*EPSILON PSI EPSILON*

*Organized May 1911*

*at Columbia University*

*Constitution and By-Laws*

*Revised August, 2022*

CONSTITUTION

**ARTICLE I** - Name and Purpose

**Section 1**

The fraternity shall be known as Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity, and shall have for its objectives the pursuit and cultivation of the practice of optometry and the sciences on which the same is based, together with the defense of the rights and elevation of the dignity of the optometric profession.

**Section** 2—Non-Discrimination Policy

This organization and its members shall not discriminate against any individual(s) for reasons of age, ancestry, color, disability, gender identity or expression, genetic information, HIV/AIDS status, military status, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, protected veteran status or any other basis in accordance with [Student Organization Registration and Funding Guidelines](https://activities.osu.edu/posts/documents/student-organization-registration-guidelines-updated-may-2021.pdf).

**ARTICLE II** – Membership

**Section 1** - Eligibility

The members of this fraternity shall consist of alumni, actives, and honorary members.

1) Any member who ceases to be an active member automatically becomes an alumnus, provided they have graduated from an accredited school or college of optometry. An alumnus shall not have the power to vote or take any active part in regular chapter meetings.

2) Students attending the course in optometry shall be elected to membership as provided in this constitution and shall constitute the active members of the fraternity.

3) Other persons that have distinguished themselves in optometry, and elected as provided in the constitution, shall be honorary members. Such members will not be granted a right to vote but may take part in the regular chapter meeting.

**Section 2** - Pledging

Any student in optometry in good standing may propose themselves for membership during the first two weeks of Spring semester.

Any active at any meeting may move that a pledge be depledged. If the motion is seconded and passed by ten percent of those present, the pledge will automatically undergo a tribunal within the following week. The tribunal will consist of the pledge in question, their big sibling, the active requesting the depledging, and one of the following: the president or vice-president. The purpose of this tribunal is to make the pledge aware of the complaint against them, and for the members of the tribunal to form opinions so that they can make recommendations to the active chapter. The following week the motion to depledge may be reintroduced under old business, and at that time, the tribunal may state its findings and recommendations. After questions and an open discussion, a vote shall be taken. A ten-percent vote of those present in favor of depledging will result in the immediate depledging of the pledge.

Should any person be defeated in their bid for membership, they may again be proposed for pledgeship after a lapse of one year.

**Section 3**

The active members elected in the manner prescribed above shall be required to complete their membership by paying their initiation fee as defined in the by-laws within 2 weeks of initiation.

**Section 4**

Any member who shall absent themselves from two consecutive meetings of this chapter without sufficient cause and prior written notice shall no longer be regarded as an active member. Those retired from active membership shall be known as inactive members. They shall not be entitled to vote nor be eligible to hold office, nor shall they enjoy any of the privileges of an active member (all social and professional functions and use of the fraternity facilities). Reactivation shall be at the discretion of the Board.

**Section 5** - Dismissal

Any member who shall be guilty of malpractice in their profession, who shall commit any offense against the rules of ethics, who shall engage in any conduct calculated to bring odium to this fraternity or embarrasses its operation, or who shall be ineligible for membership in the American Optometric Association, may, after being confronted by their accusers and fairly tried, be expelled by a two-thirds vote from this fraternity.

Failure to present themselves before the active chapter within sixty days after receiving a copy of the charges will automatically bring expulsion from this fraternity and forfeiture of their pin and personal fraternity charter.

 **Section 6** - Honorary Membership

Any eminent person in optometry or its related sciences may be proposed for honorary membership at any regular meeting of a chapter by any active member in good standing. A ballot shall be taken on their fitness. If the vote is not unanimous, they may again be proposed after the lapse of two years. If the vote is unanimous they may be elected to honorary membership following final approval by the Board of Trustees of the Alumni Association.

**ARTICLE III**

**Section 1**

Chapters may be organized in any recognized educational institution of optometry, and a charter may be granted upon fulfilling the following conditions:

1) That there are at least ten students who are ready to enter and who fulfill their required qualifications as described in this constitution.

2) That sanction from the Grand Council has been granted and passed upon by ninety percent of the active membership of each chapter.

**Section 2**

The charter of any chapter may be revoked upon the sanction of the Grand Council and upon the vote of ninety percent of the active members of each chapter.

**Section 3**

Each chapter shall be governed by a set of by-laws to be drawn up by the chapters themselves, and which are in accordance with this constitution.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Section 1**

The grand officers of this fraternity shall consist of chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary/treasurer, who shall be chosen from the alumni and who shall be elected annually at the Homecoming meeting, Autumn semester. These officers shall constitute the Grand Council of the Alumni Association to whom the general affairs of the fraternity shall be entrusted.

**Section 2**

The Alumni Association shall be governed by their own constitution.

**Section 3**

The Alumni Association shall act in the capacity of the landlord for the fraternity house. As such, the Alumni Association with prior notice, shall be responsible for payments of all fees demanded necessary for general maintenance and upkeep of said house.

**ARTICLE V** - Amendments

Any amendment or alteration to this constitution must first be submitted to the active chapter in writing and referred to the following meeting of the Honor Council for impartial discussion and voting at the following meeting - with a three-fourths affirmative vote necessary for acceptance and a minimum of two-thirds of the active members in attendance at the time of the vote.

**ARTICLE VI**

The constitution and by-laws must be reviewed every three years by a committee of active members.

**EPSILON PSI EPSILON BY-LAWS**

**ARTICLE I**

This, the Beta Chapter of Epsilon Psi Epsilon, shall be governed by the rules and regulations laid down in these by-laws.

**ARTICLE II -** Meetings

**Section 1**

The meetings of this fraternity shall be held at the discretion of the president, having at least one meeting per semester during the academic year on a day most convenient to members of the fraternity.

**Section 2**

Special meetings may be called and the date of regular meetings may be changed by the president, provided due notice is given to the members.

**Section 3**

A two-thirds majority of the active members, with the president, shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4**

At all meetings of the active chapter only active members shall exercise the right to vote and only active members shall be considered in determining a quorum. Alumni and honorary members shall have the right to address the chapter.

**Section 5**

Any active member who wishes to be absent from a meeting of this fraternity shall notify the president or recording secretary in writing before the meeting.

**ARTICLE III -** Officer Board

**Section 1 -** Officer Board

The officers of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, treasurer elect, sergeant-at-arms, pledge class president and pledge class vice-president. These positions shall make up the Officer Board.

**Section 2** - Nomination for Offices

The nomination of officers shall be open during the spring semester, and the election and installation of officers shall be held at the conclusion of the spring semester. The newly elected officers shall preside at the first meeting of the following Autumn Semester.

**Section 3**

Officers shall be voted on separately by secret ballot and a majority vote from the active members shall be necessary for election. If no person receives a majority vote by active members, the two people receiving the most votes shall be voted on again among active members and the person receiving the majority vote will be elected to the office. Any nominee defeated for an office may then be nominated for another office. The order of elections shall be as follows: president, vice president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, sergeant-at-arms, and two members-at-large for the Honor Council.

**Section 4**

Nominations for house manager shall be taken only at the last regular meeting of the Spring Semester. The nominees shall be reviewed by the Officer Board. The Board will then recommend one person to the active chapter for approval the night of regular elections.

If approval is not obtained, the Board shall select another candidate from the remaining nominees and present their selection at the next regular meeting for approval by the active chapter.

**Section 5**

The pledge class president and pledge class vice-president shall be members of the pledge class. Nominations will be taken during pledging and voted on prior to activation.

**Section 6**

The president shall preside at all meetings. It shall be in their duty to see that all meetings and business of the fraternity are conducted in an orderly manner. The president can hold no other job in the fraternity other than that of chief executive.

The vice-president shall take place of the president in their absence and shall serve as chairman of the Honor Council

1. The recording secretary shall take minutes of all meetings of the fraternity.
2. The corresponding secretary shall be responsible for all official correspondence of the fraternity.
3. The treasurer shall take charge of, and properly account for, all money received and disbursed by the treasury.
4. The treasurer elect shall assist the treasurer in the duties of the latter's office. During their (assistant treasurer) term of office, they shall be responsible for gaining a thorough understanding of the duties and functions of the office of treasurer. The treasurer elect shall automatically succeed the treasurer at the next election of officers of the fraternity.
5. The pledge class president and pledge class vice-president shall coordinate the Vision Care Fund raffle and the OOA raffle. They will present the winners of the OOA raffle at the EΨE meeting during the annual OOA Conference.

**Section 7**

Any office or Board position vacated, except for the presidency, shall be filled by a special election following the set procedure for general elections.

**Section 8**

If the position of president is vacated, the vice-president shall fill the position of president and the vice president position shall be filled as set forth by Article III, Section 7.

**Section 9**

An elected officer may be relieved of their position by vote of the active chapter after a review by the Honor Council. In the voting, three-fourths of the active membership must be present and a two-thirds majority must be obtained to relieve them of their duties.

**ARTICLE IV** - Honor Council

**Section 1**

A Honor Council of seven members shall be formed. The Board shall consist of the vice-president, treasurer, house manager, and two members-at-large; the latter to be elected at the time of the election of the Officer Board.

**Section 2**

Any problem or motion brought before the chapter that entails lengthy discussion or debate shall be deferred by the president to the Honor Council.

**Section 3**

At the next meeting of the chapter, the Board shall present an unbiased report pertaining to all sides of the question. The Honor Council shall have no power for final decision on any question. The final decision is left up to the President.

**Section 4**

A full report of all matters discussed (pertaining to the Fraternity) in the Board meetings shall be given to the active chapter during chapter meetings.

**Section 5**

Attendance at Board meetings is required for all Board members. Excused absences shall be the same as for regular meetings of the general assembly. Attendance must be taken and added to the Board minutes. Four unexcused absences during their term of office shall be reason for dismissal from the Board and a new member shall be elected as by Article III, Section 8.

**Section 6**

All members of the Board must be given due notice of all Board meetings.

**ARTICLE V** - Committees

**Section 1**

The following are the standing committees of the fraternity:

(A) Professional Development Committee (PDC)

(B) Refracting Room

(C) Rushing/Pledging

(D) O-ΕΨΕ-O

(E) Fun Run

(F) Spring Banquet

The chairman of these committees shall be appointed by the president and vice-president.

**Section 2**

The president and vice-president shall form other committees which are deemed necessary to carry on the functions of the fraternity. They shall also appoint the chairman to these committees.

Any such appointments made by the chair shall be rescinded by a two-thirds vote of the members present.

**Section 3**

Committee chairman shall present a progress report to the active chapter at meetings as necessary. Also, they must submit to their successor and the president, a folder of committee activities including a financial statement for their term as chairman.

**ARTICLE VI** - Professional Development Committee

**Section 1**

The professional development committee shall consist of the chairperson of the following committees:

1. Refracting Room
2. O-ΕΨΕ-O

**Section 2**

The responsibilities of this committee are

a) To coordinate activities in the above mentioned committees.

b) To promote Professionalism.

c) To improve community relations and enhance the image of optometry.

**Section 3**

The committee shall oversee the disbursement of proceeds after the expenses from the Pledge Class Vision Care Fund Raffle. The proceeds from this fund will be used to enable those persons to receive optometric care at the clinic who otherwise would not be able to seek care due to financial hardship. The Professional Development Committee chairman along with the clinic coordinator of the Ohio State University College of Optometry shall screen prospective candidates for visual care. All money received by the pledge class raffles and all proceeds collected each year shall fall under the control of said committee.

**ARTICLE VII** - Dues and Assessments

**Section 1**

The Spring Semester dues shall be payable within 2 weeks of initiation.

**Section 2**

Semesterly dues and assessments shall be charged to active members. A vote to change the dues requires the approval of two-thirds of the active chapter.

 **Section 3**

Any member whose fees are more than one semester overdue may become inactivated, but may be reinstated upon payment of bill to date. If dues and assessments for this organization cannot be paid, financial arrangements and signed letter of intent must be made through the treasurer. A member, active or inactive, who has an outstanding debt to this fraternity shall be required to sign a demand note two weeks prior to graduation date, payable not later than one year after the date of graduation.

Any active member with outstanding debt is ineligible for senior EΨE gifts. This does not include temporary deactivation.

**Section 4**

Any additional assessments shall be levied only by two-thirds vote of a quorum.

**Section 5**

Active members shall be fined thirty dollars ($30.00) for failure to attend formal sessions of initiation, unless previously excused by the president.

**Section 6**

All members shall sign a pledge card for the Oculus Club upon initiation, thereby agreeing to fulfill the pledge agreement during the specified term.

**ARTICLE VIII** - Deactivation

Any active member who expresses a desire for deactivation may choose either of the two following alternatives:

a) Temporary deactivation, in which the member wishes to rejoin the fraternity in the future. A $75 assessment must be paid in full to reactivate, along with dues for the reactivation semester

b) Permanent deactivation, in which the member must notify the president and turn in their pin and charter, thus signifying complete dissociation from this fraternity.

Any Active member who expresses a desire for deactivation must notify the treasurer by the conclusion of the second week of the semester. Any requests for deactivation after this date are at the treasurer’s discretion.

**ARTICLE IX** - Amendments

Any amendment or alteration to these by-laws must first be submitted to the active chapter in writing and referred to the following meeting of the Honor Council and Chief Executive for impartial discussion and then brought before the chapter for discussion and voting at the following meeting. A three-fourths affirmative vote is necessary for acceptance and a minimum of two-thirds of the active members must be in attendance at the time of the vote.

**ARTICLE X** - Awards

**Section 1**

An award shall be given annually at the Spring Formal to the Outstanding Pledge, and a vote by the members of the pledge class shall determine the recipient chosen from the nominees.

**Section 2**

The Third Year Award shall be presented annually by Epsilon Psi Epsilon. Selection shall be from the entire Third Year Class by a vote of all from all of the instructors of the Second and Third years in Optometry, eminent faculty members, and the entire Third Year Class. Criteria for the award shall be general fitness to carry on the practice of optometry, extra-curricular activity to benefit the profession, good moral repute and scholarship.

**Section 3**

A most valuable member award shall be established honoring the Outstanding Fourth year for work done over the years they have been a member. This will be awarded at the Spring Formal and any Fourth year member of the fraternity will be eligible. The nominations will be made by the Fourth year members, submitting their names to the remainder of the chapter, who will vote on a recipient. The president shall count the votes and keep the name of this recipient a secret until the Spring Formal.

**Section 4**

The Herbert G. Mote award shall be presented annually to the faculty member who has contributed most to the furtherance of professional, ethical optometry through their teaching at the College of Optometry.

**Section 5**

The Clinical Instructor of the Year award shall be presented annually to a respected faculty member who has excelled in the instruction of clinical procedures at the College of Optometry. Members of the Third and Fourth year Classes shall nominate and vote on a recipient.

**ARTICLE XI** - Expenditures

Unbudgeted expenses shall be cleared with the treasurer. If the expenditure is not approved by the treasurer, the matter may be taken to the active chapter for a vote. A simple majority vote shall determine the outcome.

**ARTICLE XII** - Pledging

**Section 1**

A concerted recruiting effort shall be carried on during Autumn semester.

**Section 2**

Each pledge shall be assigned a big sibling

**Section 3**

Pledgeship will last a minimum of two weeks. A pledge may be excused from their pledge duties only by approval of the pledge master(s).

**Section 4**

The positions of Pledge Class President, Pledge Class Vice President, and Treasurer elect shall be filled by members of the pledge class. Nominations will be taken during pledging and voted on prior to activation.

**Section 5**

Formal initiation into active membership will take place at the termination of pledgeship.

**Section 6**

The pledge class is responsible for a pledge project which will be approved by the President.

**Section 7**

All pledges shall sign a pledge card at initiation.

**Section 8**

No new active can hold the office of President, Vice-President or Treasurer in the election following their activation.

**ARTICLE XIII** - Dissolution

In the event that Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity, Beta Chapter, ceases to exist, the Alumni Association, and Faculty Advisor shall oversee the dissolution of the Fraternity in coordination with the most recent Officer Board Members.

**ARTICLE XIV** - Advisor

The advisor of Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity shall be a full-time faculty member and/or alumnus of Epsilon Psi Epsilon Fraternity.

**RESOLUTION A**

Be it resolved that: The Beta Chapter of Epsilon Psi Epsilon will abide by all articles of its constitution and by-laws. The fraternity shall serve as a body of optometry students for the pursuit and the cultivation of the practice of ethical optometry and the studies on which the same is based, together with the defense of the rights and elevation of the dignity of the optometric profession. The brotherhood of this fraternity will continue to operate as a non-profit organization in its social, professional, and beneficiary projects as it has in the past.