

## **National Constitution**

**Of**

## **The Order of Omega**

### **Article I – Name**

Section 1. The name of this Organization shall be The Order of Omega.

Section 2. The Order of Omega is a Leadership Honor Society.

Section 3. Each local unit of the Order shall be called a Chapter.

### **Article II – Purpose**

Section 1. The Purpose of The Order of Omega shall be threefold:

First, to recognize those students who have attained a high standard of leadership in intergreek activities, to encourage them to continue along this line, and to inspire others to strive for similar conspicuous attainment.

Second, to bring together the most representative fraternity and sorority members, and to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate affairs.

Third, to bring together members of the faculty, alumni, and student members of the institution's fraternities and sororities on a basis of mutual interest, understanding, and helpfulness.

### **Article III – Emblem and Colors**

Section 1. The emblem of the Order shall be the Greek letter designating Omega.

Section 2. The colors of the Order shall be ivory and gold.

### **Article IV – Membership**

Section 1. The membership of this Order shall be confined to members of Greek-letter, social organizations.

Section 2. There shall be four classes of members: first, student; second, faculty; third, alumni; and Fourth, honorary.

Student members shall be those duly elected to membership as students by a chapter and they shall be so designated during the remaining period of their collegiate enrollment.

Faculty members shall be those members of the faculty or the administrative staff of a collegiate institution elected by a chapter as faculty members, or those formerly elected to membership who may subsequently be serving on the faculty or staff of such an institution.

Alumni member shall be all former student members after their graduation or the termination of their college enrollment.

Section 3. Membership in the Order of Omega entitles the person elected to the rights and privileges of life membership, except that only active members may vote and hold office in a local chapter.

Section 4. The active membership of the Order shall consist of the student members who have been elected to offices in the National Organization.

Section 5. The total number of faculty and alumni members shall not exceed forty percent(40%) of the membership of the chapter.

#### **Article V – Eligibility**

Section 1. The qualifications for membership in the Order shall be character, scholarship and intelligence, service, and leadership in the inter-Greek affairs of their institutions.

Section 2. Exemplary character shall be the primary consideration for membership in this Order.

Section 3. To be eligible for membership in The Order of Omega, a student shall meet the following minimum requirements:

- a. One full academic year of residence in the institution where elected.
- b. Junior or Senior (undergraduate) standing;
- c. Rank academically above the all-fraternity or all-sorority average of the system. If the fraternity or sorority average is less than the minimum requirement for graduation, that chapter shall be denied initiation privileges until such time as it has maintained this minimum academic requirement
- d. Be in good standing with the fraternal organization.

Section 4. In the selection of student members, the complete collegiate record of each candidate (both in and out of the local institution as far as possible, including also their record in other institutions attended) shall be obtained and classified into the following heads or groups.

- a. Character
- b. Scholarships
- c. Greek Offices held
- d. IFC or Panhellenic
- e. IFC or Panhellenic offices held
- f. Service to the university
- g. Service to the local community

#### **Article VI – Election of Members**

Section 1. New Members may be chosen either annually or semi-annually by each chapter, the manner and frequency of elections being subject to the provisions of the chapter's bylaws; provided

that honorary members may be elected as frequently as a chapter may desire.

Section 2. The number of students elected to membership in any one year may not exceed three percent (3%) of the total number of enrolled full-time Greek undergraduates at the beginning of the academic year on the main campus, or fifteen (15), whichever number is greater.

Section 3. The election of the student members under the provisions of this Constitution shall be left to the discretion of the individual collegiate chapter, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the National from time to time.

Section 4. Two-thirds (2/3) of the active members of a chapter shall be present in order to conduct an election of members. In cases where the number of members participating in an election to membership is ten or less, two (2) negative votes shall exclude a candidate from membership; where the number participating in the election is from eleven to twenty inclusive, three (3) negative votes shall be required to exclude a candidate; and where the number participating in an election is twenty-one or more, four (4) negative votes shall be required to exclude a proposed member.

#### **Article VII – Organization**

Section 1. The National Organization shall consist of an association of all the active collegiate chapters of the Order, divided into Provinces, the boundaries of which shall be designated by a vote of the Executive Council.

Section 2. Each national officer shall be entitled to one vote and each chapter shall be entitled to one official voting delegate in the National matters.

Section 3. The national officers of the Order shall be as follows; executive director, president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and editor. All national officers will come from faculty-administration and alumni class of members.

Section 4. Selection of the National Officers shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at the annual meeting. Terms of office shall be staggered so as no more than two new officers shall be elected in any one year.

The term of office shall be four years and National Officers may be elected to consecutive terms.

National officers shall be reviewed each year by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. A National Officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the Board of Directors in attendance at the annual meeting.

Section 5. Selection of the Board of Directors shall be by a vote of the total membership in attendance at the annual meeting. Each chapter and board member shall have one vote. A simple majority is all that is needed to elect a person to the Board of Directors.

Section 6. Term of office of the Board of Directors shall be for three (3) years.

Section 7. The Executive Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

## **Article VIII – Local Powers**

- Section 1. Each collegiate chapter shall have complete control of all matters of local concern under such restrictions as may be imposed by this Constitution. In no case shall such local power be exercised in a way contrary to the ideals and purposes of the Order as set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws and Ritual of the National Organization. In case a chapter be charged with disregarding any of the conditions of its charter, the Executive Council shall have power of full inquiry; and may, in its discretion, take those steps the Council deems necessary.
- Section 2. Each chapter shall be required to submit to the Executive Council, for its approval, all bylaws and all such amendments thereto as may be adopted from time to time.
- Section 3. The officers of each collegiate chapter shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a faculty advisor. Where desired, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined and held by a faculty member. All officers shall be elected by the chapter at some convenient time as may be provided in the bylaws of the chapter. The faculty advisor shall be nominated from among the active faculty members of the chapter. Any officer of a chapter shall be eligible for reelection or reappointment.
- Section 4. Every officer of a chapter shall be appropriately installed as soon as may be convenient after election.

## **Article IX – Suspension and Expulsion**

- Section 1. Any member convicted by the chapter to which they belong of conduct unbecoming of the Order shall be dishonorably dismissed, deprived of membership, and required to surrender the pin and certificate; notification of which fact shall be sent to the member in question. Such expulsion must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the active members of the local chapter in which the proceedings have been initiated and shall be subject to review by the Executive Council before it shall be made finally effective.
- Section 2. Resignation or expulsion from a fraternal organization shall be subject to termination of membership in The Order of Omega. Such expulsion shall be subject to review by the Executive Council.

## **Article X – Bylaws**

- Section 1. The Executive Council shall be empowered to pass, repeal, or modify bylaws relating to the mode of procedure with reference to initiation, installation, extension, general policy, and all other matters of a similar character not expressly provided for in this Constitution. These restrictions shall not be construed as limiting in any way the action of the Executive Council in emergency cases.

## **Article XI – Amendments**

- Section 1. Any amendment to this Constitution shall require for its passage an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the combined votes of the national officers and of the active collegiate chapter secured by mail vote within two months after its submission.