

CONSTITUTION OF THE SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY



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1 **PREAMBLE**

2 In order to advance the interests of the Engineering Profession and to create a greater
3 spirit of cooperation and Brotherhood among the students, faculty and alumni of the
4 various colleges and universities of the world, we do ordain and establish this
5 Constitution.

6 **ARTICLE I -- NAME AND OBJECT**

7 *Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY.

8 *Section 2.* The object of the Fraternity shall be to promote the advancement of the
9 Engineering Profession; to foster the advancement of Engineering Education; to instill a
10 greater spirit of cooperation among Engineering students and organizations; to
11 inculcate in its members the highest ideals of Virtuous manhood, good Citizenship,
12 obedience to Law, and Brotherhood; and to encourage excellence in Scholarship.

13 **ARTICLE II -- ORGANIZATION**

14 *Section 1.* The Fraternity shall consist of such persons as have been or shall be duly
15 initiated into membership.

16 *Section 2.* The members of the Fraternity shall be organized into such units as are
17 hereinafter provided.

18 *Section 3.* The Active Chapters, Alumni Chapters and Colonies of the Fraternity shall be
19 grouped geographically into Provinces, which shall be provided for by Law.

20 *Section 4.* The general government of the Fraternity shall consist of a General
21 Convention, a Supreme Council, and any other units provided for by Law.

22 **ARTICLE III -- LEGISLATIVE**

23 *Section 1.* The supreme legislative power of the Fraternity shall rest in the General
24 Convention, which shall be a continuous body. Regular sessions of the General
25 Convention shall be held every odd year. Upon call of the Grand President, approved by
26 3/4th of the members of the General Convention, special sessions may be held and shall
27 have full power to act in all matters. The General Convention may transact any business
28 by correspondence.

29 *Section 2.* The General Convention shall consist of the following:

30 (a) The Members of the Supreme Council

31 (b) One member from each Active Chapter in good standing

32 (c) One member from each Alumni Chapter in good standing.

33 The term of office for members from Active Chapters or Alumni Chapters shall be for
 34 the same period as the term for officers of the Chapter. Each member of the Convention
 35 shall have 1 vote, except that only members from Active and Alumni Chapters shall be
 36 allowed to vote on assessments to be levied against their own Chapters.

37 *Section 3.* A majority of all votes shall be required to approve all matters brought before
 38 the General Convention, unless otherwise specified. For sessions of the General
 39 Convention, a quorum shall consist of 2/3rd of the members representing the Active
 40 Chapters and 2 members of the Supreme Council. All business outside of regular
 41 sessions of the General Convention shall be transacted by email. Failure to return the
 42 official ballot within 30 days will cause said ballot to be counted as an affirmative (YES)
 43 vote.

44 *Section 4.* The Supreme Council shall have legislative powers subordinate to those of the
 45 General Convention, and subject to the Laws of the Fraternity, it may transact business
 46 at meetings of the members or by email. A majority vote of the members shall be
 47 required to approve all actions of the Supreme Council unless otherwise provided for by
 48 Law. Failure to return an email ballot within 28 days will cause the ballot to be counted
 49 as an affirmative (YES) vote.

50 *Section 5.* The Supreme Council shall consist of the following:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 51 | (1) The Grand President | ELECTED |
| 52 | (2) The Grand Vice-President | ELECTED |
| 53 | (3) The Communications Director | ELECTED |
| 54 | (4) The Western Province Councilor | ELECTED |
| 55 | (5) The Central Province Councilor | ELECTED |
| 56 | (6) The Eastern Province Councilor | ELECTED |
| 57 | (7) The Executive Secretary (Ex-officio with vote) | APPOINTED |
| 58 | (8) The Treasurer (Ex-officio with vote) | APPOINTED |

59 The Grand President, the Grand Vice-President, and the Communications Director shall
 60 be elected at the regular sessions of the General Convention from open nominations.
 61 They shall take office on the 1st day of January next succeeding their elections and shall
 62 hold office for 2 years, or until their successors shall have been duly installed.

63 *Section 6.* Members of the Supreme Council may be recalled for failure to perform the
 64 duties of office by a 3/4th vote of the members of the General Convention. The Grand

65 President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, which must be approved by the General
66 Convention.

67 **ARTICLE IV -- JUDICIAL**

68 *Section 1.* The supreme judicial power of the Fraternity shall rest in the General
69 Convention.

70 *Section 2.* Every member of the Fraternity is under the original jurisdiction of the Active
71 Chapter of which he is or was last a member. Charges must be filed against a member
72 with a body having original jurisdiction, except that a change of venue may be ordered
73 by the General Convention when the parties will be better served or when it is shown
74 that an impartial trial cannot be conducted by the Active Chapter of the accused. Trial in
75 this case may be before a special commission of 3 members appointed by the General
76 Convention to conduct the trial. The procedure shall be provided for by Law.

77 *Section 3.* Offenses cognizable by the Fraternity are:

78 (a) Commission of a flagrant offense against the Laws of the land or of the
79 College;

80 (b) Violation of the Laws of the Fraternity or the lawful orders of any organized
81 unit thereof;

82 (c) Violation of the oath taken at the time of initiation;

83 (d) Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or unbecoming to a
84 gentleman;

85 (e) Delinquency in accounts;

86 (f) Failure in scholarship.

87 **ARTICLE V -- EXECUTIVE**

88 *Section 1.* The executive powers of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Grand President,
89 assisted by the Province Councilors, and such others as may be prescribed by Law.

90 *Section 2.* The Grand President shall be the executive head of the Fraternity, and shall
91 be responsible for the general welfare of the organization. He shall perform such duties
92 and assume such powers as are necessary to carry out his work, subject to the Laws of
93 the Fraternity.

94 *Section 3.* The Grand President shall preside at all sessions of the General Convention
95 and of the Supreme Council, but he shall not have a vote on the latter except when his
96 vote would result in a tie or in the event of a tie vote. In the former case, to pass such
97 legislation would require a clear majority vote.

98 *Section 4.* The Grand Vice-President shall assume the Office of Grand President in the
 99 case of the permanent disability of the Grand President. He shall perform such other
 100 duties as are provided for by Law.

101 *Section 5.* An Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Grand President, subject to
 102 approval by the Supreme Council. Subject to the orders of the Grand President and the
 103 Laws of the Fraternity, the Executive Secretary shall keep all necessary records and files
 104 pertinent to the welfare of the Fraternity, in electronic form, as hereinafter provided.

105 *Section 6.* The Fundraising Manager / Circulation Manager, appointed by the Grand
 106 President, with the approval of the Supreme Council, shall have his duties described,
 107 hereinafter.

108 *Section 7.* It shall be the duty of the Communications Director to publish the CASTLE
 109 and handle Public Relations of the Fraternity. He shall be responsible for the cohesive
 110 layout and graphical design of all Fraternity publications and electronic media, except as
 111 hereinafter provided.

112 *Section 8.* The Information Systems Manager, appointed by the Grand President, with
 113 the approval of the Supreme Council, shall have his duties described, hereinafter.

114 *Section 9.* A Treasurer shall be appointed by the Grand President, subject to approval by
 115 the Supreme Council. Subject to the orders of the Grand President, Executive Secretary
 116 and the Laws of the Fraternity, the Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the
 117 Fraternity, electronically, using the Official Financial System of the Fraternity. He shall
 118 have charge of all Fraternity funds not otherwise provided for, and shall disburse the
 119 same as hereinafter provided.

120 He shall be required to provide a bond, as fixed by Law.

121 *Section 10.* There shall be a Board of Trustees of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity, which shall
 122 acquire and hold all real property and all other property and equipment of the
 123 Fraternity. The Board shall have charge of all endowment funds of the Fraternity, which
 124 the Treasurer shall pay to the Board. The Board shall submit such reports as shall be
 125 prescribed by the Statutory Code. The Board shall be subject to the Laws of the
 126 Fraternity, which shall prescribe its duties and methods of operation and shall be
 127 incorporated in the State of California.

128 *Section 11.* The Board of Trustees shall consist of 5 members, of whom 1 shall be the
 129 Grand President and 1 the Executive Secretary (Ex-officio without vote).

130 Two members of the Board shall be elected from open nominations at the regular
 131 sessions of the General Convention and shall hold office for 4 years. The elections shall
 132 alternate, only 1 member being elected during each biennium.

133 For elected members, 5 years shall have passed between the receipt of their
 134 baccalaureate degrees and their assumption of office.

135 The fifth member of the Board shall be appointed by the Grand President and shall be a
 136 resident of the State of California for the entire duration of their appointment which has
 137 no limit. His role on the Board shall be to function as the Agent for Service of Process
 138 (Ex-officio without vote), receiving legal notices or processes on the Corporation's
 139 behalf. If at any time the Agent for Service of Process's legal residence changes from
 140 California, he shall immediately resign and the Grand President shall appoint a new
 141 Agent for Service of Process.

142 *Section 12.* The Board of Trustees shall hold at least 1 regular meeting per year, which
 143 shall be web-based. A quorum shall consist of 2 elected members and all business shall
 144 require the approval of the 3 elected members but the approval of the 3rd may be
 145 secured by email. The Board shall organize by electing from its elected members a
 146 Chairman, a Vice-Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office shall be 1
 147 year, beginning on January 1st.

148 **ARTICLE VI -- PLEDGES AND MEMBERS**

149 *Section 1.* A pledge is a candidate for membership who is a male student working toward
 150 a degree in Engineering at the School where the Chapter is located. Upon specific
 151 petition by the individual Chapter, the General Convention may give permission for a
 152 Chapter to pledge students working for a degree in a 4-year Accreditation Board for
 153 Engineering and Technology (ABET) accredited engineering technology curriculum at
 154 the School where the Chapter is located.

155 *Section 2.* Members in the Fraternity shall be:

- 156 a. Undergraduate. An Undergraduate member shall be an undergraduate
 157 student who has been received into membership.
- 158 b. Alumnus. An Alumnus member shall have been an undergraduate
 159 member at the time of graduation or withdrawal from School, or shall be a
 160 regularly enrolled graduate student.
- 161 c. Faculty. A Faculty member shall be a member of the Engineering and
 162 allied faculties who have been received into membership.
- 163 d. Honorary. An Honorary member shall be an outstanding engineer elected
 164 to the Fraternity-at-Large by the General Convention.

165 *Section 3.* Persons must be admitted to pledgship and membership as provided by Law.

166 **ARTICLE VII -- ACTIVE CHAPTERS**

167 *Section 1.* An Active Chapter shall consist of the undergraduate members in good
 168 standing and such Alumni members as signify their intention of remaining or becoming
 169 subject to the Laws of that Chapter, provided they are regularly enrolled students in the
 170 School at which the Chapter is located. Upon specific petition by the individual Chapter
 171 and with a three-quarter vote, the General Convention may give permission for that
 172 Chapter to pledge and to initiate male students working toward a degree in Engineering
 173 and/or Engineering Technology at the School of recognized standing, as listed in the

174 most recent edition of ABET, in the geographical area of the petitioning Chapter.
 175 Members so initiated shall have all rights, duties and privileges accorded any other
 176 pledge or member of the Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity.

177 *Section 2.* An Active Chapter may be established at any technical school of recognized
 178 standing [as listed in the most recent issue of ABET (USA) or equivalent national
 179 accrediting organization (non-USA)] offering courses leading to a baccalaureate degree
 180 in one or more recognized branches of Engineering. For chapters outside the USA, the
 181 ABET-equivalent requirement may be waived if such is deemed by the Supreme Council
 182 to be in the best interest of the fraternity.

183 *Section 3.* A petition for the establishment of an Active Chapter shall be prescribed by
 184 Law, and shall be signed by at least 10 men qualified for membership. Petitioning
 185 groups accepted shall be installed by the Grand President or by a deputy appointed by
 186 him.

187 *Section 4.* A local fraternity may be initiated into Sigma Phi Delta if a majority, and not
 188 less than 10, of its active members are Engineering majors. Future members must meet
 189 the requirements of Article VI, Section 1, of this Constitution. Alumni Engineering
 190 students shall be entitled to all privileges accorded Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta.

191 *Section 5.* An Active Chapter shall adopt a set of By-Laws and may make such other
 192 rules and regulations as may be necessary. Such By-Laws, rules and regulations must be
 193 approved by the Supreme Council before they become effective.

194 *Section 6.* Regular meetings shall be held at least twice a month during the school year
 195 at such times and places as the members of the Chapter shall determine. A quorum shall
 196 consist of at least a majority of the Active members of the Chapter, including 2 elected
 197 officers. Chapters shall be encouraged to maintain chapter houses, and the Fraternity
 198 shall have power to make any necessary rules pertaining thereto.

199 *Section 7.* A Colony may be established at any technical school of recognized standing
 200 [as listed in the most recent issue of ABET (USA) or national equivalent accrediting
 201 organization (non USA)] offering courses leading to a degree in 1 or more recognized
 202 branches of Engineering in anticipation of petitioning for Charter as an Active Chapter
 203 of the Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity. For chapters outside the USA, the ABET-equivalent
 204 requirement may be waived if such is deemed by the Supreme Council to be in the best
 205 interest of the fraternity.

206 **ARTICLE VIII -- ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS**

207 *Section 1.* Every Active Chapter shall maintain an Alumni Association, consisting of all
 208 Alumni Members of said Chapter and all Alumni of any former group who are in good
 209 standing, regardless of place of residence or affiliation with other Alumni organizations.
 210 The Alumni Association shall not have power to levy any assessments whatever against
 211 its members, but shall receive from the Fraternity such funds as shall be provided for by
 212 Law, but such Associations must send each member a bulletin of general news and

213 information at least once each year. The organization of such Associations shall be
214 provided for by Law.

215 *Section 2.* An Alumni Chapter may be established in any city or locality upon petition of
216 not less than 10 resident Alumni Members in good standing. Such petitions must be
217 approved by the Supreme Council. Such Chapters shall not have the power of conferring
218 membership in the Fraternity. They shall have the right to adopt By-Laws and such
219 other rules and regulations as may be necessary, provided such are not in conflict with
220 the Laws of the Fraternity, but such By-Laws and rules must be approved by the
221 Supreme Council before they are effective. Such Chapters may be incorporated for the
222 purpose of holding property. Property so held may be used by such Chapters for its
223 members or may be leased to Active Chapters for Chapter House purposes. Any
224 necessary Laws regulating the formation of such Chapters or their government may be
225 enacted by the Fraternity.

226 **ARTICLE IX -- FINANCES**

227 *Section 1.* Charter fees, initiation fees, international dues, and other fees and
228 assessments may be provided for in the Statutory Code.

229 *Section 2.* All charges levied against any organized unit of the Fraternity shall become
230 delinquent 1 month after they fall due. An organized unit, which becomes delinquent,
231 shall automatically be suspended until paid up in full. A note, with satisfactory security,
232 may be accepted as payment.

233 *Section 3.* Individual Alumni members shall not be subject to any assessments by the
234 International Office, but are expected to donate, annually.

235 *Section 4.* Any organized unit of the Fraternity (except Alumni Associations), may fix
236 assessments, fees, fines, and dues by a ballot vote, which may be electronic, of not less
237 than 2/3rd of its members in good standing.

238 *Section 5.* All charges against members shall be posted to become due the 1st day of the
239 following month. A member delinquent for 1 year shall be automatically expelled from
240 the Fraternity, unless he shall present a satisfactory reason for his inability to pay; the
241 acceptability of the reason being in the hands of the Supreme Council. A note with
242 satisfactory security may be accepted in lieu of cash.

243 **ARTICLE X -- LAWS**

244 *Section 1.* The Laws of the Fraternity shall consist of The Constitution, The Statutory
245 Code, The Ritual, The Risk Reduction Policy, Acts of the Supreme Council, and
246 Executive Orders.

247 *Section 2.* This Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Fraternity, and all other Laws
248 must be in accord with it. The interpretation of the Constitution shall rest with the
249 Supreme Council.

250 *Section 3.* The Ritual shall contain the ceremony for the initiation of members, the
 251 installation of chapters, the installation of officers, ceremonies connected with meetings,
 252 and any other ceremonies of a secret nature which may be included from time to time.
 253 Additions or modifications of the Ritual may be made by a majority vote of the General
 254 Convention or by a 3/4th vote of the Supreme Council.

255 *Section 4.* The Statutory Code shall contain the necessary rules and regulations to carry
 256 out the provisions of this Constitution, to provide for the proper operation of the
 257 Fraternity, and to provide specifications and restrictions concerning badges and other
 258 insignia. The Statutory Code may be enacted or amended by a majority vote of the
 259 General Convention or by a 3/4th vote of the Supreme Council.

260 *Section 5.* Acts of the Supreme Council shall consist of such minor regulations or such
 261 provisions as require frequent changes as may be enacted by the Supreme Council by a
 262 majority vote, but such acts must not conflict with The Constitution, The Statutory
 263 Code, The Ritual or The Risk Reduction Policy.

264 *Section 6.* Executive Orders include all orders issued by the executive offices of the
 265 Fraternity, not in conflict with any of the foregoing Laws. All Executive Orders may be
 266 appealed to the General Convention in case of question regarding conflicts with other
 267 Laws.

268 **ARTICLE XI -- AMENDMENTS**

269 *Section 1.* This Constitution can be amended or repealed in whole or in part by a 3/4th
 270 vote of the General Convention.

271 *Section 2.* This Constitution repeals all former Constitutions and all other Acts in
 272 conflict therewith.

273 *Section 3.* This Constitution was approved by the Fraternity on May 15, 1930, and went
 274 into effect on August 30, 1930. It was revised by the Third General Convention, which
 275 ended September 2, 1931, at Fargo, North Dakota, Epsilon Chapter as Host.

276 *Section 4.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee, the Chairman of which was
 277 appointed by the Grand President at the Seventh General Convention, which ended
 278 January 4, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois, Iota Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution was
 279 approved by the Fraternity on November 1, 1948, and went into effect on November 1,
 280 1948.

281 *Section 5.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
 282 President at the Eighth General Convention, which ended September 3, 1949, at Los
 283 Angeles, California, Alpha Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
 284 on January 1, 1950.

285 *Section 6.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
 286 President at the Ninth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1951, at

287 Vancouver, British Columbia, Theta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
288 effective on January 1, 1952.

289 *Section 7.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
290 President at the Tenth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1953, at Detroit
291 Lakes, Minnesota, Epsilon Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
292 on January 1, 1954.

293 *Section 8.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
294 President at the Eleventh General Convention, which ended September 3, 1955, at
295 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Eta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
296 on January 1, 1956.

297 *Section 9.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
298 President at the Twelfth General Convention, which ended September 7, 1957, at
299 Hamilton Lake, Indiana, Kappa Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
300 effective on January 1, 1958.

301 *Section 10.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
302 President at the Twentieth General Convention, which ended September 1, 1973, at
303 Moorhead, Minnesota, Epsilon Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
304 effective on January 1, 1974.

305 *Section 11.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
306 President at the Twenty-First General Convention, which ended August 30, 1975, at Los
307 Angeles, California, Alpha Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
308 on January 1, 1976.

309 *Section 12.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
310 President at the Twenty-Fourth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1981, at
311 Daytona Beach, Florida, Pi Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
312 on January 1, 1982.

313 *Section 13.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
314 on June 20, 1988. The revised Constitution became effective on June 20, 1988.

315 *Section 14.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
316 on April 1, 1993. The revised Constitution became effective on June 30, 1993.

317 *Section 15.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
318 on November 1, 1997. The revised Constitution became effective on January 1, 1998.

319 *Section 16.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
320 on December 15, 1999. The revised Constitution became effective on January 1, 2000.

321 *Section 17.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
322 on September 30, 2002. The revised Constitution became effective on that date.

323 *Section 18.* This Constitution was revised by action of the 35th General Convention on
324 July 26, 2003, at Urbana, Illinois, Delta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution
325 became effective on that date.

326 *Section 19.* This Constitution was revised by action of the General Convention on July
327 29, 2006 during the Sixth Joint Province Convention at Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The
328 revised Constitution became effective on that date.

329 *Section 20.* This Constitution was revised by email ballot vote of the General Convention
330 on November 3, 2011. The revised Constitution became effective on that date.