

## **BY-LAWS**

### Louisiana State University Chapter (Beta of Louisiana)

#### PHI BETA KAPPA

#### Article 1. Officers and Organization

##### Section 1. The membership of the chapter includes:

- a. Charter Members: the Phi Beta Kappa members of the Faculty to whom the charter of the chapter was granted
- b. Resident Members: members of our chapter, as well as other chapters, who become members of the Faculty, or Staff, or officers of the Administration of Louisiana State University
- c. Members in Course: all members of the chapter elected as undergraduates
- d. Alumni Members: graduates of Louisiana State University elected in recognition of scholarly achievement after graduation
- e. Honorary Members: non-graduates of Louisiana State University chosen on the same basis as alumni members

Section 2. The officers of the chapter shall be a President, a Vice-president, a Secretary, Treasurer and a Historian. Officers shall be elected for a one-year term at the annual meeting by majority vote. The President and Vice-president shall be ineligible for election to more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the retiring President and the elected officers. The President may appoint an additional (optional) member. The additional member may be an undergraduate student member. The Executive Committee shall have authority to conduct the affairs of the chapter between meetings, subject to instruction from the chapter and serve as otherwise specifically provided in these by-laws.

Section 4. The Committee on Members in Course shall be composed of at

least four Faculty members of the chapter and Secretary of the chapter ex officio. Membership on the committee shall be limited to Faculty members of the chapter who are giving instruction in liberal studies as defined in the chapter constitution, so chosen as to give equitable representation to the humanities, the social studies, and the sciences.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for considering persons nominated for officers for the ensuing year, persons proposed for election to alumni and honorary membership, and for reviewing the accounts of the Treasurer, which are reported at the annual meeting. However, the Executive Committee has the prerogative, if it chooses, to appoint a special committee to perform each of these functions.

Section 6. Special committees shall be appointed by the President or the Executive Committee.

## Article II. Meetings

Section 1. Arrangements for the annual meeting and for other regular meetings shall be made by the Executive Committee. At the annual meeting, the normal order of business shall be as follows:

- a. Call to order
- b. Reading of the minutes of the preceding annual and of intervening business meetings
- c. Report of the Executive Committee
- d. Report of the Treasurer
- e. Reports of other committees, including the Committee on Members in Course
- f. Consideration of communications from the United Chapters
- g. Old business
- h. New business
- i. Election of officers
- j. Adjournment

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee, and shall be called upon written request of four members. At a special meeting, no business shall be transacted other than that stated in the notice of the meeting.

Section 3. Written notice of meetings shall be sent to all resident members of the chapter by the Secretary at least two academic weeks (ten class days) in advance of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and the business to be considered. At the discretion of the secretary, meeting notices may be sent electronically instead of in writing, provided that such notice is sent to all resident members.

Section 4. A quorum at meetings shall consist of six resident members.

Section 5. Any vote shall be by secret ballot if requested by any member present.

Section 6. Locally-resident members of other chapters who do not qualify for Resident Membership as defined in Article 1, Section 1, of these by-laws may be invited to any meeting, but they shall not participate in the transaction of business.

### Article III. Election and Admission of New Members

Section 1. Members in course shall be elected primarily on the basis of broad cultural interests, scholarly achievement, and good character. Juniors and seniors who are enrolled at Louisiana State University and who are candidates for a liberal bachelor's degree shall be eligible for consideration if their undergraduate record fulfills the following minimum requirements:

- a. The candidate shall be majoring in liberal subjects and studies and be taking a course program expected to include not less than 75% of the semester hours required to graduate with the liberal bachelor's degree.
- b. The candidate shall have completed at least three full semesters and at least 48 semester hours of work in residence at Louisiana State University, and be fully registered for the fourth semester. Except for summer sessions, three completed semesters shall not have been interrupted by attendance at another institution of higher learning, nor shall there be such an interruption before the fourth semester mentioned herein. [For the purpose of this paragraph, attendance at a non-U.S. institution, as in LSU Academic Programs Abroad, shall not be considered an interruption of attendance.]
- c. For election as a junior, the candidate shall have completed at least 75 semester hours of earned college work. The caliber of his work should be of

exceptional distinction, including, for all graded work (except as indicated in "e" below) a grade-point average of at least 3.90 on a 4-point scale. The minimum grade-point average for election as a senior shall be 3.6.

d. Students electing a combined curriculum in such fields as law, medicine, dentistry, or engineering may be considered if they have completed at least 90 semester hours of liberal work and have fulfilled at least half of the regular curricular requirements for the liberal bachelor's degree.

e. Grades earned in applied or professional work shall not be counted in computing the grade-point average for purpose of gaining eligibility. Applied and professional work shall be understood to include all training intended to develop skill or vocational techniques in such fields as business administration, education, engineering, home economics, journalism, library science, military science, military and air science, physical education, secretarial science, speech, and applied art and music.

f. Weight shall be given to the breadth of the program of each candidate as shown by the number and variety of courses taken outside his major. Weight shall also be given to balance and proportion in the candidate's degree program as a whole.

g. Candidates shall have demonstrated a knowledge of mathematics and of a foreign language at least minimally appropriate for a liberal education.

h. Ordinarily, the stipulations in paragraphs a. (a course program...of liberal work), f. (breadth of program), and g. (math and foreign language) should be met by a course of study satisfying the 39-hour General Education Requirements and, in addition, a distribution of courses within the free elective hours available to a given major that, in the judgment of the Committee on Members in Course, demonstrates an interest in a broad, liberal education. The additional expectations include the following:

1. The humanities component (of the General Education Requirements) should include two courses in English or American Literature. Unusual strength in courses in literature in a foreign language in which a student is not majoring may also satisfy this requirement. In this and later sections, unusual strength means a selection of courses that, in the opinion of the Members in Course Committee, demonstrates a commitment to rigor and/or knowledge in depth.

2. The Natural Sciences component should contain at least six semester hours of a life science and six semester hours of a physical science, and two additional semester hours of laboratory credit should be earned, for a minimum of 14 total credit hours. Unusual strength in a life science or a physical science or a science plus mathematics outside the student's major may also satisfy this requirement.

3. The Humanities and Social Sciences components should contain at least two courses at the 3000 level or above in two different areas outside the student's major. Unusual strength in a single humanities area or a single social sciences area outside the student's major may also satisfy this requirement.

4. The course of study should include the completion of the basic course of study in a foreign language. Additional work in foreign languages is highly desirable.

5. There should be no pattern of dropping courses on a regular basis, or of dropping required courses. Withdrawal from the university under conditions requiring the granting of W grades will not count against the student if it happens one time. The apparent dropping of courses to maintain a high GPA may be grounds for non-nomination to membership.

Section 2. Subject to other provisions of the chapter constitution and these by-laws, students who complete their undergraduate degree at the end of the summer session and become eligible at that time may be considered with the eligible group of the next academic year.

Section 3. The number of undergraduates elected from any class, including those who may be elected as juniors, shall not exceed ten percent of the undergraduates expected to receive the liberal bachelor's degree in that class. A maximum of one-fifth of the members elected from any class may be elected on the basis of junior standing.

Section 4. Election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa is wholly within the discretion of the members of this chapter, subject only to the limitations imposed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Chapter, and no right to election shall adhere to any student solely by reason of fulfillment of the minimum grade-point average for election to membership in course.

Section 5. Nominations for membership in course shall be made by the Committee on Members in Course. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the resident members present. Candidates considered but not recommended by the Committee may be nominated from the floor; but in such cases an affirmative vote by four-fifths of the resident members present shall be required for election. Elections shall continue until ended by the passage of a motion from the floor or until a quota, determined in advance of the balloting, has been reached.

Section 6. Nominations for election to alumni membership shall be referred to the Committee on Alumni and Honorary Members, or if such a committee has not been appointed, the matter shall be referred to the Executive Committee. No nomination for Alumni membership shall be brought before the chapter for action unless favorably reported by the committee. The committee shall be guided by criteria defined in Article III, Section 5 and 6, of the chapter constitution: and committee recommendations shall include a written statement of the qualifications of each nominee. Election shall be by secret ballot; two negative votes shall serve to reject. No more than two alumni members may be elected in any year, no more than four in any triennium

Section 7. Procedures for the nomination and election of honorary members shall be the same as for alumni members, except that one negative vote shall serve to reject. A statement of the qualifications of each candidate elected to honorary membership shall be sent to the national office as provided in Article III, Section 10, of the chapter constitution. No graduate of another institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa shall be recommended for election without the consent of that chapter. No more than two honorary members may be elected in any triennial.

Section 8. Provision shall normally be made for initiating new members in course. At its discretion, the Executive Committee may waive the initiation of an alumnus or honorary member.

Section 9. Since good moral character is a qualification for membership, any member of the chapter found, after being given due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to have lost this qualification may be expelled from Phi Beta Kappa by a four-fifths vote of the resident members present at the annual meeting. The name of any member so expelled shall be reported to

the Secretary of the Society, with a statement of the grounds for the action.

#### Article IV. Fees

Section 1. The initiation fee for members in course shall be determined by the Executive Committee. It shall cover, at a minimum, the registration and Council Fund payments to the Society. The chapter shall be responsible for registration and Council Fund payments for honorary members, who shall pay no initiation fee.

Section 2. Payment of the initiation fee shall be regarded as formal acceptance of election and shall be made before initiation.

Section 3. Resident members of the chapter, exclusive of professors emeriti and undergraduate members, shall pay annual dues whose amount shall be determined by the Executive Committee, for the period from annual meeting to annual meeting. Any member who falls more than one year behind in his dues shall lose his voting privilege.

Section 4. Special assessments may be levied against resident members by majority vote of the members present at any meeting, provided that written notice of the intention to propose such an assessment is given in the announcement of the meeting.

Section 5. Registration and Council Fund payments shall be forwarded by the chapter Treasurer to the Treasurer of the Society in accordance with Article IV of the By-Laws of the Society.

#### Article V. Amendments

Amendments to these by-laws, not inconsistent with the Constitution and other lawful regulations of the Society, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the resident members present at any regular meeting, either upon motion presented and tabled at the preceding regular or special meeting, or upon condition that written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to all resident members at least three academic weeks in advance of the meeting. All amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Senate of the United Chapters.

Revised by LSU Chapter March 8, 2013; Approved by PBK National May 10, 2013.