

**CONSTITUTION
OF THE ZETA PSI FRATERNITY, INC.**

ARTICLE I.

Name.

- a) Publicly and for legal purposes, the fraternity shall be known as the Zeta Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- b) The Board of Directors shall continue to be known as the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE II.

Purposes.

The primary purpose of the fraternity shall be to aid and encourage its student members to achieve that development of character and intellect and that understanding and capacity for human relationships, which are commensurate with the highest aims and purposes of college and university education and training; and generally, the fraternity shall form a life-long bond of brotherhood devoted to the fulfillment of the ideals expressed in the ritual and to the fellowship of its members.

ARTICLE III.

Form of Organization.

1. The fraternity shall be an incorporated fraternal association of members organized in the form of chapters and geographical associations, which shall be separate and autonomous, except as in this constitution otherwise provided or as the essential interests of the fraternity as a whole may require.
2. The organization of the chapters and geographical associations shall consist of the following: the active chapters, the members of which shall be the members of the fraternity having the status of undergraduate students, who shall be known as actives; the corresponding elder chapters and the geographical associations, the members of which shall be all other members of the fraternity, who shall be known as elders; and the Grand Chapter, which shall constitute the inter-chapter organization of the fraternity.
3. Except as local conditions or special circumstances may necessitate variation, the form or organization and the practices and procedures of the several active chapters, of the several elder chapters and of the several geographical associations respectively shall be uniform and in the traditional form and manner.
4. The Grand Chapter shall be governed and the business and affairs of the fraternity, insofar as the same be inter-chapter in character or common to all of the chapters, shall be conducted by a Board of Delegates, consisting of one delegate from each duly qualified active chapter, elder chapter, and by an Executive Committee of representative elders, empowered to act between meetings of the Board of Delegates, and by proper officers and appropriate committees of the Board of Delegates.

ARTICLE IV.

Eligibility Requirements For Chapters and Members.

1. The fraternity shall have no active chapter except in a college or university having the power to grant baccalaureate degrees.
2. Except as otherwise herein provided, membership in the fraternity may be attained only through membership in an active chapter and candidate shall not be eligible for membership unless he is a duly accredited and regularly enrolled undergraduate or graduate student in good standing and a candidate for a baccalaureate or graduate degree in a college or university in which the fraternity has or is in the process of establishing an active chapter.
3. In those instances in which a charter for a chapter is granted to a petitioning group, which has been in existence as a local fraternity or similar organization having alumni or elder members, such of said alumni or elder members, who as students were duly accredited and regularly enrolled undergraduate or graduate students as defined above, or who are members of the faculty or administrative officials of the college or university, shall be eligible for membership in the fraternity as the nucleus of the corresponding elder chapter.
4. Other students, and non-students, such as faculty members and administrative officials of a college or university, employees, or interested parties upon election to membership and due certification thereof by the Executive Director of the International Headquarters, may be initiated by the respective active or elder chapter.
5. Membership shall be limited to males; and regardless of eligibility otherwise, no one who is a member of any other social college fraternity shall be eligible for membership.

ARTICLE V.

Voting Requirements for Granting Charters.

1. On the question of whether to grant a charter for a new or re-established chapter, each duly qualified active chapter, elder chapter shall be entitled to one vote. A new charter may be granted when approved by the executive committee and ratified by: three-fourths of the active chapters present and meeting in convention, provided that the affirmative votes constitute at least one-half of all active chapters and by three-fourths of the total of the elder chapters present and meeting although no minimum number of either of these is required.
2. The vote may be taken at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Delegates of the Grand Chapter by the votes of the delegates, or the votes may be taken by canvassing the chapters and obtaining their votes in writing. In the latter event, the active chapters shall vote as chapters and the elder chapters may vote by their governing boards, and failure to exercise the right to vote, within a stated, reasonable time, shall be equivalent to a favorable vote.
3. No petition for a charter shall be submitted to a vote unless investigated, approved and certified by the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter.

4. When a chapter is chartered in a college or university where the fraternity at one time had a chapter, the granting of the charter shall constitute the re-establishment and re-activation of the former chapter.

ARTICLE VI.

Revocation or Suspension of Charters.

Charters may be revoked or suspended. The reasons for any suspension or revocation shall be described in the By-Laws. Any chapter that has its charter suspended or revoked may ultimately appeal the action to the Board of Delegates of the Grand Chapter. The suspension or revocation of a charter by the Board of Delegates shall require the three-fourths vote of the active chapters and elder chapters, entitled to vote. All revocation decisions must be affirmed or reversed by the Executive Committee and the Board of Delegates. A chapter whose charter has been revoked may request an expedited appeal to the Board of Delegates by electronic means.

ARTICLE VII.

Elections and Initiation of New Members.

1. Candidates for membership in an established active chapter, including a chapter which has been newly established by the transfer to the particular college or university from chapters in other colleges or universities of a group of actives who have become the nucleus of the new chapter and who have received a charter as such, shall be elected by the chapter. Probationary practices and procedures and scholarship requirements shall conform to such rules and regulations as may be effective officially or by authority of the local interfraternity conference or other student organization in the particular college or university. Voting requirements and methods of voting shall be uniform except as local condition may necessitate variation, shall be prescribed in the by-laws of the fraternity.
2. Faculty members and administrative officials who are members of a petitioning group to whom a charter is granted, except those who are already members of the fraternity from chapters in other colleges or universities, and alumni or elders of a local fraternity or organization forming such a petitioning group shall be elected by the Board of Delegates or the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter.
3. Initiation shall be an essential qualification for membership and the initiation ritual and ceremonies shall be prescribed by the Board of Delegates of the Grand Chapter. However, where alumni or elder members of such chapters referred to in Article IV, section 3 are initiated the manner of their initiation shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII.

Membership Rights, Duties and Obligations.

1. Membership, and the rights, duties and obligations of membership, shall be for life, unless the membership has been terminated as herein provided.
2. A member shall have no right of resignation.
3. No membership shall be suspended or revoked except for cause.

4. It shall be the duty of each member to keep on file, with his active or elder chapter, and with the International Headquarters proper contact information default of which shall constitute waiver of notice.
5. The acquisition, enjoyment and termination of the rights of membership shall be subject to such further requirements and conditions, consistent with the constitution, and bylaws as the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter from time to time may prescribe.

ARTICLE IX.

Finances.

1. The financial affairs of each active and corresponding elder chapter shall be separate. Each chapter and the members thereof shall be responsible for its own finances and in fair proportion for such financing as may be necessary for the operation and conduct of the business and affairs of the Grand Chapter, including any foundation, organization or trust duly established and operated to effectuate the educational or other proper purposes of the fraternity generally.
2. As legal or other requirements or considerations may dictate, title to chapter houses and other chapter property shall be held by local trustees or corporate or other organizations, formed for that purpose; and transfers, by gift or otherwise, of money or other property, made directly to chapters, shall be received, held and administered by said local trustees, corporations, or organizations.
3. In case of emergency and in proper instances, in which arrangements may be made which will fully protect the interests of the particular chapter, title to chapter houses and other chapter property may be transferred to, or held by, the respective college or university, or any component thereof, or by the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation.
4. The educational functions and activities of the fraternity generally shall be carried on by or under the auspices of the Zeta Psi Educational Foundation, or such affiliated foundation, organization or trusts as may be established and operated for that purpose.
5. All transfers of money or property, all scholarship or other funds, and all gifts, including gifts by will, whether outright or in trust, made to or for the benefit of the fraternity or its purposes, if consistent with the purposes of said foundation and unless made directly to a particular chapter, or unless provided to the contrary in the terms of transfer or gift, shall be received, held, and administered by the foundation, or by such successor or affiliate as may be appropriate in the interest of the fraternity and in conformity with legal requirements.

ARTICLE X.

Ritualistic, Ceremonial and Symbolic Matters.

Except as the Board of Delegates of the Grand Chapter from time to time may otherwise prescribe, the ritual, initiation services and ceremonies and all other symbolic or ceremonial matters and practices, and all other mottoes, names, insignia and all other matters and things which traditionally have been held secret, shall continue to be so held, and shall, without variation, conform to the traditional nature, content, form and manner thereof. Nothing in this article is intended or shall be construed to require adherence to any ritualistic or other practice which may be contrary to law or to any regulation in effect in the respective colleges or universities in which the fraternity has chapters.

ARTICLE XI.

Amendments.

The constitution may be amended upon the favorable vote of two-thirds of the delegates present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Board of Delegates of the Grand Chapter; or upon the favorable written vote of two-thirds of the total of the active chapters, and elder chapters, pursuant to canvass, the active chapters voting as chapters and the elder chapters voting by their governing boards. Failure to exercise the vote upon canvass within a stated reasonable time shall be equivalent to a favorable vote.

ARTICLE XII.

By-Laws.

By-laws, consistent with the constitution, shall be enacted and be subject to amendment by the Board of Delegates or by the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter, as necessary and proper to amplify, supplement and effectuate the provisions of the constitution and to provide for the government and the conduct of the affairs and business of the fraternity and the several chapters and associations.

ARTICLE XIII.

Emergency Powers.

In case of war or other national or international emergency, the Board of Delegates, or, if it shall not be feasible for the board to meet, the Executive Committee of the Grand Chapter, shall have power to suspend any provision of the constitution or by-laws which would prohibit such positive and immediate action as may be necessary to meet the emergency.

ARTICLE XIV.

Repeal of Prior Constitution and By-Laws.

This constitution is adopted and effective on August 20, 2016 as approved by the Grand Chapter convened for the 169th Convention of the Fraternity in Chicago, Illinois, and repeals any and all prior versions or portions of any presented Constitution.

Amendments approved by the Grand Chapter on August 19, 2017, are noted in yellow highlighter.