

**Constitution of Xi Sigma Pi – Alpha Psi Chapter**  
Updated October 2024

***Article I - Name, Purpose, and Non-Discrimination Policy of the Organization.***

**Section 1 - Name:** Xi Sigma Pi – Alpha Psi Chapter

**Section 2 – Purpose:** The objectives of this organization shall be to secure and maintain a high standard of scholarship in forest resources management education, to work for the improvement of the forest resources management profession, and to promote a fraternal spirit among those engaged in activities related to the forest resources.

**Section 3 - Non-Discrimination Policy:** Xi Sigma Pi does not discriminate on the basis 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.

As a student organization at The Ohio State University, Xi Sigma Pi 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](mailto:titleIX@osu.edu).

***Article II - Membership: Qualifications and categories of membership.***

**Section 1 – Restrictions:** This organization restricts membership to students, faculty, and staff of The Ohio State University. Students must be registered in a forestry or other natural resource focused curriculum. Faculty and staff must be engaged in teaching, research, or extension work related to forestry or other natural resources.

**Section 2 – Eligibility:** To be eligible to join, the student must maintain a cumulative GPA at or above 3.5 out of a possible 4.0 and be no more than 2 years away from their expected graduation date. Graduate students must be studying forestry or another natural resource subject and have completed at least one semester of course work at The Ohio State University.

Beyond scholastic achievement, a student must show creditable interest in their curriculum and show promise of attaining high professional achievement. The student must show a strong character in the following traits:

- Honesty
- Morality
- Industry
- Willingness to cooperate
- Friendliness
- Dependability
- Leadership

**Section 3 – Procedure to Join:** At least once a year, the executive committee will identify those students who meet the scholastic eligibility requirements. These students will be invited to join the organization. The current members, including faculty and staff, will meet to discuss the character of those students wishing to join the organization. The candidate shall be made a member by three-fourths affirmative vote. Election of students shall be conferred solely on the basis of character and specified eligibility, and shall

be irrespective of membership in or affiliation with other organizations and associations. A chapter may not pressure a student to join, nor may it entice a student.

#### **Section 4 - Benefits**

##### **Article III – Methods for Removing Members and Executive Officers**

III.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.

III.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.

III.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), the executive board, in consultation with the organization’s advisor, may vote to temporarily suspend a member or executive officer.

**Article IV - Organization Leadership:** *Titles, terms of office, type of selection, and duties of the leaders.* Organization leaders represent the Executive Committee and general membership and are elected or appointed from the ranks of the organization’s voting membership. The titles of organization leaders, the length of terms, specification as to which leaders are elected or appointed and by whom, and the general duties of each leadership position should be clearly specified.

**Section 1- Structure:** The officers of this organization that make up the executive committee are the following:

Forester  
Associate Forester  
Secretary-Fiscal Agent  
Forest Ranger

**Section 2 – Duties:** The Forester is the executive head of the chapter and shall have those duties that usually pertain to such an office. The Associate Forester shall fill the position of the Forester in the latter’s absence. The Secretary-Fiscal Agent will be the secretary and treasurer of the organization, responsible for note taking and fiscal duties among others. The Forest Ranger is responsible for preparing and organizing the students wishing to join the organization.

**Section 3 – Restrictions:** Officers shall serve for 1 year at a time, corresponding to the typical academic year. Any student is restricted to only serving two total terms as any officer.

**Article V- Election Leadership:** Student members shall elect the executive committee from student members at the last meeting of the academic year. This election will be open to all, and officers will be elected by a majority of the vote through a verbal tally. At least half of the current membership must be present at this election. In the case of impeachment, resignation, or other vacancy of office, the remaining executive committee members must call a special election within 1 month of the vacancy to elect the vacant position. This election will follow the same rules as the yearly election.

**Article VI - Executive Committee:** The Executive Committee is composed of the aforementioned officers as well as any additional officers as needed. The committee represents the general membership, conducts business of the organization between general meetings of the membership, and reports its actions at the general meetings of the membership.

**Article VII – Advisor(s):** The advisor(s) must be a faculty or staff member of the organization. The advisor(s) will be responsible for providing strategic guidance and fulfilling administrative duties as needed.

**Article VIII– Meetings and events of the Organization:** There must be at least one initiation procedure per academic year to initiate the candidates to join the organization. It is optimal to have an initiation procedure twice a year, once in the fall and once in the spring

**Article IX – Attendees of Events of the Organization:** The organization reserves the right to address member or event attendee behavior where the member or event attendee’s behavior is disruptive or otherwise not in alignment with the organization’s constitution.

**Article X – Method of Amending Constitution: Proposals, notice, and voting requirements.**

**Section 1. Proposing amendments:** Proposed amendments to the constitution will be brought to the organization’s attention in writing either via email to all the members or in a meeting. A member wishing to propose an amendment to the constitution may submit the proposed amendments for comments. The proposed amendments must be disseminated to the club through email at least one week before a formal vote can be called at the next large group meeting.

**Section 2. Voting on amendments:** Voting to amend the constitution must occur in person, with at least 10 members, or 75% of current voting members attending - whichever number is less, with a quorum of 75% of the current voting membership.

**Section 3. Passing amendments:** For the amendment to pass, it must receive at least 66% support from all voting members. If the vote supports the proposal, then it will be reviewed by the executive committee and either affirmed or vetoed. If the proposal is vetoed by the executive committee, then it may be voted on a second time. At least 10 members, or at this vote, 75% of current members - whichever is less - must be present, and at least 90% of voting members must vote to support the proposal in order for it to become an amendment. If a second vote occurs and fewer than 90% of members support the proposal, then it must be re-introduced according to Article X Section 1.

**Article XI – Method of Dissolution of Organization**

**Section 1. Criteria for Dissolution:** The organization may not be dissolved unless there are fewer than 4 active members. If there are fewer than 4 active members, the organization may face dissolution if no other members join within the academic term. If the organization has fewer than 4 members for the duration of an academic term, then it must dissolve itself either through act of the Forester or the Advisor.

**Section 2. Steps for Dissolution:** If the organization must be dissolved, then the assets and debts will be managed as follows: upon dissolution, any assets must be liquidated and donated to the School of Environment and Natural Resources, and any debts must be settled by the Forester and Secretary-Fiscal Officer.