

CONSTITUTION OF THE SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE 3
ARTICLE I -- NAME AND OBJECT..... 3
ARTICLE II -- ORGANIZATION 3
ARTICLE III -- LEGISLATIVE 3
ARTICLE IV -- JUDICIAL..... 5
ARTICLE V -- EXECUTIVE..... 5
ARTICLE VI -- PLEDGES AND MEMBERS 7
ARTICLE VII -- ACTIVE CHAPTERS 8
ARTICLE VIII -- ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS 9
ARTICLE IX -- FINANCES 9
ARTICLE X -- LAWS..... 10
ARTICLE XI -- AMENDMENTS..... 11

1 **PREAMBLE**

2 In order to advance the interests of the Engineering Profession and to create a greater
3 spirit of cooperation and Brotherhood among the students, faculty and alumni of the
4 various colleges and universities of the world, we do ordain and establish this
5 Constitution.

6 **ARTICLE I -- NAME AND OBJECT**

7 *Section 1.* The name of this organization shall be the SIGMA PHI DELTA FRATERNITY.

8 *Section 2.* The object of the Fraternity shall be to promote the advancement of the
9 Engineering Profession; to foster the advancement of Engineering Education; to instill a
10 greater spirit of cooperation among Engineering students and organizations; to inculcate
11 in its members the highest ideals of Virtuous manhood, good Citizenship, obedience to
12 Law, and Brotherhood; and to encourage excellence in Scholarship.

13 **ARTICLE II -- ORGANIZATION**

14 *Section 1.* The Fraternity shall consist of such persons as have been or shall be duly
15 initiated into membership.

16 *Section 2.* The members of the Fraternity shall be organized into such units as are
17 hereinafter provided.

18 *Section 3.* The Active Chapters, Alumni Chapters and Colonies of the Fraternity shall be
19 grouped geographically into Provinces, which shall be provided for by Law.

20 *Section 4.* The general government of the Fraternity shall consist of a General Convention,
21 a Supreme Council, and any other units provided for by Law.

22 **ARTICLE III -- LEGISLATIVE**

23 *Section 1.* The supreme legislative power of the Fraternity shall rest in the General
24 Convention, which shall be a continuous body. Regular sessions of the General
25 Convention shall be held every odd year. Upon call of the Grand President, approved by
26 3/4th of the members of the General Convention, special sessions may be held and shall
27 have full power to act in all matters. The General Convention may transact any business
28 by correspondence.

29 *Section 2.* The General Convention shall consist of the following:

30 (a) The Members of the Supreme Council

31 (b) One member from each Active Chapter in good standing

32 (c) One member from each Alumni Chapter in good standing.

33 The term of office for members from Active Chapters or Alumni Chapters shall be for the
 34 same period as the term for officers of the Chapter. Each member of the Convention shall
 35 have 1 vote, except that only members from Active and Alumni Chapters shall be allowed
 36 to vote on assessments to be levied against their own Chapters.

37 *Section 3.* A majority of all votes shall be required to approve all matters brought before
 38 the General Convention, unless otherwise specified. For sessions of the General
 39 Convention, a quorum shall consist of 2/3rd of the members representing the Active
 40 Chapters and 2 members of the Supreme Council. All business outside of regular sessions
 41 of the General Convention shall be transacted by email. Failure to return the official ballot
 42 within 30 days will cause said ballot to be counted as an affirmative (YES) vote.

43 *Section 4.* The Supreme Council shall have legislative powers subordinate to those of the
 44 General Convention, and subject to the Laws of the Fraternity, it may transact business
 45 at meetings of the members or by email. A majority vote of the members shall be required
 46 to approve all actions of the Supreme Council unless otherwise provided for by Law.
 47 Failure to return an email ballot within 28 days will cause the ballot to be counted as an
 48 affirmative (YES) vote.

49 *Section 5.* The Supreme Council shall consist of the following:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 50 | (1) The Grand President | ELECTED |
| 51 | (2) The Grand Vice-President | ELECTED |
| 52 | (3) The Executive Secretary (Ex-officio with vote) | APPOINTED |
| 53 | (4) The Treasurer (Ex-officio with vote) | APPOINTED |
| 54 | (5) The Western Province Director | ELECTED |
| 55 | (6) The Central Province Director | ELECTED |
| 56 | (7) The Eastern Province Director | ELECTED |
| 57 | (8) The Director of Chapter Development | ELECTED |
| 58 | (9) The Director of Alumni Relations | ELECTED |

59 The Grand President, the Grand Vice-President, the Director of Chapter Development,
 60 and the Director of Alumni Relations shall be elected at the regular sessions of the General
 61 Convention from open nominations. They shall take office on the 1st day of January next
 62 succeeding their elections and shall hold office for 2 years, or until their successors shall
 63 have been duly installed.

64 *Section 6.* Members of the Supreme Council may be recalled for failure to perform the
65 duties of office by a 3/4th vote of the members of the General Convention. The Grand
66 President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, which must be approved by the General
67 Convention.

68 *Section 7.* In cases of Supreme Council Officer vacancies caused by resignation, the Grand
69 President shall fill the vacancy by appointment, which must be approved by a 3/4th vote
70 of the members of the Supreme Council.

71 **ARTICLE IV -- JUDICIAL**

72 *Section 1.* The supreme judicial power of the Fraternity shall rest in the General
73 Convention.

74 *Section 2.* Every member of the Fraternity is under the original jurisdiction of the Active
75 Chapter of which he is or was last a member. Charges must be filed against a member with
76 a body having original jurisdiction, except that a change of venue may be ordered by the
77 General Convention when the parties will be better served or when it is shown that an
78 impartial trial cannot be conducted by the Active Chapter of the accused. Trial in this case
79 may be before a special commission of 3 members appointed by the General Convention
80 to conduct the trial. The procedure shall be provided for by Law.

81 *Section 3.* Offenses cognizable by the Fraternity are:

82 (a) Commission of a flagrant offense against the Laws of the land or of the College;

83 (b) Violation of the Laws of the Fraternity or the lawful orders of any organized
84 unit thereof;

85 (c) Violation of the oath taken at the time of initiation;

86 (d) Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or unbecoming to a
87 gentleman;

88 (e) Delinquency in accounts;

89 (f) Failure in scholarship.

90 **ARTICLE V -- EXECUTIVE**

91 *Section 1.* The executive powers of the Fraternity shall be vested in the Grand President,
92 assisted by the Province Directors, and such others as may be prescribed by Law.

93 *Section 2.* The Grand President shall be the executive head of the Fraternity, and shall be
94 responsible for the general welfare of the organization. He shall perform such duties and
95 assume such powers as are necessary to carry out his work, subject to the Laws of the
96 Fraternity.

97 *Section 3.* The Grand President shall preside at all sessions of the General Convention and
 98 of the Supreme Council, but he shall not have a vote on the latter except when his vote
 99 would result in a tie or in the event of a tie vote. In the former case, to pass such legislation
 100 would require a clear majority vote.

101 *Section 4.* The Grand Vice-President shall assume the Office of Grand President in the
 102 case of the permanent disability of the Grand President. He shall perform such other
 103 duties as are provided for by Law.

104 *Section 5.* An Executive Secretary shall be appointed by the Grand President, subject to
 105 approval by the Supreme Council. Subject to the orders of the Grand President and the
 106 Laws of the Fraternity, the Executive Secretary shall keep all necessary records and files
 107 pertinent to the welfare of the Fraternity, in electronic form, as hereinafter provided.

108 *Section 6.* A Treasurer shall be appointed by the Grand President, subject to approval by
 109 the Supreme Council. Subject to the orders of the Grand President, Executive Secretary
 110 and the Laws of the Fraternity, the Treasurer shall keep all financial records of the
 111 Fraternity, electronically, using the Official Financial System of the Fraternity. He shall
 112 have charge of all Fraternity funds not otherwise provided for, and shall disburse the same
 113 as hereinafter provided.

114 He shall be required to provide a bond, as fixed by Law.

115 *Section 7.* The Director of Chapter Development shall be responsible for the development
 116 and maintenance of processes, best practices, and metrics pertaining to the internal
 117 operations of Chapters. He shall perform such other duties as are provided for by Law.

118 *Section 8.* The Director of Alumni Relations shall be responsible for the planning and
 119 implementation of programs and projects that strategically engage Alumni Members. He
 120 shall perform such other duties as are provided for by Law.

121 *Section 9.* A Communications Manager shall be appointed by the Grand President, subject
 122 to approval by the Supreme Council. Subject to the orders of the Grand President and the
 123 Laws of the Fraternity, it shall be the duty of the Communications Manager to publish the
 124 CASTLE and handle Public Relations of the Fraternity. He shall be responsible for the
 125 cohesive layout and graphical design of all Fraternity publications and electronic media,
 126 except as hereinafter provided.

127 *Section 10.* The Information Systems Manager, appointed by the Grand President, with
 128 the approval of the Supreme Council, shall have his duties described, hereinafter.

129 *Section 11.* The Fundraising Manager / Circulation Manager, appointed by the Grand
 130 President, with the approval of the Supreme Council, shall have his duties described,
 131 hereinafter.

132 *Section 12.* There shall be a Board of Trustees of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity, which shall
 133 acquire and hold all real property and all other property and equipment of the Fraternity.

134 The Board shall have charge of all endowment funds of the Fraternity, which the
 135 Treasurer shall pay to the Board. The Board shall submit such reports as shall be
 136 prescribed by the Statutory Code. The Board shall be subject to the Laws of the Fraternity,
 137 which shall prescribe its duties and methods of operation and shall be incorporated in the
 138 State of California.

139 *Section 13.* The Board of Trustees shall consist of 6 members, of whom 1 shall be the Grand
 140 President and 1 the Executive Secretary (Ex-officio without vote).

141 Two members of the Board shall be elected from open nominations at the regular sessions
 142 of the General Convention and shall hold office for 4 years. The elections shall alternate,
 143 only 1 member being elected during each biennium.

144 For elected members, 5 years shall have passed between their graduation as an Active
 145 member and their assumption of office.

146 The fifth member of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees Chairman and
 147 shall be a resident of the State of California for the entire duration of their appointment
 148 which has no limit. His role on the Board shall be to function as the Agent for Service of
 149 Process (Ex-officio without vote), receiving legal notices or processes on the Corporation's
 150 behalf. If at any time the Agent for Service of Process's legal residence changes from
 151 California, he shall immediately resign and the Board of Trustees Chairman shall appoint
 152 a new Agent for Service of Process.

153 The sixth member of the Board shall be appointed by the Board of Trustees Chairman.
 154 His role on the Board shall be to function as a Legal Liaison and counsel the Fraternity
 155 regarding legal issues (Ex-officio without vote). He will work with the Fraternity's
 156 membership to provide legal education and support services.

157 *Section 14.* Members of the Board of Trustees may be recalled for failure to perform the
 158 duties of office by a 3/4th vote of the members of the General Convention. The Board of
 159 Trustees Chairman shall fill the vacancy by appointment, which must be approved by the
 160 General Convention.

161 *Section 15.* In cases of Board of Trustees Member vacancies caused by resignation, the
 162 Board of Trustees Chairman shall fill the vacancy by appointment, which must be
 163 approved by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Trustees.

164 *Section 16.* The Board of Trustees shall hold at least 1 regular meeting per year, which
 165 shall be web-based. A quorum shall consist of 2 elected members and all business shall
 166 require the approval of the 3 elected members but the approval of the 3rd may be secured
 167 by email. The Board shall organize by electing from its elected members a Chairman, a
 168 Vice-Chairman and a Secretary-Treasurer. The term of office shall be 1 year, beginning on
 169 January 1st.

170 **ARTICLE VI -- PLEDGES AND MEMBERS**

171 *Section 1.* A pledge is a candidate for membership who is a male student working toward
 172 a degree in Engineering at the School where the Chapter is located. Upon specific petition
 173 by the individual Chapter, the General Convention may give permission for a Chapter to
 174 pledge students working for a degree in a 4-year Accreditation Board for Engineering and
 175 Technology (ABET) accredited engineering technology curriculum at the School where
 176 the Chapter is located.

177 *Section 2.* Members in the Fraternity shall be:

178 (a) Active. An Active member shall be an undergraduate or graduate student who
 179 has been received into membership.

180 (b) Alumnus. An Alumnus member shall have been an Active member at the time
 181 of graduation or withdrawal from School.

182 (c) Faculty. A Faculty member shall be a member of the Engineering and allied
 183 faculties who have been received into membership.

184 (d) Honorary. An Honorary member shall be an outstanding engineer elected to
 185 the Fraternity-at-Large by the General Convention.

186 *Section 3.* Persons must be admitted to pledgeship and membership as provided by Law.

187 **ARTICLE VII -- ACTIVE CHAPTERS**

188 *Section 1.* An Active Chapter shall consist of the undergraduate members in good standing
 189 and such Alumni Members as signify their intention of remaining or becoming subject to
 190 the Laws of that Chapter, provided they are regularly enrolled students in the School at
 191 which the Chapter is located. Upon specific petition by the individual Chapter and with a
 192 three-quarter vote, the General Convention may give permission for that Chapter to
 193 pledge and to initiate male students working toward a degree in Engineering and/or
 194 Engineering Technology at the School of recognized standing, as listed in the most recent
 195 edition of ABET, in the geographical area of the petitioning Chapter. Members so initiated
 196 shall have all rights, duties and privileges accorded any other pledge or member of the
 197 Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity.

198 *Section 2.* An Active Chapter may be established at any technical school of recognized
 199 standing [as listed in the most recent issue of ABET (USA) or equivalent national
 200 accrediting organization (non-USA)] offering courses leading to a baccalaureate degree
 201 in one or more recognized branches of Engineering. For Chapters outside the USA, the
 202 ABET-equivalent requirement may be waived if such is deemed by the Supreme Council
 203 to be in the best interest of the fraternity.

204 *Section 3.* A petition for the establishment of an Active Chapter shall be prescribed by
 205 Law, and shall be signed by at least 10 men qualified for membership. Petitioning groups
 206 accepted shall be installed by the Grand President or by a deputy appointed by him.

207 *Section 4.* A local fraternity may be initiated into Sigma Phi Delta if a majority, and not
 208 less than 10, of its active members are Engineering majors. Future members must meet
 209 the requirements of Article VI, Section 1, of this Constitution. Alumni Engineering
 210 students shall be entitled to all privileges accorded Alumni of Sigma Phi Delta.

211 *Section 5.* An Active Chapter shall adopt a set of By-Laws and may make such other rules
 212 and regulations as may be necessary. Such By-Laws, rules and regulations must be
 213 approved by the Supreme Council before they become effective.

214 *Section 6.* Regular meetings shall be held at least twice a month during the school year at
 215 such times and places as the members of the Chapter shall determine. A quorum shall
 216 consist of at least a majority of the Active members of the Chapter, including 2 elected
 217 officers. Chapters shall be encouraged to maintain Chapter Houses, and the Fraternity
 218 shall have power to make any necessary rules pertaining thereto.

219 *Section 7.* A Colony may be established at any technical school of recognized standing [as
 220 listed in the most recent issue of ABET (USA) or national equivalent accrediting
 221 organization (non USA)] offering courses leading to a degree in 1 or more recognized
 222 branches of Engineering in anticipation of petitioning for Charter as an Active Chapter of
 223 the Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity. For Chapters outside the USA, the ABET-equivalent
 224 requirement may be waived if such is deemed by the Supreme Council to be in the best
 225 interest of the fraternity.

226 **ARTICLE VIII -- ALUMNI ORGANIZATIONS**

227 *Section 1.* Every Active Chapter shall maintain an Alumni Association, consisting of all
 228 Alumni Members of said Chapter and all Alumni of any former group who are in good
 229 standing, regardless of place of residence or affiliation with other Alumni organizations.
 230 The Alumni Association shall not have power to levy any assessments whatever against
 231 its members, but shall receive from the Fraternity such funds as shall be provided for by
 232 Law, but such Associations must send each member a bulletin of general news and
 233 information at least once each year. The organization of such Associations shall be
 234 provided for by Law.

235 *Section 2.* An Alumni Chapter may be established in any city or locality upon petition of
 236 not less than 10 resident Alumni Members in good standing. Such petitions must be
 237 approved by the Supreme Council. Such Chapters shall not have the power of conferring
 238 membership in the Fraternity. They shall have the right to adopt By-Laws and such other
 239 rules and regulations as may be necessary, provided such are not in conflict with the Laws
 240 of the Fraternity, but such By-Laws and rules must be approved by the Supreme Council
 241 before they are effective. Such Chapters may be incorporated for the purpose of holding
 242 property. Property so held may be used by such Chapters for its members or may be leased
 243 to Active Chapters for Chapter House purposes. Any necessary Laws regulating the
 244 formation of such Chapters or their government may be enacted by the Fraternity.

245 **ARTICLE IX -- FINANCES**

246 *Section 1.* Charter fees, initiation fees, international dues, and other fees and assessments
 247 may be provided for in the Statutory Code.

248 *Section 2.* All charges levied against any organized unit of the Fraternity shall become
 249 delinquent 1 month after they fall due. An organized unit, which becomes delinquent,
 250 shall automatically be suspended until paid up in full. A note, with satisfactory security,
 251 may be accepted as payment.

252 *Section 3.* Individual Alumni Members shall not be subject to any assessments by the
 253 International Office, but are expected to donate, annually.

254 *Section 4.* Any organized unit of the Fraternity (except Alumni Associations), may fix
 255 assessments, fees, fines, and dues by a ballot vote, which may be electronic, of not less
 256 than 2/3rd of its members in good standing.

257 *Section 5.* All charges against members shall be posted to become due the 1st day of the
 258 following month. A member delinquent for 1 year shall be automatically expelled from the
 259 Fraternity, unless he shall present a satisfactory reason for his inability to pay; the
 260 acceptability of the reason being in the hands of the Supreme Council. A note with
 261 satisfactory security may be accepted in lieu of cash.

262 **ARTICLE X -- LAWS**

263 *Section 1.* The Laws of the Fraternity shall consist of The Constitution, The Statutory
 264 Code, The Ritual, The Risk Reduction Policy, Acts of the Supreme Council, and Executive
 265 Orders.

266 *Section 2.* This Constitution is the Supreme Law of the Fraternity, and all other Laws must
 267 be in accord with it. The interpretation of the Constitution shall rest with the Supreme
 268 Council.

269 *Section 3.* The Ritual shall contain the ceremony for the initiation of members, the
 270 installation of Chapters, the installation of officers, ceremonies connected with meetings,
 271 and any other ceremonies of a secret nature which may be included from time to time.
 272 Additions or modifications of the Ritual may be made by a majority vote of the General
 273 Convention or by a 3/4th vote of the Supreme Council.

274 *Section 4.* The Statutory Code shall contain the necessary rules and regulations to carry
 275 out the provisions of this Constitution, to provide for the proper operation of the
 276 Fraternity, and to provide specifications and restrictions concerning badges and other
 277 insignia. The Statutory Code may be enacted or amended by a majority vote of the General
 278 Convention or by a 3/4th vote of the Supreme Council.

279 *Section 5.* Acts of the Supreme Council shall consist of such minor regulations or such
 280 provisions as require frequent changes as may be enacted by the Supreme Council by a
 281 majority vote, but such acts must not conflict with The Constitution, The Statutory Code,
 282 The Ritual or The Risk Reduction Policy.

283 *Section 6.* Executive Orders include all orders issued by the executive offices of the
284 Fraternity, not in conflict with any of the foregoing Laws. All Executive Orders may be
285 appealed to the General Convention in case of question regarding conflicts with other
286 Laws.

287 **ARTICLE XI -- AMENDMENTS**

288 *Section 1.* This Constitution can be amended or repealed in whole or in part by a 3/4th
289 vote of the General Convention.

290 *Section 2.* This Constitution repeals all former Constitutions and all other Acts in conflict
291 therewith.

292 *Section 3.* This Constitution was approved by the Fraternity on May 15, 1930, and went
293 into effect on August 30, 1930. It was revised by the Third General Convention, which
294 ended September 2, 1931, at Fargo, North Dakota, Epsilon Chapter as Host.

295 *Section 4.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee, the Chairman of which was
296 appointed by the Grand President at the Seventh General Convention, which ended
297 January 4, 1948, in Chicago, Illinois, Iota Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution was
298 approved by the Fraternity on November 1, 1948, and went into effect on November 1,
299 1948.

300 *Section 5.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
301 President at the Eighth General Convention, which ended September 3, 1949, at Los
302 Angeles, California, Alpha Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective on
303 January 1, 1950.

304 *Section 6.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
305 President at the Ninth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1951, at
306 Vancouver, British Columbia, Theta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
307 effective on January 1, 1952.

308 *Section 7.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
309 President at the Tenth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1953, at Detroit
310 Lakes, Minnesota, Epsilon Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective on
311 January 1, 1954.

312 *Section 8.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
313 President at the Eleventh General Convention, which ended September 3, 1955, at
314 Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Eta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective
315 on January 1, 1956.

316 *Section 9.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
317 President at the Twelfth General Convention, which ended September 7, 1957, at
318 Hamilton Lake, Indiana, Kappa Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
319 effective on January 1, 1958.

320 *Section 10.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
 321 President at the Twentieth General Convention, which ended September 1, 1973, at
 322 Moorhead, Minnesota, Epsilon Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became
 323 effective on January 1, 1974.

324 *Section 11.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
 325 President at the Twenty-First General Convention, which ended August 30, 1975, at Los
 326 Angeles, California, Alpha Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective on
 327 January 1, 1976.

328 *Section 12.* This Constitution was revised by a Committee appointed by the Grand
 329 President at the Twenty-Fourth General Convention, which ended September 5, 1981, at
 330 Daytona Beach, Florida, Pi Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution became effective on
 331 January 1, 1982.

332 *Section 13.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
 333 on June 20, 1988. The revised Constitution became effective on June 20, 1988.

334 *Section 14.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
 335 on April 1, 1993. The revised Constitution became effective on June 30, 1993.

336 *Section 15.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
 337 on November 1, 1997. The revised Constitution became effective on January 1, 1998.

338 *Section 16.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
 339 on December 15, 1999. The revised Constitution became effective on January 1, 2000.

340 *Section 17.* This Constitution was revised by a mail ballot vote of the General Convention
 341 on September 30, 2002. The revised Constitution became effective on that date.

342 *Section 18.* This Constitution was revised by action of the 35th General Convention on
 343 July 26, 2003, at Urbana, Illinois, Delta Chapter as Host. The revised Constitution
 344 became effective on that date.

345 *Section 19.* This Constitution was revised by action of the General Convention on July 29,
 346 2006 during the Sixth Joint Province Convention at Elk Grove Village, Illinois. The
 347 revised Constitution became effective on that date.

348 *Section 20.* This Constitution was revised by email ballot vote of the General Convention
 349 on November 3, 2011. The revised Constitution became effective on that date.

350 *Section 21.* This Constitution was revised by action of the Fortieth General Convention on
 351 August 10, 2013, at Bethesda, Maryland. The revised Constitution became effective on
 352 that date.

353 *Section 22.* This Constitution was revised by action of the Forty-First General Convention
354 on August 8, 2015, at St. Louis, Missouri. The revised Constitution became effective on
355 that date.