

**THE CONSTITUTION OF  
BETA UPSILON CHI  
FRATERNITY  
Brothers Under Christ**



Revised 2016

PRINTED BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BETA UPSILON CHI FRATERNITY: BROTHERS UNDER CHRIST

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# The Constitution of the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity

## **ARTICLE 1: Name**

1. The name of the fraternity is Beta Upsilon Chi. The fraternity may be referred to, in short, as “BYX.”

## **ARTICLE 2: Purpose and Identity**

2. The Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity was founded and exists for the Purpose of establishing Brotherhood and Unity among college men., based upon the common bond of Jesus Christ.
3. The Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity is a life long brotherhood of committed Christian men seeking the bonds of brotherhood and unity in Christ through the avenue of a social fraternity on a college campus.

## **ARTICLE 3: Chapter Officers and Officers’ Duties**

4. The Executive Officers of each Chapter shall be:—
  - a. President;
  - b. Vice-president;
  - c. Treasurer;
  - d. Pledge captain, or pledge trainer;
  - e. Chaplain; and
  - f. Secretary.
5. Each Officer’s term shall begin on January 1 following their election and end following the completion of finals in the fall semester at his respective university, unless granted an exception by the National President with the advice and consent of the Board of Directors.
6. The President shall:
  - a. Execute the provisions of this Constitution;

- b. Conduct meetings; and
  - c. Appoint representation for the Fraternity, when needed.
7. The Vice-president shall:
- a. Perform the President's functions in his absence;
  - b. Assist the President in his duties;
  - c. Provide administrative support to all other Officers;
  - d. Prepare, organize, and supervise parties and other social functions;
  - e. Oversee the appointment of all chairs and coordinators including the following:
  - f. Prepare, organize, supervise, and delegate responsibilities for Island Party.
8. The Treasurer shall:—
- a. Maintain responsibility for Fraternity funds;
  - b. Create a projected budget before each semester and submit the same to the designated leadership consultant.
  - c. Maintain the funds and accounts of the Fraternity;
    - i. Including Fraternity Bill Highway Checking and Savings Accounts; and
    - ii. Bill Highway Checks & Pre-paid cards; and
    - iii. Responsible for account coding for all pre-paid transactions monthly.
  - d. Assist the Secretary with Fraternity shirts and other paraphernalia;
  - e. Maintain any and all Fraternity equipment
9. The Pledge Captain, whose office may also be referred to as Pledge Trainer or New Member Captain, shall:—

- a. Execute the provisions of this Constitution pertaining to pledgship;
- b. Organize and conduct weekly new member/pledge education and meetings
- c. Coordinate all Rush events;
- d. Coordinate the Chapter's Big and Little Brother Program;
- e. Prepare, organize, supervise, and delegate responsibilities for Initiation;
- f. Appoint Assistant Pledge Trainers, who may also be referred to as Assistant New Member Trainers; and
- g. Send a tentative calendar of Rush and Pledge Events to the designated leadership consultant before each Semester.

10. The Secretary shall:—

- a. Take, keep, and record minutes of all Fraternity meetings, including, but not limited to, Weekly Chapter Meetings and Officer Meetings;
- b. Take, keep, and record the attendance of the Fraternity, including but not limited to Weekly Chapter Meetings, Cell Group Meetings, Officer Meetings, and Retreats;
- c. Contact absentees about missed meetings, notifying them how many meetings remain before moving to inactive status.
- d. Maintain and transmit to his successor-in-office the records of the Fraternity;
- e. Organize and supervise Fraternity shirts and other paraphernalia;
- f. Send one digital copy of all paraphernalia, including but not limited to t-shirts, hats, stickers, and other items, to the designated leadership consultant; and
- g. Conduct administrative tasks on behalf of the Fraternity;
- h. Maintain chapter cumulative GPA standards of 2.70 or higher: or that is at or above the all men's GPA with, the host institution.

11. The Chaplain shall:—

- a. Coordinate and maintain the Chapter's Cell Group Ministry;

- b. Coordinate and maintain the Chapter's Speaking Ministry;
- c. Monitor and maintain the health of each Cell Group;
- d. Schedule speakers for the Chapter; and
- e. Organize and implement a Prayer Committee

#### **ARTICLE 4: Elections**

- 12. A fraternity Member may serve as an officer only if he is an Active Member at the time of Elections, unless granted an exception by the National President.
- 13. No fraternity Member may seek the Office of President except those who have been Active Members for at least one full year (one active semester plus current semester) prior to the date of the Election in which he is seeking the Office of President.
- 14. Elections shall be held between the middle and end of the fall semester, unless granted an exception by the National President.
- 15. Nominations and self-nominations for Officer positions may be made by any Active Member and reported to the current Officers, but every person nominated may only accept one nomination for the one specific office.
- 16. At the Chapter meeting prior to the Chapter meeting in which the Election shall be held, candidates shall be allowed time to state their purpose for running for Office to the Members of the Fraternity.
- 17. Elections shall be conducted:—
  - a. By secret ballot;
  - b. Impartially, fairly, and democratically;
  - c. So that the entire body of Active Members may participate; and
  - d. Without any endorsements or recommendations of any kind, including from any body of representatives or from any leadership.

18. In addition to the candidates nominated for each office, each ballot shall also contain a line item designated, "None of the Above," as an alternate choice to the candidates nominated for each position.
19. No person shall be elected to hold Office in the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity unless he receives at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of the votes of the Active
20. If no candidate receives at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of the votes of the Active Members, then the two candidates who received the most votes shall be placed in a run-off election.
21. In the case of a run-off election, no person shall be elected to hold Office unless he receives at least 51% (fifty-one percent) of the votes of the Active Members.
22. In the case of a run-off election, if neither candidate receives 51% (fifty-one percent) of the votes of the Active Members, then the current incumbent Officer for that Office shall remain in that Office until all of the incoming Officers-Elect choose one of the candidates for the disputed Office unanimously.
23. New Officers' terms begin on January 1 following their Election.

#### **ARTICLE 5: Membership Qualifications and Types**

24. An applicant for Membership in the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity must:—
  - a. Be a college student in the Representative Area; and
  - b. Express a desire to develop his relationship with Jesus Christ and others
  - c. Must not be a member of another social fraternity
  - d. All male students are eligible to rush and may be elected to membership.
25. There are three Types of Membership in Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity:—
  - a. Pledge Member;
  - b. Active Member; and
  - c. Alumni Member.

#### **ARTICLE 6: Applicants for Membership**

26. Every applicant for Membership in the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity must appear before an Interview Committee, in order to determine;
- a. The applicant's willingness to adhere to the Beta Upsilon Chi Doctrinal Statement;
  - b. The applicant's willingness to adhere to the Purpose of Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity.
  - c. The applicant's willingness to adhere to the Beta Upsilon Chi Honor Code; and
  - d. Whether the applicant is a member of another social fraternal organization.
  - e. Whether the applicant has met the minimum GPA requirements.

#### **ARTICLE 7: Pledge Membership**

27. Pledge (New) Membership
- a. Pledges must attend a weekly pledge meeting and weekly active chapter
  - b. Pledges must have no more than three unexcused absences from weekly events
  - c. Pledges must complete the six to ten week pledge education process
  - d. Pay their pledge fees
  - e. Maintain honorable conduct throughout the pledge process
  - f. Have successfully established a minimum high school GPA of 2.50 for those new members who have yet to establish a collegiate GPA or successfully established a collegiate GPA of at least 2.50.
28. Pledge Membership shall be a positive experience, without any degradation, humiliation, or harm to the Pledge Member; hazing of any kind is strictly prohibited.
29. Pledge Membership shall last for one semester and shall conclude with Initiation into Active Membership.



## **ARTICLE 8: Active Membership**

30. No person shall be an Active Member of Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity except those who:—

- a. Have successfully completed the program of Pledge Membership;
- b. Maintain membership only in Beta Upsilon Chi and no other social fraternal organization, and
- c. Have three or fewer unexcused absences per semester.
- d. Pay dues in full and on time
- e. Fulfill a minimum of one service project per semester
- f. Maintain honorable conduct throughout active membership
- g. Attend and participate in all formal chapter events, cell group meetings, and weekly chapter meetings.

31. An Active Member may be assigned Inactive Status by the current elected Officers of the Fraternity when he:—

- a. No longer wishes to be held accountable to the obligations of Active Membership, and makes his wishes known in writing to the elected Officers of the Fraternity; or
- b. Has failed to meet the obligations and requirements of Active Membership.

32. Any Member assigned Inactive Status may return to Active Membership:—

- a. Only at the beginning of each academic semester, by the second Weekly Chapter Meeting of that semester;
- b. Only after meeting with the current elected Officers of the Fraternity to discuss returning to the Chapter as an Active Member;
- c. Only if he pays any and all outstanding debts owed to the Chapter; and
- d. Only if the current elected Officers of the Fraternity approves his return to Active Membership.

## **ARTICLE 9: Alumni and Early Alumni Membership**

33. No person shall be an Alumni Member of Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity except those Active Members who:—

a. Either:—

i. Graduate from their University; or

ii. Qualify for Early Alumni Status, as provided below; and

34. The rights, duties and obligations of Alumni Members are as follows:—

a. No Chapter Dues are required;

b. Encouraged to support the Beta Upsilon Chi Alumni Association both prayerfully and financially;

c. He may, upon notice to and receipt of permission from the current elected Officers of the Fraternity, attend Weekly Chapter Meetings;

35. Any Active Member voluntarily chooses to disassociate himself from the chapter, no longer desiring to be held accountable to requirements of Active Membership, may apply to the current elected Officers of the Fraternity for Early Alumni Status.

36. To consider an application for Early Alumni Status by an Active Member, the Officers of the Fraternity must determine:—

a. Whether this Member has senior standing; defined as one year or less of school remaining before graduation;

37. If the Officers of the Fraternity determine that the Active Member in question has successfully met the qualifications for Early Alumni Status provided in Section 36, they may vote to grant him Early Alumni Status.

38. Once Chapter Officers have granted Early Alumni Status, that move is permanent; no alumni member may return to Active Membership.

#### **ARTICLE 10: Chapter Meetings, Cell Groups, and Attendance**

39. In every academic year, the Fraternity shall, at a minimum:—

- a. Conduct a Weekly Chapter Meeting, as provided in this Constitution, once per week throughout the school year;
  - b. Carry on a program of Cell Groups that meet weekly, as provided in this Constitution;
  - c. Organize Cell Group Leader Meetings at least once a month;
  - d. Ensure Cell Group Leader Training within the first two weeks of the semester;
  - e. Supply Cell Group Evaluations within the last two weeks of the semester;
  - f. Conduct two full Beta Upsilon Chi Retreats, one per semester, preferably within the first half of the semester;
  - g. Conduct at least 5 Rush Meetings between prospective members and Active Members;
  - h. Conduct one pledge retreat for each semester there is a pledge class, within fourteen days of completion of interviews; and
  - i. Conduct at least two service projects, one per semester;
40. When a Pledge Member or Active Member misses his third meeting in a semester, the Secretary shall contact the Member to inform him that upon his fourth absence, he will be suspended for the remainder of the semester.
41. For the purposes of determining Absences:—
- a. Any absence at a Weekly Chapter Meeting, whether by a Pledge Member or by an active Member, counts as one overall absence, and it is the duty of the Secretary to record the same;
  - b. Any absence at a Cell Group Meeting, whether by a Pledge Member or an Active Member, counts as one overall absence, and it is the duty of the cell group leader to report absences from his group's meetings to the Secretary and Chaplain;
  - c. Any absence at a Retreat, whether by a Pledge Member or by an Active Member, shall count as two regular meeting absences; and
  - d. Absences may be excused by the Officers of the Fraternity in the event of:—
    - i. A scheduled test;

ii. A scheduled athletic event; or

iii. A University-excused absence.

#### **ARTICLE 11: Methods for removing Members and Executive Officers**

42. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of Beta Upsilon Chi, violates the organization's constitution or by-laws, or violates the Code of Student Conduct, university policy, or federal, state or local law, the member may be removed through a majority vote of the officers in consultation with the organization's faculty advisor and the Beta Upsilon Chi National Staff.
43. Any elected officer of the chapter may be removed from their position for cause. Cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the constitution or by-laws, failure to perform duties, or any behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this Beta Upsilon Chi, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee, Officer Corps, may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's faculty advisor and BYX National Staff Leadership Consultant.
44. In the event that the reason for member removal is protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) or cannot otherwise be shared with members (e.g., while an investigation is pending), {00312468-1} the executive board, in consultation with the organization's advisor Leadership Consultant, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

#### **ARTICLE 12: Chapter By-Laws**

45. Due to the unique character and circumstances of each school at which the Fraternity exists, each Chapter of the Fraternity has liberty to create By-Laws to the Constitution for the goal of better achieving the Purpose of Beta Upsilon Chi, as provided in Section 2 of this Constitution.
46. All By-Laws must be in writing and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current elected Officers of the Fraternity.
47. Two copies of the proposed By-Laws, with the President's and Secretary's signature, must be sent to the National President for his approval before they will come into force.
48. Only those By-Laws which coincide with the Purpose of the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity and further its mission will be approved.

#### **ARTICLE 13: Non-Discrimination Clause**

49. BYX and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status.

**ARTICLE 14: Amending the Constitution**

50. This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Beta Upsilon Chi Fraternity Board of Directors.