

# **DRAFT for the Chapter Meeting, Fall 2015**

## **BYLAWS of the Epsilon Chapter of Connecticut**

### **Article I. 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 was granted;
- b) Resident Members: members of other chapters who become members of the faculty or staff of the University of Connecticut;
- c) Members in Course: all members of the chapter elected as undergraduates or as graduate students;
- d) Alumni/ae Members: graduates of the University of Connecticut elected in recognition of scholarly achievement after graduation;
- e) Honorary Members: non-graduates of the University of Connecticut chosen on the same basis as alumni members.

Section 2. Members of the chapter who hold faculty or staff positions at the University of Connecticut shall constitute the resident membership, together with members in course on campus. Other members of the chapter shall have full membership privileges, except the privilege of voting on candidates for election to membership and on amendments to these bylaws.

Section 3. The officers of the chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer), and a Historian. Officers shall be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting. The President and Vice-President shall be ineligible for election to more than two consecutive terms in the same office.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the retiring President and the elected officers: one additional member may be appointed by the President. The appointed member may be an undergraduate or graduate student member of the chapter. The Executive Committee shall have authority to conduct the affairs of the chapter between meetings, subject to instruction from the chapter and save as otherwise specifically provided in these bylaws.

Section 5. 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:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding annual meeting and of intervening business meetings
3. Report of the Executive Committee
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Election of New Members
6. Reports of Committees
7. Unfinished business
8. Consideration of communications from the Society
9. New business
10. Election of Officers
11. Adjournment

Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee, and shall be called upon written request by four members. At the 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 by the Secretary to all resident members of the chapter at least one week in advance of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and the business to be considered.

Section 4. A quorum at meetings shall consist of ten (or other appropriate number) resident members.

Section 5. Any vote shall be by secret ballot if requested by one or more of the members present.

Section 6. Members of other chapters living in the area who do not qualify for Membership as defined in Article I, Section 1, of these bylaws 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. Each spring, members in course shall be elected as juniors and seniors primarily on the basis of broad cultural interests, scholarly achievement, and good character.

a) Candidates shall be expected to have three-fourths of their undergraduate coursework consist of liberal work. The liberal arts and sciences encompass the traditional disciplines of the natural sciences, mathematics, social sciences, and humanities. Select courses in other programs of study may be included only if they unambiguously embody the liberal arts and sciences. Grades earned in applied or professional work shall not be counted toward the liberal arts credit requirement. Applied and professional work shall be understood to include all training intended to develop skills or vocational techniques.

b) Students filing the application for degree by the fourth week of the spring semester will be considered for election as seniors. (Students applying after this deadline will be considered the following year.) To qualify for election as a senior, the candidate must have a minimum grade point average of 3.7, using the University of Connecticut undergraduate point scale; 60 earned or in-progress credits at the University of Connecticut (excluding transfer and advanced placement credits); and 90 earned or in-progress credits of liberal work. Faculty members may nominate students for consideration, but the determination is made by the Chapter

c) Students who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to academic excellence in the liberal arts may qualify for election as juniors. To qualify for election as a junior, the candidate must have a minimum grade point average of 3.8, using the University of Connecticut undergraduate point scale; 70 earned credits at the University of Connecticut (excluding transfer and advanced placement credits); and 75 earned credits of liberal work. Faculty members may nominate students for consideration, but the determination is made by the Chapter

d) Candidates shall demonstrate the *breadth* of their academic programs through a minimum of 36 credits in liberal work above the 1000-level in the four divisions (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics; courses listed in Appendix), with no more than 14 credits counted in any one division.

e) Candidates shall demonstrate the *depth* of their academic programs through liberal work of at least 36 credits at or above above the 2000-level in one of the four divisions (social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, and mathematics). Additional consideration will be given to honors courses, an honors thesis, and undergraduate research.

f) Candidates shall have demonstrated a knowledge of mathematics through at least three University of Connecticut Q (Quantitative) Courses.

g) Candidates shall have demonstrated a knowledge of a foreign language at least through the intermediate-level year by fulfilling the University of Connecticut language requirement before matriculation or completing the final course of the intermediate year in college

h) A pattern of course withdrawals on a regular basis and/or repeated grade forgiveness substitutions may be grounds for non-nomination to membership.

i) As the ideals of academic excellence depend entirely upon personal honesty and civil interaction, anyone who has been shown to have knowingly and significantly violated the canons of academic integrity or who has been found responsible, in civil or criminal court, or in an authorized due process of campus governance, for fraud, deceit, or the violation of the rights of others shall be ineligible for membership. This stipulation shall not be used to require other specific personal or private moral conviction or behavior.

Section 2. The number of undergraduates elected from any class, including those who may be elected as juniors, shall ordinarily not exceed ten percent, and in no case shall exceed fifteen 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 3. 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 bylaws of the chapter, and no right to election shall adhere to any student solely by reason of fulfillment of the minimum qualifications for election to membership in course.

Section 4. Graduate students shall be elected to membership in course only in strict accord with the provisions of the chapter constitution. The number of graduate students elected in any year shall ordinarily be limited to a maximum of five percent of the candidates for doctor's degrees in liberal fields.

Section 5. Nominations for membership in course shall be made by the Executive Committee. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the qualified members present. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor; but in such cases an affirmative vote by four-fifths of the qualified 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/ae membership shall be referred to the Executive Committee. No nomination for alumni/ae 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, nor more than four in any triennium.

Section 7. Procedures for the nomination and election of honorary members shall be the same as for alumni/ae 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 Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, 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 unless the parent chapter has been notified and has raised no objection within a two-month period. A substantial explanation should accompany any negative response from the parent chapter. No more than two

honorary members may be elected in any triennium.

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

Section 9. Since good 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 qualified members present at the annual meeting. The name of any member so expelled shall be reported to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, with a statement of the grounds for the action.

#### **Article IV. Fees**

Section 1. The initiation for members in course and for alumni members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. It shall cover, as a minimum, a ticket to the initiation banquet and 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. Members in course and alumni/ae members may wish to purchase a key and to take out an initial subscription to **The American Scholar** at the special introductory rate for new members.

Section 4. Resident members of the chapter, exclusive of professors emeriti and undergraduate members, may pay annual dues at a rate set by the Executive Committee and reported to the chapter.

Section 5. 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 6. Registration and Council Fund payments shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the Treasurer of the Phi Beta Kappa Society in accordance with Article IV of the Bylaws of the Society.

#### **Article V. Amendments**

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