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**CONSTITUTION
OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.,
PREAMBLE**

We, the members of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., believing that men of similar ideals of fellowship should bind themselves together in order to form a more perfect union among college men; to promote the principles of manhood, scholarship, perseverance and uplift; to further brotherly love and fraternal spirit within the organization; and to protect the sanctity of the home and the chastity of woman, do enact and establish this Constitution and accompanying Bylaws for the governance of its members.

ARTICLE I

NAME AND SYMBOL

Section 1 - The name of the organization shall be OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

Section 2 - The symbol of the Fraternity shall be the Greek letters (OMEGA PSI PHI).

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Fraternity shall be to bring about a union of college men of similar high ideals of scholarship and manhood in order to:

- (a) Stimulate the attainment of ideals and ambitions of its members;
- (b) Disseminate and inculcate those ideals among those with whom its members come in contact;
- (c) Cooperate with the schools where its Chapters may be located in fostering these ideals;
- (d) Occupy a progressive, helpful and constructive place in civic and political life, domestically and internationally;
- (e) Prepare its members for greater usefulness in causes of humanity, freedom and dignity of the individual; and
- (f) Aid down-trodden humanity in its effort to achieve higher social, economic and intellectual status.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION

The members of the Fraternity shall be organized into Chapters, Districts and such other subdivisions as may from time to time be established by the Grand Conclave.¹

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS OF THE FRATERNITY

The officers of the Fraternity shall be Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance, Grand Counselor and Grand Chaplain.²

ARTICLE V

GOVERNING BODIES

Section 1 - The supreme governing body of the Fraternity shall be the Grand Conclave. The Grand Conclave shall adopt and maintain Bylaws and Policies and take such other actions as are necessary for the welfare of the Fraternity.

Section 2 - The Supreme Council shall act in the place of the Grand Conclave whenever the Grand Conclave is not assembled. Between Grand Conclaves, the Supreme Council shall be responsible to the Grand Conclave for executing its policies, decisions and mandates; enacting necessary policies between Grand Conclaves; and conducting the day-to-day affairs of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE VI

THE GRAND CONCLAVE

Section 1 - The Grand Conclave shall be composed of the Founders, the Supreme Council, delegates from the respective Chapters and past Grand Basilei.

Section 2 - The Grand Conclave shall assemble regularly, but not less than biennially, at such times and places as may be decided by the Supreme Council.

Section 3 - Official representation from one-third (1/3) of the financial Chapters in the Fraternity shall be a requisite to convene the Grand Conclave. One more than one-third (1/3) of the Chapters present shall constitute a quorum.

Section 4 - Other registered members of the Fraternity shall be admitted to the sessions of the Grand Conclave, have voice therein, and serve on committees; however, they shall not be permitted to vote.

Section 5 - Voting Eligibility.

¹See Amendment 1- Proposed amendment to Article III- Organization, 1990 version of document.

² See Amendment 1- Proposed amendment to Article I-Officers of the Fraternity 1990 version of document
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(a) Members of the Supreme Council shall be entitled to one vote each at the Grand Conclave, and may not vote or act as a delegate of any Chapter.

(b) Past Grand Basilei shall be entitled to one vote each at the Grand Conclave, and may not vote or act as a Delegate of any Chapter.

(c) Each financial Chapter shall be entitled to send two (2) delegates, each of whom shall be entitled to one (1) vote. When only one (1) delegate is sent, he shall have two (2) votes if the Chapter he represents is five hundred (500) miles or more from the site of the Grand Conclave. Each financial Chapter shall be entitled to an additional delegate with one (1) vote each for every ten (10) financial members above twenty (20).

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ARTICLE VII

COMPOSITION OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL

Section 1 - The Supreme Council of the Fraternity shall consist of the following.

(a) Grand Basileus

(b) First Vice Grand Basileus

(c) Second Vice Grand Basileus

(d) Grand Keeper of Records and Seal

(e) Grand Keeper of Finance

(f) Grand Counselor

- (g) Grand Marshal
- (h) Grand Chaplain
- (i) District Representatives
- (j) Three (3) Undergraduate Representatives
- (k) Immediate Past Grand Basileus

Section 2 - All members of the Supreme Council shall be members in good standing with the Fraternity at all levels.

ARTICLE VIII

DISTRICT AND CHAPTER OFFICERS

Section 1 - The following shall be the officers of the Districts of the Fraternity:

- (a) District Representative
- (b) First Vice-District Representative
- (c) Second Vice-District Representative
- (d) District Keeper of Records and Seal
- (e) District Keeper of Finance
- (f) District Counselor
- (g) District Director of Public Relations
- (h) District Chaplain

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- (i) District Marshal
- (j) Immediate Past District Representative

Section 2 - The following shall be the officers of the Chapters of the Fraternity:

- (a) Basileus
- (b) Vice Basileus
- (c) Keeper of Records and Seal
- (d) Keeper of Finance
- (e) Chapter Reporter
- (f) Chaplain
- (g) Keeper of Peace

Section 3 - The Districts and Chapters may elect or **appoint such additional officers as are necessary for the management and** conduct of their respective affairs.

ARTICLE IX

AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be amended only upon a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Grand Conclave, subject to veto by one-third (1/3) of the Chapters in good standing.

Section 1 Proposal of Amendments: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by financial members, by Chapters, by Districts, by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, by the Supreme Council, or by the Grand Conclave.

Section 2-

The Constitution may be amended as follows:

Amendments to the Constitution proposed as here in before provided shall be submitted to the National Office at least 120 days before the Conclave. The National Office shall circulate the proposed amendments to all chapters in existence at the time of such proposal at least 90 days before the Grand

Conclave. Such proposals shall be acted upon by the Grand Conclave, and shall be considered adopted by a 2/3 s vote subject to the veto power herein after provided.

Section 2A - Within thirty (30) days after the adoption of any amendments to the constitution by the Grand Conclave, the Executive Director shall send copies of said amendments to all financial Chapters for their adoption or rejection.

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Rejection shall be by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the financial members present at the regular Chapter meeting where the amendments are presented.

Section 3 - Amendments to the Constitution. Shall be submitted the chapters at the same time as the minutes of the Grand Conclave at which time, if approved by two thirds (2/3) the vote of the Grand Conclave, such amendments shall be declared adopted.

Section 4 Amendments become effective on the first day of the seventh month following the adjournment of said Grand Conclave subject to the veto power of the Chapters as herein-after provided.

Section 5 - This constitution and Amendments there to shall be adopted or vetoed section by section and the rejection of any section shall not affect the remaining sections which may be adopted.

Section 6 Upon the adoption of this Constitution and any Amendments thereto as set fourth in Article IX the Grand Basileus and/or the Supreme Council shall authorize the National Executive Director to print said Constitution and Amendments in book form for distribution to the membership.

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BYLAWS OF THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

CHAPTER I

ARTICLE I

ENTITIES OF THE FRATERNITY

Section 1- The Grand Conclave shall be the supreme governing body of the Fraternity.

(a)The Grand Conclave shall be composed of the Founders, the Supreme Council, delegates from the respective chapters and past Grand Basilei.

(b)The Grand Conclave shall assemble regularly, but not less than biennially, and at such times and places as may be decided by the Supreme Council.

(c) The Grand Conclave shall hear and act upon the reports of the Officers of the Fraternity, Committees, District Representatives, and special panels or commissions established by the Fraternity.

(d)The Grand Conclave shall pass such actions as it deems fitting and proper for the enhancement, perpetuation and general welfare of the Fraternity.

(e)The Grand Conclave shall elect the officers of the Fraternity and representatives to the Supreme Council as provided for in

the Constitution and Bylaws. Any member in good standing with the Fraternity, except those holding International or Honorary membership, is eligible for election to office, provided he meets any specialized requirements for a particular office as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws.

(f) The Grand Conclave has the authority to levy International dues, fees and assessments on the members of the Fraternity.

(g) The Grand Conclave shall hold a banquet in honor and memory of the Founders of the Fraternity: Frank Coleman, Oscar J. Cooper, Ernest E. Just and Edgar A. Love.

(h) The Grand Conclave shall have sole authority to approve candidates for Honorary Membership in the Fraternity.

Section 2 - The **Oracle** shall be the official publication of the Fraternity.

Section 3 - The Supreme Council shall be the managing directors for the general operation of the Fraternity consistent with the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

(a) The Supreme Council shall consist of the officers and representatives elected by the Grand Conclave which are the

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Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance, Grand Counselor and three (3) Undergraduate-Representatives; the Grand Chaplain; the Grand Marshal; the Immediate Past Grand Basileus and the duly elected District Representatives.

(b) The Supreme Council shall meet at regularly scheduled intervals and take such action as is appropriate to carry out the directions and decisions of the Grand Conclave and conduct the business of the Fraternity.

(c) The Supreme Council shall have the authority to employ an Executive Director and staff, as provided for in the approved budget of the Fraternity, to perform the administrative support and general operational tasks of the Fraternity.

(d) The Supreme Council shall give advice and consent on the appointment of the Editor of the Oracle by the Grand Basileus.

Additionally, the Grand Basileus, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, may appoint an Editorial Board to the Oracle as he deems appropriate.

(e) The Supreme Council shall investigate petitions for new Chapters and Districts and: (1) take action to approve or reject petitions for new Chapters; (2) determine the name and jurisdiction of each new Chapter it approves for establishment; (3) refer, with a recommendation to approve or reject, to the Grand Conclave all petitions for new Districts within the Fraternity; and (4) recommend the jurisdiction for any new District that is referred to the Grand Conclave for approval.

(f) The Supreme Council shall act upon matters referred to it by the District Representatives, District Meetings, Grand Officers, Undergraduate Representatives to the Supreme Council, and Chapters which petition for redress from the actions of a District Representative. Such referrals shall be to resolve questions of policy interpretation, jurisdiction of entities, applicability of Constitution and Bylaws provisions and proposed expulsion of a member or revocation of a Chapter charter.

(g) The Supreme Council is authorized to approve or reject all purchases of real property to be acquired in the name of the Fraternity, consistent with the approved budget and directives of the Grand Conclave.

(h) The Supreme Council is authorized to sell real property held in the name of the Fraternity, consistent with the directives of the Grand Conclave.

(i) The Supreme Council shall direct the publication of the Oracle and such other publications and manuals as are deemed appropriate for the welfare of the Fraternity.

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(j) The Supreme Council shall take such actions as are appropriate for the efficient operation of the Fraternity as long as such actions are not inconsistent with, nor prohibited by the approved actions of the Grand Conclave or the Constitution and Bylaws.

(k) The Supreme Council shall make timely distribution of policies of the Fraternity as approved by the Grand Conclave, as well as program directives and operational guidelines established by the Supreme Council, in a Policies and Procedures Manual for use by the Districts and Chapters in regulating and conducting the business of the Fraternity.

Section 4 - The Districts of the Fraternity shall be the governing bodies for the Chapters that exist in their respective jurisdictions as determined by the Grand Conclave.

(a) A District shall meet annually to **conduct the business of the District and elect officers as provided for** in the Fraternity's Constitution and Bylaws as well as those created by the respective District Bylaws. Any member in good standing, except an Honorary Member, of any active Chapter in the District shall be eligible for election to the offices of the District, provided he meets any specialized requirements for specified positions as outlined in the Fraternity Constitution and Bylaws and the District Bylaws.

(b) A District shall monitor and report the condition and activity of all Chapters in its jurisdiction.

(c) A District shall take such action as is appropriate to carry out, through the Chapters, the policies, procedures and program directives of the Fraternity.

(d) A District shall take such action, upon the recommendation of the

District Keeper of Finance, to invest or liquidate funds of a District.

(e) A District, through its District Representative, shall manage the Intake of new members into the Fraternity in accordance with the policies and directives of the Fraternity.

Section 5 - The Chapters of the Fraternity shall be the governing body for the local assemblies of the members of the Fraternity. Chapters may only exist at either an approved degree granting college/university or in a defined geographical area determined by the Supreme Council.

(a) Undergraduate Chapters shall be located at accredited institutions of higher learning and shall be composed of members enrolled in those institutions pursuing baccalaureate degrees.

(b) Graduate Chapters shall be composed principally of members not pursuing courses in institutions of higher learning and may include college members, as well as those members initiated as undergraduates but who lack a baccalaureate degree and who are not pursuing such a degree at an accredited college or university.

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(c) All Chapters and all members shall be organized into Districts for the purpose of administration. Said Districts shall be determined by the Grand Conclave and shall be the intermediary governing body between the Supreme Council and Chapters.

(d) A Chapter shall meet at regularly determined intervals to conduct the business of the Chapter in carrying out the programs and directives of the Fraternity.

(e) A Chapter shall elect officers annually as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity and the Chapter Bylaws. Any member in good standing of the Chapter, except an Honorary Member, is eligible for election to office, provided he meets any specialized requirements for specific positions as called for in the Fraternity's Constitution and Bylaws and the Chapter Bylaws.

(f) A Chapter shall monitor and report on the welfare of the Chapter to the District.

(g) A Chapter shall manage all funds collected by it in a manner that prevents waste, fraud and abuse of resources.

(h) A Chapter shall recommend to the District those individuals in their respective jurisdictions, identified by the Chapter, as being well qualified for membership in the Fraternity.

(i) A Chapter shall receive as a member any Brother who chooses to affiliate with it and who is entitled to affiliate based on his eligibility.

(j) A Chapter with fewer than five (5) members in good standing at all levels of the Fraternity shall be inactive. A District Representative may temporarily waive this provision pending action by the Supreme Council.

Section 6 - The Brothers are the duly authorized membership of the Fraternity for whom the Fraternity and its organizational entities exist to

support and nurture in friendship and brotherly love.

(a) A Brother may only be a member of an active Undergraduate Chapter at a college/university if he is pursuing a baccalaureate degree at that college/university.

(b) A Brother may be a member of an active Graduate Chapter if he is no longer pursuing a baccalaureate degree at a college/university; is attending a college/university that does not have a Chapter; has completed a baccalaureate degree; or is pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

(c) An Honorary Member shall be approved for membership and inducted by the Grand Conclave. He shall be entitled to affiliate with any Chapter with which he is eligible to affiliate, but shall be ineligible for elected or appointed office in the Fraternity.

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(d) A Brother shall be an International member if he has paid appropriate dues and assessments and has chosen not to affiliate with any Chapter or District.

(e) A Brother may affiliate with any Chapter for which his status qualifies him.

(f) A Brother shall not be limited in his membership rights and privileges without being afforded due process with respect to allegations made against him.

(g) Brother shall be in good standing in the Fraternity by paying International, District, and Chapter dues and assessments for the given fiscal year; provided, however, duplicate International and District dues and assessments shall not be imposed by virtue of multiple Chapter affiliation.

ARTICLE II

DISTRICT AND CHAPTER BYLAWS

The Districts and Chapters shall have the right to adopt Bylaws for the regulation of their affairs so long as such Bylaws are not inconsistent with, nor prohibited by, the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE III

ORGANIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF CHAPTERS

Section 1 - At least eight (8) members of the Fraternity shall be required to organize and establish a Chapter.

Section 2 - If a Chapter already exists in a geographic location, no charter shall be issued for a subsequent Chapter in the same geographic location, except on the petition of at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing who would be members of the proposed Chapter.

ARTICLE IV

ELIGIBILITY FOR MEMBERSHIP

Eligibility for membership in the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. shall be restricted to men who meet the following criteria.

(a) Initiation into the Fraternity through an Undergraduate Chapter requires at a minimum that the candidate have:

- (1) completed one and one-half (1/2) or more years of college;
- (2) a grade point average of not less than 1.5 on a 3.0 scale, 2.5 on a 4.0 scale, or 3.5 on 5.0 scale;
- (3) certifiable status as a registered full-time student working toward a baccalaureate degree; and

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(4) completed such other qualifications as may be imposed by the respective degree granting college/university at which the Chapter is located.

(b) Initiation into the Fraternity through a Graduate Chapter requires at a minimum that the candidate have at least a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college/university recognized by the Fraternity.

(c) Induction as an Honorary Member requires that the candidate shall have:

- (1) exhibited extraordinary accomplishments in his personal and/or professional life;
- (2) been recommended for membership by the majority vote of the Supreme Council; and
- (3) been approved for membership by the Grand Conclave.

(d) The Grand Basileus and/or Supreme Council shall have no authority to create or sanction any other form of membership.

ARTICLE V

ELIGIBILITY FOR VOTING AT GRAND CONCLAVES

Brothers shall be entitled to vote at the Grand Conclave as prescribed below:

(a) Each member of the Supreme Council shall be entitled to one (1) vote; however, no member of the Supreme Council shall be permitted to vote as a delegate of a Chapter.

(b) Each Chapter, in good standing with the Fraternity, shall be entitled to:

(1) two (2) votes; if the Grand Conclave is more than 500 miles from the location of the Chapter, then one (1) delegate may cast the two (2) votes of the Chapter; and

(2) one (1) additional vote for each ten (10) members in good standing above the base limit of twenty (20) members. Each additional vote shall be cast by registered delegates from the Chapter not serving as the delegates mentioned in item (b)(1) above. These delegates may vote only as a delegate of one (1) Chapter.

(c) Past Grand Basilei shall be entitled to one vote each at the Grand Conclave, and may not vote or act as a delegate of any Chapter.

ARTICLE VI

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURES

Section 1 - The Fraternity shall operate on a fiscal year beginning November 1 and ending October 31.

Section 2 -All Districts and Chapters shall operate on the same fiscal year as the Fraternity.

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CHAPTER II

ARTICLE I

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE AND TERMS OF OFFICE

Section 1 - The offices of Grand Basileus, First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance, Grand Counselor and three (3) Undergraduate Representatives to the Supreme Council shall be elected at each Grand Conclave, and may not succeed themselves in their respective office after service of two (2) successive full terms.

Section 2 - The office of the Grand Chaplain shall be appointed by the Grand Basileus, with the advice and consent of the Supreme Council, before the conclusion of each Grand Conclave or as soon thereafter as practicable.

Section 3 - The District Representatives shall be elected for a term of one year at their respective annual District Meetings. If no such meeting and election are held as required, the Grand Basileus may appoint a District Representative to serve part or all of the unexpired term.

Section 4 - The Grand Marshal shall be elected by the Chapter or Chapters entertaining the Grand Conclave from among its, or their membership, provided that if said election is not prior to adjournment of the preceding Grand Conclave, the Grand Marshal may be appointed by the Grand Basileus and subject to the approval of the Supreme Council.

ARTICLE H

DUTIES

Section 1 - Grand Basileus. The Grand Basileus shall be the Chief Executive of the Fraternity, Presiding Officer of the Grand Conclave and Chairman of the Supreme Council. It shall be the duty of the Grand Basileus:

(a) To order the disbursement of the funds of the Fraternity as directed by the Grand Conclave and to sign checks whenever necessary;

(b) To require periodic written reports from each of the elected Grand Officers and the Grand Marshal, giving an account of their respective works for the preceding quarter and his plans and/or program for the ensuing quarter. A digest of these reports, with such comments as the Grand Basileus deems expedient, shall be forwarded to each Grand Officer;

(c) To enforce the Fraternity's non-hazing policy;

(d) To provide information to the Districts through the District Representatives;

(e) To require from each District Representative, at least semiannually, a report of his work which shall include statements of the activities of each Chapter in his District;

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(f) To request such additional reports and information from the

Grand Officers and District Representatives as he deems necessary to function effectively;

(g) To set and implement administrative procedures for the efficient operation of the Fraternity;

(h) To provide annual reports and information regarding the state of the Fraternity for dissemination to the Brothers;

(i) To call, by and with the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the active Chapters of the Fraternity, an extraordinary session of the Grand Conclave, when the urgency of circumstances demands such action. Should the circumstances warrant, and the Grand Basileus does not issue the call, the Grand Conclave may be called into extraordinary session by three-fourths (3/4) of the active Chapters of the Fraternity;

(j) To render a full report of his administration and make such recommendations on the opening day of the Grand Conclave as he shall deem necessary for the good of the Fraternity. These recommendations shall be disposed of by the Grand Conclave before the election of officers for the succeeding term;

(k) To recommend appointments for the Office of Grand Chaplain to the Supreme Council;

(l) To appoint a Grand Keeper of Peace at the opening of each Grand Conclave, whose term of office shall expire at the close of the Grand Conclave at which he was appointed;

(m) To appoint other such officers as provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws; and

(n) To name Committees and appoint the Chairmen, Vice Chairmen and members of the committees.

Section 2 - First Vice Grand Basileus. The First Vice Grand Basileus shall be the second in order of leadership of the Fraternity and shall:

(a) Perform such duties as are assigned to him by the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council;

(b) Exercise coordinating supervision over the activities of all standing committees, see that these committees are functioning, and provide the Grand Basileus and/or the Supreme Council with a periodic report of the progress and work being performed by the several committees; and

(c) Convene during each Grand Conclave at least one joint meeting of all committee chairmen for the purposes of coordination and clarification of the activities which each committee is pursuing.

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Section 3 - Second Vice Grand Basileus. The Second Vice Grand Basileus, who must be an undergraduate at the time of his election, shall be the third in order of leadership of the Fraternity and shall:

(a) Have general supervision over the Undergraduate Chapters and help direct their activities;

- (b) Perform such other duties as are assigned to him by the Grand Basileus or the Supreme Council;
- (c) Monitor and report the state of undergraduate members on a regular basis and provide such recommendations as are appropriate for corrective actions and enhancement activities of the undergraduate members;
- (d) Chair the Undergraduate Council, composed of the Undergraduate members of the Supreme Council and each Second Vice District Representative; and
- (e) Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees to provide advice and counsel regarding undergraduate issues and concerns.

Section 4 - Grand Keeper of Records and Seal. It shall be the duty of the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal:

- (a) To have general supervision of the administrative offices of the Fraternity;
 - (b) To keep strict record of the proceedings of the Grand Conclave and to send a report of same to each Grand Officer and to all the Chapters within ninety (90) days after the close of the Grand Conclave and to file a copy of the report with the official records of the Fraternity;
 - (c) To give a report during the first Plenary Session of the Grand Conclave which expressly states all matters referred by the preceding Grand Conclave to the Supreme Council, or to any Standing or Special Committee;
 - (d) To keep an accurate history of the Fraternity covering the period of his term of office and, upon leaving office, to file the document with the permanent records of the Fraternity;
 - (e) To send the family of a deceased member an appropriate letter of condolence in the name of the Fraternity immediately upon receipt of notice of the death of the member;
 - (f) To publish in the next issue of the Oracle an appropriate testimonial to a deceased member after notice the death of the member;
 - (g) To cause the creation of and maintain such system of records and documentation as might be required to ensure the efficient operation of the Fraternity;
 - (h) To perform other secretarial duties of the Supreme Council at the direction of the Grand Basileus;
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- (i) To keep strict record of the proceedings of the Supreme Council meetings and to send a report of same to each Grand Officer within ninety (90) days after the close of the Supreme Council meeting and to file a copy of the report with the official records of the Fraternity;
 - (j) To act as an ex-officio member of the Reclamation and Retention Committee and perform related duties in connection therewith;
 - (k) To have custody of all paraphernalia and property of the

Fraternity and render an annual statement to the Fraternity concerning same; and

(1) To sign orders from the Grand Basileus to the Grand Keeper of Finance for the disbursement of funds of the Fraternity, to keep a record of the expenditures authorized by the Fraternity and to act as an alternate signatory when necessary.

Section 5 - Grand Keeper of Finance. The Grand Keeper of Finance shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Fraternity. It shall be the duty of the Grand Keeper of Finance:

- (a) To receive and account for all funds of the Fraternity;
- (b) To provide regular accurate reports of the financial status of the Fraternity to the Brothers;
- (c) To ensure that surety bonds are secured covering all necessary Grand Officers and staff; and
- (d) To disburse the funds of the Fraternity on order from the Grand Basileus countersigned by the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal.

Section 6- Grand Counselor. The Grand Counselor shall be an attorney duly licensed to practice law. He shall be provided with a reasonable budget and allowed compensation for extraordinary service rendered, when recommended by the Supreme Council. He shall perform the following duties:

- (a) Give counsel and advice to the Supreme Council and the Grand Conclave on all legal matters;
- (b) Review for legal sufficiency all contracts, bonds, employment agreements or other such instruments which bind or create financial commitments for the Fraternity;
- (c) Upon a showing of expediency and with the approval of the Supreme Council, appoint an assistant, preferably an Omega Man, to handle a particular case or assignment; and
- (d) Represent the Fraternity in all matters pertaining to loans and financing of Chapter houses by the Fraternity.

Section 7- Undergraduate Representatives. The Undergraduate Representatives, who must be undergraduates at the time of their election, shall report to the Second Vice Grand Basileus.

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(a) The Undergraduate Representatives shall assist the Second Vice Grand Basileus with the general supervision of the Undergraduate Chapters and shall help direct their activities. They shall also perform such other duties as are assigned to them by the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council.

(b) Each Undergraduate Representative shall be responsible for maintaining contact and keeping up to date with the activities of one-third (1/3) of the undergraduate population (divided by Districts) of the Fraternity. The final decision of the division of the Districts shall be made by the Second Vice Grand Basileus.

(c) At least semi-annually, each Undergraduate Representative shall report to the Grand Basileus, the Second Vice Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council regarding the progress of their assigned Districts and the undergraduate Brothers therein.

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ARTICLE III

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Section 1 - Grand Chaplain. The Grand Chaplain shall be the spiritual advisor of the Fraternity and shall:

- (a) Provide inspirational advice and guidance to the Supreme Council and the Grand Conclave;
- (b) Provide direction and cause the annual commemoration of the passing of Brothers; and
- (c) Provide guidance and assistance to Districts and Chapters as necessary.

Section 2 - Grand Marshal. It shall be the duty of the Grand Marshal to:

- (a) Make all local arrangements for hosting a Grand Conclave, in conjunction with the Grand Basileus, Executive Director and the Grand Counselor, subject to the approval of the Supreme Council; and
- (b) Submit a final written report to the Supreme Council at the next regularly scheduled meeting following the close of the Grand Conclave. That report shall be comprehensive and shall be a complement to the Executive Director's report.

Section 3 - Grand Keeper of Peace. It shall be the duty of the Grand Keeper of Peace to maintain order in all meetings of the Grand Conclave. His term of office shall expire at the close of the Grand Conclave at which he was appointed.

ARTICLE IV

STAFF

Section 1 - Executive Director. The Executive Director shall:

- (a) Make a report to the Grand Conclave on the operation of his office. Said report shall include the number of employees, the capacity in which they are employed and the total cost of operating his office;
- (b) Make a report to the Grand Conclave of the total number of Chapters, and the total number of Brothers in good standing;
- (c) Place a copy of the report that he is required to make to the Grand Conclave in the official kit of each delegate to the Grand Conclave;
- (d) Submit a written report detailing all pertinent aspects of the Grand Conclave, supplementing the report of the Grand Marshal, to all Chapters and the Supreme Council no later than the first regular meeting of the Supreme Council following the adjournment of said Conclave; and

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 21

(e) Perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council.

Section 2 -Assistant Executive Director. The Assistant Executive Director shall perform such duties as are assigned to him by the Executive Director and the Supreme Council. His salary shall be budgeted by the Grand Conclave and set by the Supreme Council.

Section 3 - Editor of the Oracle. It shall be the duty of the Editor of the Oracle to:

(a) Edit, publish and distribute the *Oracle* at least quarterly each year to members in good standing, and to other persons and institutions approved by the Supreme Council;

(b) Employ such staff members as are necessary to conduct his office, within the limits of his budget;

(c) Include a list of all Chapters, together with the Basileus and Keeper of Records and Seal and the mailing address, in each issue of the *Oracle*; and

(d) Work cooperatively with the Editorial Board in ensuring that the *Oracle* is a quality publication.

ARTICLE V

BONDS

Surety bonds shall be purchased for appropriate Grand Officers and staff.

ARTICLE VI

SUCCESSION AND REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

Section 1-In the event of death or disability, the succession to the Grand Basileus shall be: First Vice Grand Basileus, Second Vice Grand Basileus, Grand Keeper of Records and Seal, Grand Keeper of Finance and Grand Counselor. The remaining members of the Supreme Council shall meet to elect a chief executive officer until the next Grand Conclave, if none of the above is available to serve.

Section 2 - In the case of the disability of other officers to properly perform their respective duties, the Grand Basileus, by and with the consent of the Supreme Council, or the Basileus of a Chapter, as the case may be, shall appoint a successor.

Section 3 - Grand Officers may be removed from office for cause.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 22

ARTICLE VII

REMOVAL OF APPOINTED PERSONNEL

In the event that any member of a commission or authority, or any person appointed by the Grand Basileus to perform services for the Fraternity shall become incapacitated, or should resign before expiration of his term of office, or if he fails to perform his duties in a manner satisfactory to the Fraternity, the Grand Basileus, by and with the consent of the Supreme Council, shall appoint a successor for such disabled or resigning member for the unexpired term of said member. In the case of disability, the Supreme Council shall determine when the disability begins and ends.

VII.a. If a member engages in behavior that is detrimental to advancing the purpose of this organization, 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 advisor.

VII.b. 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 organization, including violations of the Student Code of Conduct, university policy, or federal, state, or local laws. The Executive Committee may act for removal upon a two-thirds affirmative vote of the executive board in consultation with the organization's advisor.

VII.c. 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, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

CHAPTER III

DISTRICTS

ARTICLE I DISTRICT OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1 - District Representatives. It shall be the duty of each of the District Representatives:

- (a) To order disbursement of funds as directed by the District;
- (b) To supervise the various Chapters of the Fraternity within his jurisdiction;
- (c) To approve candidates for initiation;
- (d) To supervise in person or by proxy all initiations within his District and promptly report all actions with reference to initiations to the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal;
- (e) To require from each Chapter a quarterly report of its operation which shall contain?
 - (1) a concise statement of the constructive work being done by the Chapter in the school life, or in the case of a Graduate Chapter, in the civic life of the community;
 - (2) a program of the future plans of the Chapter and suggestions for the constructive development of the Fraternity; and
 - (3) a brief statement of the personal achievements of the individual members of the Chapter. He shall report same to the Grand Basileus;
- (f) To call an annual meeting of all Chapters in his District;
- (g) To ensure that each Chapter is regularly visited by him or his designee and that the books and activities of the Chapter are examined and evaluated; and
- (h) To suspend any Chapter located in his District or to declare any initiation held in his District void. He must report any such action to the Grand Basileus and Grand Keeper of Records and Seal for the

approval of the former and the information of the latter.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 23

Section 2 - First Vice District Representative. The First Vice District Representative shall be the second in order of leadership of the District and shall:

- (a) Perform such duties as may be assigned to him by the District Representative;
- (b) Supervise the work and activities of all standing committees and provide the District Representative with a periodic report of the progress and work being performed by the several committees; and
- (c) Cause the committees to develop and issue goals and objectives for each year as a guide to the Chapter for their local operations.

Section 3 - Second Vice District Representative. The Second Vice District Representative, who must be an undergraduate at the time of his election, shall be the third in order of leadership of the District and shall:

- (a) Have general supervision over the undergraduate Chapters in the District;
- (b) Perform other such duties as are assigned to him by the District Representative;
- (c) Monitor and report the state of undergraduate members of the District on a regular basis and such recommendations as are appropriate for corrective actions or enhancement activities of the undergraduate Brothers; and
- (d) Serve as an ex-officio member of all standing committees of the District to provide advice and counsel regarding undergraduate issues and concerns.

Section 4 - District Keeper of Records and Seal. The District Keeper of Records and Seal is the administrative officer of the District and shall:

- (a) Keep strict records of the proceedings of the District meeting and send a copy to each District Officer and to all Chapters of the District and archive a file copy;
- (b) To cause the creation of and maintain such systems of records and documentation as might be required for efficient operation of the District;

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 24

- (c) To review and countersign all requests for disbursement of funds of the District and refer them to the District Representative for dispensation; and
- (d) To ensure that all required training developed and implemented by the Fraternity is conducted in the District.

Section 5 - District Keeper of Finance. The District Keeper of Finance shall be the financial officer of the District and shall:

- (a) Receive and account for all funds of the District;
- (b) Take control of and maintain all financial record and instruments of the District;
- (c) Disburse the funds of the District on order from the District

Representative, countersigned by **the District Keeper of Records and Seal; and**

(d) Provide regular, accurate reports of the financial status of the District.

Section 6 - District Chaplain. The District Chaplain shall be the spiritual advisor of the District and shall:

(a) **Provide inspirational advice and guidance to the District; and**

(b) Provide assistance to Chapters for annual commemoration of the passing of Brothers in the District.

Section 7 - District Counselor - The District Counselor shall be an attorney duly licensed to practice law within the boundaries of his District and shall perform the following duties:

(a) Give counsel and advice to the District on all legal matters; and

(b) Assure that the District is represented in appropriate legal matters and work closely with the Grand Counselor.

Section 8 - District Director of Public Relations. It shall be the duty of the District Director of Public Relations to:

(a) Periodically edit and publish pertinent information about the District;

(b) Submit articles from his District to the Editor of the Oracle for publication.

Section 9 - District Marshal It shall be the duty of the District Marshal to:

(a) Make all local arrangements for holding a District meeting in conjunction with the District Representative; and

(b) Submit a final written report to the District following the close of the meeting.

ARTICLE II

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 25

OTHER OFFICERS OR PERSONNEL

Section 1 - District Keeper of Peace. Each District shall elect or appoint a District Keeper of Peace. It shall be the duty of the District Keeper of Peace to maintain order in all meetings of the District.

Section 2 - Other. The Districts may elect or appoint such other officers or personnel as are necessary for the management and conduct of their respective affairs.

CHAPTER IV

CHAPTERS

ARTICLE I

CHAPTER OFFICERS AND THEIR DUTIES

Section 1 - Basileus. The Basileus shall be the Chief Executive of the Chapter and shall preside at all meetings. It shall be the duty of the Basileus:

(a) To order disbursements of funds as the Chapter may provide;

(b) To submit quarterly, through the Keeper of Records and Seal to the District Representative, a report of the Chapter; and

(c) To enforce the Fraternity's non-hazing policy.

Section 2 - Vice Basileus. The Vice Basileus shall be the assistant to the Basileus. He shall preside over meetings of the Chapter in absence of the Basileus. He shall exercise coordinating supervision over the activities of all

standing committees, shall see that these committees are functioning, and perform such other duties as provided by the Chapter Bylaws.

Section 3 - Keeper of Records and Seal. It shall be the duty of the Keeper of Records and Seal:

- (a) To keep a strict record of the official proceedings of the Chapter and the Chapter Charter;
 - (b) To carry on the correspondence of the Chapter;
 - (c) To receive all funds of the Chapter, keep a record of same and deliver said funds to the Keeper of Finance immediately on their collection;
 - (d) To sign and record all written orders from the Basileus for disbursement of Chapter funds and to forward the same to the Keeper of Finance;
 - (e) To use a standard form to collect the personal history of each member of his Chapter and furnish the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and the District Keeper of Records and Seal with a duplicate copy of such history, with additions and changes;
- CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 26
- (f) To furnish the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and the District Keeper of Records and Seal such data concerning the Chapter as the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal might consider necessary to keep the history of the Fraternity complete;
 - (g) Upon the death of any member of the Fraternity, it shall be the duty of the Keeper of Records and Seal of his Chapter to officially inform the Grand Keeper of Records and Seal and the District Keeper of Records and Seal of such death and to forward to him a biography of the deceased member;
 - (h) To carry on such publicity as the Chapter might direct, provided that such publicity shall be local in its nature; and
 - (i) To countersign all membership cards.

Section 4 - Keeper of Finance. It shall be the duty of the Keeper of Finance:

- (a) To receive from the Keeper of Records and Seal and account for all funds payable to the Chapter;
- (b) To disburse funds of the Chapter only upon written order of the Basileus, countersigned by the Keeper of Records and Seal; and
- (c) To keep a business-like record of all funds received and disbursed, and to submit such record together with all original orders for and receipts for disbursements at such time as the Chapter may direct.

Section 5 - Chaplain. It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to be the spiritual advisor and to conduct the religious services of the Chapter.

Section 6 - Keeper of Peace. It shall be the duty of the Keeper of Peace to maintain order in **all meetings of the Chapter.**

Section 7 - Chapter Reporter. The duties of the Chapter Reporter shall be:

- (a) To submit all articles from his Chapter to the Editor of the Oracle and the District Director of Public Relations for publication;
- (b) To submit to editors of local newspapers all Chapter news for

publication; and

(c) To carry on such publicity as **the Chapter might** direct, provided that such publicity shall be local in its nature.

Section 8 - Other. The Chapters may elect or appoint such other officers or personnel as are necessary for the management and conduct of their respective affairs.

CHAPTER V

ORGANIZATION COMMITTEES

ARTICLE I

UNDERGRADUATE COUNCIL

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 27

Section 1 - The Undergraduate Council shall consist of the Second Vice Grand Basileus, the three (3) Undergraduate Representatives to the Supreme Council, all Second Vice District Representatives and all registered Undergraduate Brothers at the Grand Conclave.

Section 2 - The Second Vice Grand Basileus shall preside over all sessions of the Undergraduate Council, and if he is unavailable, he shall designate a member of the Undergraduate Council to preside in his absence.

Section 3 - It shall be the duty of the Undergraduate Council to evaluate the programs and activities of Undergraduate Chapters, develop uniform procedures for the conduct of Undergraduate activities and disseminate this information to all Undergraduate Chapters. The Council shall work through and with the respective District Representatives to ensure the implementation of said procedures. The Council shall perform such other duties as assigned by the Supreme Council.

ARTICLE H

THE HOUSING AUTHORITY

Section 1-Personnel: The housing Authority shall consist of five (5) members and two (2) ex-officio members, the same being the Grand Basileus and the Grand Counselor. The Housing Authority shall be appointed by the Grand Basileus with approval of the Supreme Council.

(a) At least one attorney, one real estate broker and one other Brother trained and experienced in matters of finance shall be members of the Housing Authority.

(b) The Supreme Council shall appoint to the Housing Authority a Brother selected from a list submitted by the Undergraduate Council to the Grand Basileus. For the purpose of this section, no more than one (1) seat shall be filled from the nominees submitted by the Undergraduate Council.

(c) The Grand Basileus shall appoint the Chairman of the Housing Authority from the membership of the Authority, with said appointment being effective upon approval by the Supreme Council.

Section 2 - Authority: The Housing Authority is to handle all matters pertaining to Fraternity housing. It is empowered:

(a) To control and supervise the purchase of Chapter Houses in the name of the Fraternity;

- (b) To recommend to the Supreme Council the making of loans to designated Chapters for the purpose of purchasing Chapter houses in the name of local corporations that said Chapters have formed;
- (c) To acquire, by lease or rent, property for housing facilities or places for meetings for Undergraduate Chapters;
- (d) To solicit housing projects and proposals; to explore, initiate and execute same; and

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 28

- (e) To establish criteria, which upon publication, will efficiently and effectively implement its efforts.

Section 3 - The necessary expenses of the Housing Authority shall be deducted from the Housing Authority Fund upon approval of the Supreme Council.

ARTICLE III

THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMISSION

Section 1 - Personnel: The Scholarship Commission shall consist of seven (7) members and two (2) ex-officio members, the same being the Grand Basileus and the Second Vice Grand Basileus. Said Commission shall be appointed by the Grand Basileus with approval of the Supreme Council.

Section 2 - Authority: The Scholarship Commission shall handle all matters pertaining to Fraternity scholarship awards to its members. It is empowered:

- (a) To prepare detailed regulations, policies and announcements for the placing of awards which, prior to publication and activation, shall be made available to the Supreme Council for review;
- (b) To coordinate and supervise the presentation of scholarships in the name of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.;
- (c) To transmit the names of candidates selected for fellowships and scholarships to the Supreme Council with the recommendation that they be the recipients of designated awards; and
- (d) To make available to all Chapters, information on scholarship aid, eligibility criteria, selection and deadlines to various institutions of higher learning.

ARTICLE IV

STANDING COMMITTEES

Section 1 -Authorization: The Fraternity and each of the several Districts shall establish and maintain the following standing committees: **Community and Civic Affairs; History and Archives; Membership; Public Relations; Rules; Social Action and Ways and Means.** When deemed necessary, subcommittees shall be established. Each retiring committee chairman is charged with the duty to turn over immediately all committee documents to his successor.

Section 2 - Regulations: The International Committees and Chairmen thereof shall be appointed by the Grand Basileus with the consent of the Supreme Council.

(a) The District Representative shall appoint the District Committees and Chairmen with the approval and consent of the District Council.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 29

(b) Standing Committees shall be composed of not less than five (5)

members, one of whom shall be an undergraduate.

Section 3 - Duties of Standing Committees: The duties of the Standing Committees are as follows:

(a) COMMUNITY AND CIVIC AFFAIRS - The Community and Civic Affairs Committee shall elect an Omega Man of the Year and a Citizen of the Year, prepare a high school achievement activity, and set up a National Achievement Week Program in which all Chapters should participate during a specifically designated period. Suggested guidelines shall be provided by this Committee for local Chapters. Also, it shall select the Undergraduate and Graduate Chapters of the Year to be recognized at the Grand Conclave.

The Committee shall organize and develop the Talent Hunt Demonstration at the District and Chapter level for final execution and presentation at the Grand Conclave.

(b) HISTORY AND ARCHIVES - The History and Archives Committee shall call upon, inquire of, offer assistance to, and encourage Brothers and their survivors to donate to the Fraternity, for preservation and display, such artifacts and memorabilia as they, in their generosity, may wish the Fraternity to have and keep. The Committee shall convey, at every possible opportunity, the love, thanks and respect of the Grand Basileus, the Supreme Council, and Brothers to these loyal distinguished Brothers and their families whenever contacted. Where feasible, artifacts and memorabilia, when collected, shall be carefully preserved, and, if necessary, restored and they shall be displayed as the Committee so directs.

The Committee shall research and make known the identity, life, practices, accomplishments and worldly contributions of persons of African descent. They shall recommend such action as to give proper recognition to such individuals.

(c) MEMBERSHIP - The Membership Committee shall be responsible for drafting, monitoring and providing such recommendations as are appropriate to insure that the process and guidelines for the entrance of new members into the Fraternity are efficient, effective and adhered to by all members and Chapters.

The Committee shall develop and implement an effective program to reclaim and retain members of the Fraternity. All District Reclamation and Retention Chairmen shall be members of this committee.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 30

(d) PUBLIC RELATIONS - It shall be the duty of the Public Relations Committee to publicize the activities of the Fraternity, internationally and locally, in all fields of human endeavors.

(e) RULES - The Rules Committee shall submit recommendations

to the Grand Conclave for consideration. During the interim of Grand Conclaves, the Committee shall keep the records up to date on these recommendations based as mandates, and shall advise the Grand Basileus and the Supreme Council of their status.

It shall receive from the Executive Director, review and recommend to the Grand Conclave, all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity that are submitted in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws and that it determines are in the best interest of the Fraternity.

In addition, the Committee shall, in consultation with the Executive Director and/or such staff as the Director may assign, identify and upon such determination, certify members of the Fraternity who are eligible for voting at the Grand Conclaves.

(f) SOCIAL ACTION - The Social Action Committee, before entering upon its duties, shall prepare and submit to the Supreme Council for approval a program embracing social issues, including those of International scope, and the manner proposed in dealing with said issues. The Supreme Council, in acting upon said program, shall set forth the Policy of the Fraternity with respect to said international issues for the guidance of the Committee, and a proper budget shall be provided for the operation of the program.

(g) WAYS AND MEANS - In consultation with the Grand Keeper of Finance, the Ways and Means Committee shall be responsible for constructing the proposed budgets for the Fraternity as specified in these Bylaws, and after giving due consideration to the financial needs of each committee, said financial needs being necessary to implement the charges and duties of the several committees, shall make budgetary allocations and collaborate with the Grand Keeper of Finance.

The committee shall investigate and recommend such business opportunities and practices as would improve the fiscal and financial status of the Fraternity and its members.

ARTICLE V

Non-Discrimination Statement

This organization shall not discriminate on the basis of 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 bases under the law, in its activities, programs, admission, and employment.

Sexual Misconduct Policy

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc, expects its members to conduct themselves in a manner that maintains an environment free from sexual misconduct. All members are responsible for adhering to University Policy 1.15, which can be found here: <https://hr.osu.edu/public/documents/policy/>

policy115.pdf. If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleIX.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator at titleIX@osu.edu.

AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS 31

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Grand Conclave.

Section 1 Proposed changes of these By-Laws shall be submitted to the Grand Conclave by written resolution that states an interest to amend these By-Laws.

Section 2 The adoption of a resolution submitted in this manner by a majority vote of the Grand Conclave shall thereby be an amendment to these By-Laws.

Section 3 Amendments to the By-Laws as well as proposed or enacted Constitutional changes, having been prepared and codified by the Executive Director shall by him be mailed within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of the adopting Grand Conclave to each financial chapter.

Section 4 The Grand Keeper of Records and Seal shall cause to be distributed to each financial Chapter and each member of the Supreme Council a copy of these By-Laws and the Constitution, including the most recent amendments, no later than the end of June in each Conclave year.



THE

FOURTH DISTRICT

CODE OF CONDUCT

OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY

To be used as a companion document to the
Omega Psi Phi Member Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy

Version 2.0

Enacted at the 69th Fourth District Meeting

May 1, 2010

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1.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

1. **4/16/2003- Ver. 1.0 adopted and implemented at the 62nd Fourth District Meeting**
2. **4/28/2006-Ver. 1.1 revised and adopted at the 65th Fourth District Meeting**
 - **Title Page Amended**
 - **Rewrite of Rationale**
 - **Addition of a Summary of Changes Page**
 - **Cross reference to the "National" OPPMCCDP**
 - **Amendments to add clarity**
 - **Inserted a new section on 'Wrecking'**
3. **9/30/2006-Ver. 1.1a – grammatical corrections**
 - **Created a table of contents**
 - **Rewrite of Background and Rationale**
 - **Inserted a new section - Obligation of one Brother to another**
4. **4/24/2010-Ver. 2.0 – rewrite and amendments**
 - **Rewrite of all sections**
 - **Inserted a new Section 13 ENFORCEMENT**

2.

BACKGROUND

Following proceedings from the Fourth District meeting in the Fall 2000 at Youngstown State University, the 19th Fourth District Representative, Bro. Albert Jordan directed Bro. Dewey Ortiz, Mu Iota, to form a Code of Conduct Committee along with Bros. Lawrence Tolson, Kappa Tau, and Robert Wilson, Beta Iota, and to present recommendations at the Spring District meeting in 2001, Sydney, Ohio. As a result of the committee's presentation and recommendations the Brotherhood overwhelmingly voted to proceed with the establishment of a formal code of conduct document for the Fourth District. The 4th District Code of Conduct was enacted on April 16, 2002, at the 62nd Annual Fourth District Meeting, Cincinnati, Ohio.

3.

RATIONALE

The Fraternity today is an organization consisting of men with a diversity of life experiences. This diversity is attributed to variances in family structure, college experience, maturity, scholarly attainment, socio-economic background, religious orientation, age, political awareness, regional influence, induction process, and post initiation experience. These factors along with others contribute to the varying views of what it means to be member of this Fraternity which directly relates to conduct and behavior. As a consequence, the current state of diversity within the Brotherhood, created through nearly 100 years of unfettered Fraternal growth, has resulted in a lack of consensus amongst the Brotherhood on what is a standard in terms of behavior and conduct. The Ritual, Constitution and Bylaws, and the MSP process are by design do not deal with conduct and behavior. The Omega Psi Phi Membership Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy provides an overarching framework to draw upon. It is therefore by necessity that a District Code of Conduct had to be developed with the required specificity to serve as a standard reference for behavior and conduct and serve as a companion document to the International Membership Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.

4.

AMENDMENTS AND CHANGES

Any amendments or changes may be presented at the Fall Council for initial review, to be corrected or modified and presented in second draft at the Winter Council for final review, and upon acceptance, incorporated into the Code for presentation at the Annual Council.

5. **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1, Art. I, A,B,C

It is expected that all Brothers of the Fourth District support and uphold the institutionalization of this Code of Conduct and consider it in the same regard as other Fraternal documents such as the Ritual, and Constitution and By-Laws etc. It is further expected that each Brother will support continuing efforts to improve the quality, practicality and applicability of this Code of Conduct.

6. **ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY**

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, B

The Code requires that every Brother be held accountable for his actions as a Brother by every other Brother. Therefore, it is the expectation that every Brother be held responsible for adhering to and upholding the Code of Conduct and brings to the attention of the Brotherhood behavior of any Brother that is inconsistent with the Code of Conduct.

7. **DEFINITION OF “GOOD STANDING”**

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, K,L; Ch.2, Art. III, B

“Good Standing” is defined as being financial in accordance with the local, district and national By-Laws and free from any Fraternity sanction, at the local, district or national level.

8. **MEMBERS THAT ARE NOT FINANCIAL**

The strength of the Fraternity is based upon Brothers who choose to be financial and who actively participate and support Fraternity events, projects and programs. A member of the Fraternity who has not been in good standing by choice for a period of two years or more is to be treated with courtesy and respect but not extended the same rights and privileges as a Brother in good standing. Brothers are encouraged to actively reclaim non-financial members who are free from sanction and solicit their support for Fraternity events. For the sake of maintaining uniformity within the Brotherhood, members who choose to remain non-financial are not to be ‘challenged’, given the ‘grip’ or allowed to participate in any ‘Brothers only’ Fraternal activities. Conversely, challenges or use of the ‘grip’ initiated by members not financial or in good standing should not be acknowledged. However members who are not financial due to exigent circumstances

such as illness or financial distress should be assisted if at all possible to retain their good standing.

9. MEMBERS WHO ARE SUSPENDED OR EXPELLED

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2,Art. VI, Sect. 2

A member of the Fraternity who is under suspension or expulsion is not entitled to be acknowledged and treated in the same manner as a Brother in good standing. A member who is suspended or expelled is to be treated with courtesy and respect. However, a member under suspension or expulsion is not to be 'challenged', given the 'grip', allowed to participate in any 'Brothers only' Fraternity activities, or publically recognized as Brother. Conversely, challenges or use of the 'grip' initiated by expelled or suspended members are not to be acknowledged.

10. STATEMENT ON IRREGULAR INITIATED MEN

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2,Art. III, B

Any man who has suffered through an initiation not sanctioned by the District Representative and conducted by the DR or his duly appointed proxy or whose paperwork has not been submitted, received, acknowledged and processed by the National Headquarters in accordance to the *current membership induction process* is not considered a Brother, a Man of Omega, and is not entitled under any circumstances to the recognition, rights and privileges as such. The Fraternity does not accept nor recognize the legitimacy of any localized or regionalized initiated men as brothers. Such recognition is contrary to the foundation of this Fraternity and mocks the sanctity of the ritual and principles upon which it was founded. It is the responsibility of each Brother in good standing to bring such matters to the attention of the local Basileus, Area Representative and District Representative for appropriate action.

11. PUBLIC APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, ,C,D,E,F,H,I

11.1. Appearance and Behavior in general public:

Every Omega Man, when present in the general public, whether on personal business or fraternity business, will conduct himself in a manner consistent with having a gentlemanly character, good moral repute and social grace.

It is unacceptable for an Omega Man to be attired in any manner considered to be disrespectful, socially offensive or that may cause embarrassment to the Fraternity. When speaking in public Brothers are to refrain from the use of lewd remarks or vulgarity.

A Brother's conduct is to be consistent with one having good manners and social grace. Brothers are expected to refrain from public drunkenness, lewd remarks, the use of vulgarity and any other behavior inconsistent with the ideals of the Fraternity

11.1.1. Appearance and Behavior at official gatherings not sponsored by the Fraternity.

11.1.1.1. Other Greek Events and Civic Organizations

Brothers serve as ambassadors of the Fraternity; the first impression can be a lasting impression. Therefore, Brothers are expected to conduct themselves in a manner expressive of the highest sense of decorum and social etiquette. Brothers are expected to wear attire consistent with the theme of the event or as requested by the sponsor of the event. Wearing of paraphernalia should be reflective of pride and good taste and not in a manner that would embarrass the Fraternity. Brothers are to respect the colors, emblems, insignias and principles of other Greek letter organizations and partake in no action that will berate or belittle their existence or the principles for which they stand.

Brothers are to remember that when attending affairs sponsored by civic organizations they are representing the Fraternity in the company of those that may or may not be familiar with this Fraternity or Greek Letter organizations. When in public, Brothers should greet one another with a firm handshake acknowledging each other's presence, and should refrain from using the grip.

11.1.1.2. Politically oriented events

It is the responsibility of each Brother to ensure that any personal view expressed, political position endorsed, or support of any particular candidate is not construed or interpreted as that of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Brothers are to remember that the Chapter or District does not endorse any particular candidate or political party. However, we are duty bound to participate in the political process as citizens of this country who happen to be members of this Fraternity. .

11.1.2. Appearance and Behavior at formal social gatherings sponsored by the Fraternity.

11.1.2.1. Formal Gatherings, Dances and/or Dinner

Brothers are to dress in accordance to the theme of the event, whether strictly formal or after five. The wearing of dress medallions or lapel pins are acceptable. The "wearing of the Pearls" is to be done in accordance with the directions prescribed in the writ.

11.1.2.2. Informal Gatherings, Dances and/or Dinner

For non-casual events, such as after five or business casual, it is inappropriate for Brothers to wear tee shirts, sweatshirts, jackets or casual headwear.

11.1.3. Appearance and Behavior at non-formal social gatherings sponsored by the Fraternity.

11.1.3.1. Parties/Dances

In the case where the event is informal and not casual, Brothers are expected to wear suits with the donning of dress medallions or lapel pins being acceptable. If the occasion is casual then Brothers are expected to dress in good taste and not wear or display paraphernalia with vulgarity or images inconsistent with the ideals of the Fraternity. Brothers are to conduct themselves as gentlemen and refrain from being overly loud and engaging in the use of vulgarity or acting in a manner that could bring embarrassment not only to themselves but to the Fraternity.

11.1.3.2. Public/Social Projects

Performing a public or social project and the conduct displayed while doing so goes hand and hand. Brothers are to refrain from any behavior that would devalue the positive impact of a project has to the public. While wearing of paraphernalia may be appropriate it should be done exhibiting good taste. Negative images, lewd phrases or any display that would bring embarrassment to the Fraternity is prohibited.

11.1.3.3. "Hop Show or Stepping"

Step routines are to be in good taste, exhibiting artistic ability, imagination and physical agility and performed in a manner that would not draw embarrassment unto themselves or the Fraternity. Any songs or routines considered vulgar or degrading to other groups, persons or things are prohibited. Members who not financial or under sanction *are prohibited* to participate.

12. CONDUCT WITHIN THE BROTHERHOOD

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.1,Art. I, ,B,C,D,E,F,H,I,J

12.1. Conclave/District Meeting/Conference

All active Brothers are strongly encouraged to plan ahead to attend district level meetings, *Conclaves and Conferences*. Brothers are expected to be punctual at all meetings and wear a suit or sport coat with dress shirt and tie. Brothers are expected to conduct themselves as gentlemen at all times and respect the wishes of the chair. During proceedings, Brothers are to operate in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, respect the right of dissent and debate on the merits of argument and not personality.

12.2. Use of the ‘challenge’

The use of the ‘challenge’ is to be used with the utmost discretion and only in accordance with the manner prescribed in the ritual. When in public or in mixed company, the challenge is to be given in close proximity to the inquirer in a manner to preclude eavesdropping and not draw attention to the act or discussion. If a Brother is satisfied after examination then he is to acknowledge his newfound associate as a Brother and conduct business accordingly. On the other hand, if a Brother is not satisfied after examination he is to acknowledge the individual with courtesy and respect and treat him as any other non-fraternal member. Under no circumstances is to enter prolonged examination discussion with another person, to do so is an act of indiscretion. Later, if the opportunity presents itself, the Brother may upon exercising utmost discretion, continue the examination to reach a more discernable conclusion. Again, engaging in prolonged examination is prohibited.

12.3. Use of the ‘grip’

The grip is the Fraternity’s unique handshake used by Brothers as a form of recognition within the Fraternity, to affirm friendship and to establish mutual trust between one another. The use of the grip as described in the ritual is to be rendered only to a Brother that has been properly initiated into the Fraternity AND in good standing. Any Brother that has been suspended or expelled is not to be given the grip. Members, who have been inactive more than two years, could be extended this privilege as a conciliatory act to reclaim a member. However, inactive members that choose to remain inactive and is generally known within the Brotherhood should not be extended the grip. The grip is to be given with solemnity and in a discrete manner while in an upright position to ensure the “act” remains obscure from public observation. It should not be given carelessly or in a reckless fashion as to draw undue attention unto the act; to do so will detract from the reverence for which it was intended. When in mixed company a firm handshake given in the appropriate manner will suffice.

12.4. Interacting with Brothers in Public

Brothers are to treat each other with respect at all times and conduct themselves as gentlemen under the banner of friendship. Because so much attention is given to how Brothers act and treat one another in public, Brothers are to refrain from any and all activity that is irreverent, lewd and unbecoming. Brothers are to avoid arguing amongst one another in public. Negative physicality, aggressive or threatening behavior between Brothers is prohibited. If a Brother is acting in an inappropriate manner it is the duty of an observing Brother to discretely inform the offending Brother of his inappropriate behavior. The offending Brother on the other hand is duty bound to heed to Brotherly consultation. Failure of an offending Brother to heed the consultation of another could fall under the scrutiny of general Brotherhood and subject to disciplinary action.

12.5. Interacting with Brothers in closed meetings

Brothers are free to discuss private or internal business matters within a closed environment. In meetings that have a chair, Brothers are to adhere to generally accepted parliamentary procedure and respect governance from the chair. In matters of debate or discussion, Brothers are to respect the difference of opinions and allow for the expression of dissenting viewpoints. Brothers when expressing themselves should do so using common business discourse and refrain from the use of vulgarity and slang. Brothers are to refrain from personal attacks on other Brothers, grandstanding or frivolous debate.

12.6. Obligation of one Brother to another

Each Brother is obligated to protect the honor and reputation of his fellow Brother. A Brother is forbidden to enter a covetous relationship with the wife or significant other of another Brother. A Brother is to refrain from entering into any personal relationship with an ex-wife, former significant other; sister, daughter or any other female relation of another Brother if by doing so will cause consternation or disrupt the fraternal bond of friendship and trust between the two.

12.7. The notion of “wrecking” or “taking it to the green”

Any behavior or action where two or more brothers engage in a form of wrestling or physical confrontation as a rite of passage to attain recognition, respect, or legitimacy for being a member of this fraternity is antithetical to the concept of Brotherhood and Friendship. **“Wrecking” is defined as a one sided act of violence levied against a brother, additionally the communicating of such action (intent) is considered a threat. Although “taking it to the green” may be considered a mutual act by those engaging in such an act, “taking it to the green” along with “wrecking” is considered inappropriate behavior and is therefore forbidden as an acceptable form of behavior.** Such behavior is not in the context as envisioned by the Founding Fathers; it is not the way men of like ideals and aspirations garnered by moral fiber and scholarly attainment, under the banner of friendship behave with one another. Any member duly initiated into this fraternity does not have to prove his worthiness as a ‘Brother’ by engaging in such negative behavior. On the contrary, Brothers are encouraged to openly communicate with, share information amongst and educate one another under the banner of friendship and fraternal love. We are our brother’s keeper, and any Brother who engages in “Wrecking” or “taking it to the green” or similar acts or threatens another brother with such action is subject to immediate suspension with the possibility of expulsion.

12.8. **Dealing with Brothers exhibiting inappropriate behavior**

Every duly initiated and active Brother is empowered to protect the integrity and honor of the Fraternity at all times. It is the duty of every Brother to ensure that a Brother's behavior is in accordance with the Code. If a Brother finds cause to address another Brother on his behavior, he should do so with utmost discretion by reminding him that his behavior may be inappropriate for the given occasion, however by no means a Brother, in an attempt to address inappropriate behavior of another, is to escalate the situation that could cause further embarrassment to the Fraternity.

13. **ENFORCEMENT**

A Brother with just cause is duty bound to bring breaches of this Code of Conduct to the attention of the chapter Basileus. The local Basileus is responsible to *hear* all complaints or accusations of violations of the Code. If upon inquiry, the Basileus finds merit in a complaint or accusation it will be his duty to discharge the matter in a manner satisfactory to the local body. If an accused Brother is member of another chapter, the local Basileus shall contact the chapter Basileus of the accused for remediation. If the Basileus determines that a violation is egregious enough or beyond his authority/jurisdiction he shall refer the matter to the District Representative for review and action. Charges of violations of the Code for District Officers while in the performance of their office must be presented to the DR. Charges against the DR must be brought to the attention of the FVDR who in this case will be the chief authority for the District in handling this matter.

14. **RIGHT TO REDRESS**

REF: OPPMCCDP Ch.2

A Brother with cause may grieve to the fraternal body for redress of a charge of violating the Code of Conduct. The DR will handle the matter in manner appropriate to his office and within the guidelines specified for such situations as defined by the National Code of Conduct, Omega Psi Phi Member Code of Conduct and Disciplinary Policy, Chapter 2.

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