouraged, but not required, to purchase one of the official badges of his choice.

**Section 7.** As a result of the Merger, the name “Phi Sigma Epsilon,” all emblems, rituals, insignia, copyrights and trademarks owned by or associated with Phi Sigma Epsilon national fraternity and all tangible personal property of said Phi Sigma Epsilon national fraternity (including without limitation all charters, ritual books and ritual equipment) shall become the exclusive property of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa and may not be used by an individual, corporation or association whatsoever without the expressed permission of the Grand Chapter.

**Section 8.** Pictured below are the various crests of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity and Phi Sigma Epsilon Fraternity prior to the Merger on August 14, 1985, and used prior to the official crest of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity adopted August 15, 1987. The Merger agreement provides for all crests to be the sole property of the Grand Chapter of Phi Sigma Kappa. All chapters are encouraged and should continue to display the various Phi Sigma Kappa and Phi Sigma Epsilon crests as a part of each individual chapter history.



*This document was last updated in accordance with the rules and regulations as stated within during the 66<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Grand Chapter, in a business session held July 29, 2017.*

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Nicholas Zuniga  
Chief Operating Officer and Secretary