

# **THE CONSTITUTION OF PSI UPSILON FRATERNITY**

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## **PREAMBLE**

We who are or were students in universities and colleges throughout the United States and Canada and who believe in similar principles of life and standards of human conduct, consider that the existence of a fraternal bond among us is eminently calculated best to promote our educational achievements, the development of our personal character and happiness, and the overall interests of the universities and colleges of which we are a part. We believe further that we may thereby better contribute to a continual improvement and expansion of the educational system of these two great nations.

Accordingly, we do hereby, in order to promote such purposes and the objects hereinafter set forth, adopt and solemnly pledge ourselves to sustain the following.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **PRINCIPLES**

**Section 1.** The corporation shall be officially known and designated as Psi Upsilon Fraternity, a corporation organized under the non-profit corporation laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Section 2.** The motto of the Fraternity shall never be written, but with the grip shall be handed down traditionally.

**Section 3.** The objects of this Fraternity for which we stand united are: (1) To make a significant contribution to the colleges and universities with which its undergraduate and alumni members are associated, to the communities in which its members reside, and to the great countries of the United States of America and Canada; (2) To promote the adoption of significant life goals by its members, together with plans for their fulfillment; (3) The promotion of the highest moral, intellectual, and social excellence and educational standards in all its members; and (4) The union of all its members in a firm and enduring friendship and true brotherhood for life.

**Section 4.** The formal meeting of the chapters of Psi Upsilon shall be attended only by members of our fraternity. The minutes of such meetings shall be available only to members. The motto, the symbols, and the grip of Psi Upsilon shall never be disclosed to persons outside our fraternity membership. Informal meetings may be attended by non-members when appropriate, and with the consent of members present.

**Section 5.** In order to carry out the objectives stated in Article I, Section 3, the individual chapters of Psi Upsilon will make every possible effort to provide for their members at the lowest possible cost the following: room, board, and library and study facilities. In addition, periodic meetings of a literary, cultural, and educational character shall be provided.

**Section 6.** The official badge of the Fraternity shall be worn by members only.

## ARTICLE II

### GOVERNMENT OF THE FRATERNITY

**Section 1.** The Convention shall be the primary source of legislation governing the Fraternity. The Executive Council shall be the primary administrative arm of the Fraternity. The Executive Council shall likewise possess legislative power to deal with emergencies, adopt policy, and conduct the business of the Fraternity between Conventions subject to the approval of the ensuing Convention.

**Section 2.** The Convention shall consist of accredited delegates representing the undergraduate membership and alumni of the Fraternity. It shall meet annually with one of the chapters as determined at a preceding Convention, or by the Executive Council in the absence of a decision at the preceding Convention, or if so delegated by the Convention. Factors influencing the selection of a Convention site shall include chapter anniversaries, the interval of time since chapters last hosted a Convention, geographic alternation, and benefits of maintenance or growth of a specific chapter or chapters and the Fraternity as a whole. Each chapter shall provide yearly funds sufficient to meet transportation and Convention costs for two undergraduate member delegates from that chapter to the Convention. The Executive Council, upon receipt by it of the annual reports required by Article VIII, Section 1, shall notify the chapters of the amounts of their assessments, and no chapter shall be entitled to voting privileges at a Convention which, ten days prior to the meeting thereof, shall not have paid all assessments and other money payable by it to the treasury of the Fraternity, unless otherwise provided by the Convention.

**Section 3.** Each chapter shall send to the Convention, with written credentials, two of its undergraduate members as delegates, who shall be the official representatives of such active chapter and shall cast its votes. The official alumni organization of each chapter shall send one duly accredited delegate to the Convention with the power to cast one vote. Each chapter in Convention shall be entitled to one vote for each accredited delegate in attendance except as provided for in Article II, Section 2, above. A quorum shall consist of at least one accredited delegate from at least two-thirds of the active chapters.

**Section 4.** The Executive Council shall designate three accredited delegates to each Convention, and each such delegate shall be entitled to cast one vote.

## ARTICLE III

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

**Section 1.** The members of the Executive Council shall constitute and also be known as the Board of Directors of the Psi Upsilon Fraternity. The Executive Council shall be composed of not less than seven or more than nine alumni term members of the Fraternity, with the exact number to be determined from time-to-time by the Executive Council. There shall be no more than two alumni term members from the same chapter serving at the

same time. Alumni term members of the Executive Council shall be elected by the Convention for terms of one to five years. Their classes of service should be so arranged that two or more should be elected annually to fill vacancies caused by the expiration of terms.

**Section 2.** In addition to the elected alumni term members of the Executive Council, two undergraduate members of the Fraternity shall be elected by the Convention for terms of one year each, to serve as the Undergraduate Advisory Board and will be invited to attend meetings as non-voting members of the Executive Council.

**Section 3.** In addition to the alumni members of the Executive Council, all living past presidents of the Executive Council shall be life members with full voting rights. All retiring members of the Executive Council who have served ten years or more may be elected honorary life members of the Executive Council without voting rights.

**Section 4.** The International Office of the Fraternity shall be situated in whatever location the Executive Council shall consider desirable for the Fraternity. The Executive Council shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary and a treasurer, as well as an assistant secretary and an assistant treasurer, if desired; shall regulate its own proceedings and assignments of duty; and shall be empowered to employ a chief executive officer. The title, duties, and compensation of the chief executive officer will be determined by the Executive Council. Other members of the staff shall report to the chief executive officer and their compensation shall be determined by the chief executive officer in accordance with a salary administrative plan approved by the Executive Council. The chief executive officer shall serve as an ex-officio member of the Executive Council without voting privileges.

**Section 5.** The Executive Council shall issue calls and make all arrangements for special Conventions, when requested so to do, in writing by at least five chapters; shall give official notice to all chapters of any measure requiring the consent of the chapters; and shall keep the Fraternity seal and all Fraternity personal property under its jurisdiction, including the official copy of the Constitution and Convention records, a copy of the by-laws of each chapter, and as complete statistics on them as possible. It shall have power under the regulations of each Convention to make and collect assessments from the several chapters including taxes and membership fees; shall settle or defend general claims against the Fraternity as a whole; shall superintend the publication of Fraternity documents; and shall decide all points at issue between chapters when requested. The Executive Council shall fill its own vacancies for terms expiring with the next Convention and shall submit annually to the Convention a communication embracing a report of its actions, with recommendations with respect to the affairs of the Fraternity as it may deem proper. The Executive Council shall investigate applications for charters of the Fraternity and shall initiate inquiries into the expediency or desirability of establishing a chapter at any college or university. The Executive Council shall, at regular periods, arrange for the chapters to be visited by one or more of its own members or the chief executive officer. Concerns developing from such visits shall be communicated with discretion, conditioned strictly by an intent to serve the best interests of the chapter affected.

## ARTICLE IV

### ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS

**Section 1.** This Fraternity shall be constituted of chapters which have been or may be established in colleges and universities. Each chapter shall be designated by one or more initial letters of some Greek word or words having appropriate significance. An active chapter shall consist of two bodies. One such body, the undergraduate membership, shall be composed of undergraduates and students attending graduate school, and the second body shall be composed of alumni. An inactive chapter may consist of only the alumni body.

**Section 2.** The Executive Council shall be empowered to grant provisional chapter status to a group seeking to establish a chapter of Psi Upsilon upon recommendation of the chief executive officer, whenever the Executive Council believes that the group seeking affiliation will have the ability to meet the guidelines for a new chapter that have been established by the Convention.

**Section 3.** Approval from three-quarters of the active chapters shall be necessary for the establishment of a new chapter of this Fraternity. When the Executive Council believes that a provisional chapter has met the guidelines for establishing a new chapter, it shall instruct the chief executive officer to prepare a report and recommendation and mail same to each chapter's undergraduate membership and to the governing body of the alumni association or corporation. Within twenty days of such mailing, each body shall transmit to the chief executive officer at the International Office of the Fraternity its approval or disapproval in writing. Approval of a chapter shall occur under any of the following conditions:

- (a) Two-thirds of the undergraduate membership and two-thirds of the governing body of the alumni association or corporation vote in favor of the proposal; or
- (b) Two-thirds of either body votes in favor of the proposal, and the other body does not respond within twenty days of the date of the mailing concerning the proposed establishment of the new chapter; or
- (c) Neither body responds to the proposal within twenty days of the date of the mailing concerning the establishment of the new chapter.

**Section 4.** Upon the chief executive officer receiving approval from three-fourths of the active chapters for establishing a new chapter, it shall be the duty of the Executive Council to prepare an exact copy of the Constitution and an official certification of the vote of the chapters, and with these documents to proceed immediately in person, if possible or, if not, to direct some chapter to appoint a committee to meet and initiate members of the new chapter with the usual ceremonies of initiation, by which they shall be invested with all the rights of a chapter.

**Section 5.** When a chapter has been or shall be established upon application of undergraduate and graduate or alumni members, it shall be lawful for such chapter by unanimous vote to



elect graduate or alumni members of such organization in good standing upon their written application and to initiate them in due form.

**Section 6.** A petition for the establishment of a chapter at a branch of the same institution wherein a chapter of Psi Upsilon already exists will be considered by the Fraternity in the same manner as that prescribed for any other petition.

**Section 7.** Only chapters defined by this Constitution as inactive shall be reactivated. The Executive Council, in cooperation with the alumni organization of an inactive chapter, shall create an Owl Club at that chapter when a group of persons qualified for, and desirous of membership in, Psi Upsilon Fraternity, presents themselves for consideration. When the Executive Council, after receiving a recommendation from the alumni organization of that chapter or after its own investigation, determines that the Owl Club members are qualified for membership in Psi Upsilon, the Executive Council shall initiate the members, thereby extending to them membership in Psi Upsilon Fraternity. To this group and the alumni organization, together, shall be granted the status of an active chapter.

## ARTICLE V

### TERMINATION OF CHAPTERS

**Section 1.** No chapter may dissolve or surrender its charter of its own volition. The undergraduate members of a chapter, its alumni organization, or the Executive Council may make a recommendation for the termination of a chapter's active status to the Convention.

**Section 2.** The Convention may, after receiving a report and recommendation from the Executive Council and by a three-fourths vote of accredited delegates, revoke the charter of an active chapter, therefore severing forever each and every tie with the undergraduate membership and the alumni organization, except for any outstanding financial obligations which may exist.

**Section 3.** A chapter shall be considered inactive if no living members exist and no other action has been taken by the Fraternity with regard to establishing their status.

**Section 4.** The Convention may, after receiving a report and recommendation from the Executive Council and by a three-fourths vote of the accredited delegates, relegate the chapter to an inactive status as defined in Article IV, Section 1, if a possibility of the chapter's future reactivation is deemed to exist.

**Section 5.** The Convention may, after receiving a report and recommendation from the Executive Council and by a three-fourths vote of the accredited delegates, suspend the charter of an active chapter for a specified period of time, removing all rights of undergraduate membership within Psi Upsilon until specific conditions are met.

**Section 6.** The Executive Council may act on behalf of the Convention with regard to any of the actions in Sections 4 or 5 above. The action of the Executive Council to relegate a

chapter to inactive status pursuant to Section 4 above shall become final unless an appeal of that action to the Convention is received by the chief executive officer of the Fraternity within 30 days of the date of the official notice by the Executive Council to the chapter of its decision to relegate the chapter to inactive status. If a timely notice of appeal is received, the next Convention will consider and act on the appeal pursuant to Section 4 above.

**Section 7.** Where a chapter (a) lacks sufficient membership to sustain itself financially, or as a part of the university or college community, (b) lacks sufficient organized alumni support to keep itself as a healthy and contributing member of fraternity life on its campus, (c) finds itself in a financial condition where it can no longer maintain its solvency, (d) fails to meet its assessment obligations to the Executive Council on a continuing basis, (e) fails to carry out on a continuing basis an effective rushing program, thereby failing to provide the chapter with the new members necessary to sustain its existence, or (f) is confronted with other serious conditions affecting the normal existence of a college or university fraternity chapter, and, furthermore, fails to correct any of the foregoing conditions after strenuous and organized efforts have been made to assist it, the Executive Council, upon finding any such condition to be present, may request Convention action.

**Section 8.** If the charter of a chapter is revoked or suspended, or if the chapter is relegated to an inactive status, all official Fraternity records, seals, official documents, memorabilia, and any material pertaining to the chapter's relation to the Fraternity as a whole shall be placed in the custody of the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **CHAPTER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall have power to provide for its own organization and proceedings in such a manner as it may see fit, so far as such provisions do not conflict with this Constitution or the Policies of Psi Upsilon Fraternity.

**Section 2.** Each chapter shall take action as early as possible on the receipt of the records of any Convention upon all measures which require such action, and within one week thereafter shall notify the Executive Council of the result.

**Section 3.** The alumni body of each chapter should incorporate itself and should hold at least one meeting a year to which all the members of the chapter's alumni body shall be invited. At such meetings, an annual report of the operation of the chapter shall be rendered, covering the activities of the undergraduates and the alumni. A board of trustees, or its counterpart, composed of alumni of the chapter, shall be established to conduct the business of the alumni corporation. The election of members to such a body, as vacancies exist or as terms of such expire, shall be held at such annual meetings. The purpose of such alumni corporation shall be (1) to conduct the business affairs of the corporation, (2) to aid in the financial operation of the chapter, (3) to support the educational and risk management programs of Psi Upsilon, (4) to cooperate, as

appropriate, with the administration of the institution where the chapter is located, (5) to hold title to and ownership of the chapter house where such is feasible, and (6) to support the actions of the Executive Council pertaining to its respective undergraduate chapter. The board of trustees should meet at least four or more times a year with at least one such meeting to be held at their respective chapter houses. Such procedure will permit the board of trustees to maintain close contact with the affairs of the undergraduates and of the house and to review communications between the Executive Council or Convention, and the chapter in order to assure compliance with the mandates of the Fraternity.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **UNDERGRADUATE MEMBER LEADERSHIP**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall have for its officers an archon, a grammateus, a thesauristes and one or more angeloi and epistolographoi, whose general duties shall be those of a president, recording secretary, treasurer, vice president, corresponding secretary and alumni relations secretary respectively, to whom also special duties may be assigned by the laws of the chapter. Special officers may also be elected by a chapter for the performance of duties peculiar to itself. These officers shall be elected by ballot at such times as each chapter may decide, provided that an election of all be held at least once a year.

**Section 2.** The epistolographos or epistolographoi shall communicate with each chapter and its alumni body at least once in every collegiate term; shall give due notice of all changes of officers, of all initiations, expulsions, suspensions, or graduations; and shall keep the Fraternity well informed of the state of their chapter, and their chapter of the condition of the Fraternity.

**Section 3.** In order that a continuous history of each chapter may be kept and thereby a history of the Fraternity as a whole, the grammateus shall prepare at the end of each academic year a full report of the chapter and of its activities for that year, including the activities of both the undergraduate and alumni bodies of the chapter. Copies of such reports shall be forwarded to the officers of the Executive Council for preservation in the archives of the Fraternity, and to the officers of the chapter alumni organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **CHAPTER REPORTS**

**Section 1.** The Executive Council shall require the chapters to report such information concerning each chapter's officers, pledges, initiates, undergraduate members and activities as deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

## **ARTICLE IX**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

- Section 1.** Membership in any chapter and payment to the Fraternity of the initiation fees shall constitute membership in the Fraternity. Members shall be called "brothers." Each chapter may develop its own qualifications for membership, except that there may be no discrimination in membership selection prohibited by the laws of the applicable nation, but no chapter shall initiate any person or persons to membership who are not recognized as students in good standing by the faculty and trustees of the college or university in which the chapter is located.
- Section 2.** The election of any person to membership shall be in accordance with the regulations of the university or college at which the chapter is located. The qualifications for membership shall be determined by each chapter, such determination to take into consideration the candidate's qualifications with respect to the general standards of the Fraternity as a whole and to the standards set by the membership of that chapter.
- Section 3.** The Executive Council may select from those individuals affiliated with a provisional chapter, persons to be initiated as members of the Fraternity. Said members-at-large shall have all the rights and privileges of any member associated with a chapter, excluding those conferred in Article II, Section 2 of this Constitution. The Executive Council shall be responsible for initiating all successive initiates to the provisional chapter. At the time of installation of the provisional chapter, those members previously initiated at that respective provisional chapter are conferred full membership in Psi Upsilon.
- Section 4.** The members of each chapter shall be considered as undergraduate or alumni. The undergraduates and members attending graduate school shall constitute the active chapter. During a period in which the undergraduate brothers are called to active military service, and until the expiration of one month after the first annual Convention following such active service, any alumni members of a chapter may become members of such active chapter, notwithstanding any other provisions in this Constitution.
- Section 5.** The dissolution of a member's connection in any way with the university or college in which the member was an undergraduate member shall place the member on the alumni list, unless the member again becomes an undergraduate.
- Section 6.** No person unconnected with the Fraternity coming from a university or college in which this Fraternity is represented by a chapter shall be anywhere elected to membership without taking into consideration the wishes of the former chapter, which will invariably be consulted.
- Section 7.** Any brother leaving the chapter into which initiated and becoming a student at any university or college in which there is or may be a chapter of this Fraternity shall be given preferential treatment in the last-named chapter.
- Section 8.** This Constitution recognizes no withdrawal from membership in the Fraternity and

maintains that an undergraduate brother should remain an active member of the chapter while an undergraduate in the university or college where initiated or while an undergraduate of another institution wherein there is a chapter. However, if an undergraduate member of the Fraternity indicates inability to meet financial responsibilities to the chapter, and if the undergraduate membership determines by a three-fourths vote to absolve such financial responsibility, then such undergraduate member may be granted inactive status. The Executive Council may, in its discretion, and for just cause, relieve any undergraduate or group of undergraduates of any chapter, of their annual Fraternity dues to the Executive Council. If an undergraduate member, while in attendance, requests such relief of obligations to the chapter for any reason or reasons and insists upon being so relieved, after a full hearing before the chapter in a meeting called for this purpose, then inactive status may be granted, but only after every effort has been exhausted in discouraging inactive status.

**Section 9.** Suspension, expulsion, or fines shall be the means of discipline within the undergraduate membership of all the chapters, under regulations to be established by themselves. The vote upon suspension or expulsion shall be taken by ballot after at least two weeks of consideration and shall require a three-fourths affirmative vote of all the undergraduate members of the chapter.

**Section 10.** Disciplinary action may also be taken by the alumni organization of a chapter or by the Executive Council. If any undergraduate member or alumni member or members of a chapter is or are reported by the university or college authorities, by alumni of such chapter or alumni of other chapters, or by responsible officers among the undergraduate members of such chapter or of other chapters, for conduct unbecoming a brother of Psi Upsilon and detrimental to the purposes and objectives of the Fraternity as herein set forth, the facts will immediately be investigated by responsible representatives of such chapter's alumni organization or by the Executive Council, with the undergraduate membership consulted and a full hearing afforded the member or members under consideration. A full report and recommendation will then be presented to the trustees of such chapter's alumni organization, or their counterpart, or to the Executive Council, either of which is empowered to take whatever corrective measures are necessary, including removal from chapter office, suspension, or expulsion from the Fraternity. Any disciplinary action shall be fully documented and immediately relayed to the entire undergraduate membership of such chapter. This decision may be reviewed by the annual Convention as the final authority, at the request of the affected members or chapter. Under no circumstances may disciplinary action be taken against any undergraduate member or alumni member or members of a chapter if such action is contrary to law or to the rules and regulations of the university or college where the chapter is located.

**Section 11.** In recognition of outstanding achievement and devotion to the Fraternity and its development and growth, a chapter may select from those not otherwise eligible for membership under this Article, persons to be designated as honorary members. Such honorary members shall not be entitled to any of the rights and privileges provided under Article II, Section 2, and Article III, Section 1, of this Constitution, provided, however, that honorary members shall have the right to attend the chapter meetings.

## ARTICLE X

### MEMBER EDUCATION

**Section 1.** New members shall be welcomed into Psi Upsilon in strict accordance with the initiation ritual published by the Executive Council and distributed to the active chapters. The initiation ritual may be amended or superseded by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the Convention.

**Section 2.** Psi Upsilon Fraternity believes that a constructive member education program lies at the heart of a good fraternity experience. It stands for a member education process that seeks to:

- a. Provide a thorough and comprehensive orientation to Psi Upsilon, its history, international structure, philosophy, values and ideals, traditions, songs and programs;
- b. Create a sense of responsibility and commitment to the college or university and to Psi Upsilon.
- c. Develop a sense of unity and camaraderie within the brotherhood.
- d. Provide a working knowledge of how the chapter operates, both as an organization and as a physical plant.
- e. Develop a clear understanding of the member's future role in the chapter and the contributions the member can make as a brother.
- f. Encourage and motivate the member to develop potential managerial and leadership skills.
- g. Guide the member toward improvement as an individual and as a member of the community.

**Section 3.** Consistent with a constructive member education program, Psi Upsilon Fraternity declares itself unalterably opposed to hazing in any form or under any circumstances. Hazing is defined as any activity of the Fraternity or of its individual members which:

- a. Causes or is likely to cause mental or physical harm, discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, ridicule, damage or injury.
- b. Disrupts an individual's academic interests and pursuits, adversely affects an individual's normal lifestyle, or asks an individual to violate any government laws or college regulations.
- c. Creates an impression that is detrimental to the public image of Psi Upsilon. The forced consumption of alcoholic beverages or drugs is strictly prohibited; or
- d. Meets the definition of hazing provided by applicable provincial, state, federal law, or educational institution.

**Section 4.** Any chapter which violates these principles shall be subject to disciplinary action by

the Executive Council or by a three-fourths vote at the ensuing Convention.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **BADGE**

**Section 1.** The badge of this Fraternity shall be a lozenge-shaped breast-pin of gold, having in front, on a ground of black enamel, the clasped hands, with the letter "Ψ" above and "Υ" below; and on the reverse the name of the owner, with the appropriate chapter characteristic, graduating class, and month and year of initiation. This shall be the only official badge of the Fraternity, but no prohibition is made with reference to the wearing of such other style badge as the chapter may procure.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **FRATERNITY DOCUMENTS**

**Section 1.** A directory of all the members of the Fraternity shall be published as often as may be deemed advisable, containing the full names of the brothers, their residences and any other items of interest.

**Section 2.** Collections of Fraternity songs shall be published whenever the necessities of the chapters shall demand them.

**Section 3.** Special care shall be taken to secure the writing of accurate histories of the Fraternity and its several chapters, to be published if deemed advisable.

**Section 4.** Copies of the records of every Convention shall be transmitted to each chapter. Every chapter shall keep each of the others informed of all laws adopted for its own government.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### **AMENDMENT**

**Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended or superseded by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the Convention, and such action shall be binding unless objected to by one-fourth or more of the active chapters within two weeks in term time after receipt of the official records of the Convention by the chapters.

### **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

This edition of the Constitution of Psi Upsilon Fraternity includes all amendments that have been made to the Constitution through the 176<sup>th</sup> Convention held in 2019.