

Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity
The Pennsylvania State University
Behrend College Chapter

PREAMBLE

Believing that all men are social creatures and that friendships of college men are lasting ones, we do hereby seek to promote these associations through a social fraternity which will uphold the true standards of brotherhood, and do hereby adopt the following constitution:

ARTICLE I
NAME AND PURPOSE

Section 1 - The name of this organization shall be The Penn State Behrend Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, as designated by the Sigma Tau Gamma National Fraternity.

Section 2 - The purposes of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity shall be to promote the welfare of its members as well as provided in this constitution and the laws of the Fraternity which are based upon it. It shall endeavor to promote the highest ideals of manhood, brotherhood and citizenship according to the principles of the Fraternity. It shall uphold the traditions and ideals of the institution where its collegiate members are students. The Fraternity will recognize the individuality of each member and promote him to take an active and positive role in the institution's community.

ARTICLE II
POWERS OF THE CHAPTER

Section 1 - This Constitution and By-Laws shall conform to the Constitution and Laws of Sigma Tau Gamma National Fraternity, Inc. If a conflict arises between these two bodies of law, the National Constitution shall be supreme. Any Law of this Chapter found conflicting with the National Constitution shall be immediately be declared null and void.

Section 2 - All powers not delegated in the National Constitution of Sigma Tau Gamma are hereby reserved to this Chapter.

Section 3 - It shall be the duty of the President, Judicial Board, and Parliamentarian to interpret and enforce this Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 4 - Question arising out of jurisdiction or delegation of powers regarding the Constitution and By-Laws shall be enacted upon the Judicial Board at the direction of the President or a simple majority of the active membership present.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

Section 1 - Dues

Semester dues shall be determined by the management division (Group 43, Finance) with the approval of the Chapter's active members by a simple majority.

Dues shall not be used to purchase alcoholic beverages.

Section 2 - A Chapter semester budget guideline shall be submitted to the Executive Board of this Chapter by the second to last meeting of the semester. The budget shall be adopted by the Chapter with a simple majority.

Section 3 - A yearly professional audit is required every year with copies available to all active members and alumni in good standing.

Section 4 - No pledge (or associate member) may go through the pledging and/or initiation ritual of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity until all local and national financial obligations are paid.

Section 5 - Membership

Any invitation to Penn State Behrend student to pledge the fraternity shall be a **simple majority** of the active membership, and a **vote** of the active membership.

Section 6 - All activities pertaining to membership shall be determined each semester upon recommendation of the Vice-President of Programming and passage by a **simple majority** vote of the active membership.

Section 7 - Honorary Membership

The active membership is responsible for the payment of Honorary Memberships.

ARTICLE IV

THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Section 1 - The Executive Board shall be composed of the President, Executive Vice-President, Vice-President of Programming, Vice-President of Finance, and the Vice-President of Membership.

Section 2 - Definition of Duties

The **President** shall be responsible for the performance of all the other Chapter officers and the successful operation of the Chapter. He should keep himself informed of the activities of committees, members, and all operations of the Chapter. The President shall preside over all meeting of the Chapter in an impartial and efficient manner, and shall have not voted except in the event of a tie.

The **Executive Vice-President** shall perform all duties of Chapter President in his absence. The areas of Communications, Records, Ritual, Meetings, Alumni Relations, and Public Relations shall come under his jurisdiction

The **Vice-President of Finance** shall perform all duties of Chapter President in the absence of the President and Executive Vice-President. He shall be responsible for all the Chapter's financial matters, and all matters concerning the Chapter House and food services.

The **Vice-President of Programming** shall be responsible for all education activity in the Chapter; which shall include social education, scholarships, intramural sports, and pledge education.

The **Vice-President of Membership** shall be responsible for the organization and direction of the membership recruitment program.

Section 3 - All officers on the Executive Board are responsible for the delegation and the organization of their respective divisions as outlined in the Chapter Management Program published by the National Fraternity.

Section 4 - A general election for the Executive officers shall be held during the third and last meeting in December. The election will be followed by a short transition period, with the new officers being installed the second to last meeting of December

Section 5 - Elections may be called at any time subject to any of the following:

1. By unanimous consent of the **Chapter Advisory Board**.
2. By direction of the **President** of the Chapter.
3. By **majority vote** of the Executive Board.
4. By **simple majority** of the Active Collegiate Membership.

The right of **proxy vote** will not be infringed upon

Section 6 - The officers shall hold their respective offices for one year, beginning the day of installation.

Section 7 - If the President resigns or is removed from office, a special election will be held to fill the vacancy on a date designated by the Chapter.

Section 8 - A person may serve no longer than two full terms on the Executive Board in the same office.

Section 9 - Impeachment proceedings against a member of the Executive Board for flagrant neglect of the duties of his office, or for a violation of any items stated in Section 1, Law 8a, Member discipline of the Constitution and Laws of Sigma Tau Gamma National Fraternity may be initiated by any active member of the Chapter, subject to a 2/3 vote by the active membership, with provisions for appeal to the Regional Vice-President.

Section 10 - All offices not included in the Executive Board are to be appointed by the Executive Board with the consent of the active membership.

ARTICLE V THE JUDICIARY

Section 1 - The following shall constitute the powers of the Judicial Board:

A) Decisions regarding members discipline and the levying of fines subject to Law 8a, section 4, of the Sigma Tau Gamma National Constitution, and to ARTICLE V of the Constitution.

B) Receive proposed constitutional Amendments subject to the provision of ARTICLE XI.

C) Constitutional interpretations subject to the direction of the President, or at the request of any member of the active collegiate body.

Section 2 - The Chairman of the Judicial Board shall be appointed by the Executive Board and shall not be simultaneously be a member of the Executive Board. It shall be his duty to organize and direct the activities of the Judicial Board. The undergraduate members of the Judicial Board shall be appointed by the Executive Board by the last meeting of the previous semester with the approval of the active membership by a **2/3 vote**.

Section 3 - Appeals to the Chapter shall be made within two regular meetings of the Chapter after notification of the judicial Board decision, only if the person that appeals has turned an excuse into the Judicial Board first.

Section 4 - The Judicial Board shall be composed of four (4) collegiate members of the Chapter, a current alumni in good standing with the Chapter and the Alumni Association, a Chapter advisor, and an appointed Judicial board head. In the event that there is a split decision, the Judicial board head shall rule. The rulings of the Judicial board will be voted by the collegiate members of the Judicial board. The Judicial board will meet as deemed necessary by the Judicial board head. For the convenience of time and scheduling, an alternate member will also be elected.

The "J-board" head will only vote in a split decision and will not have a say in the punishments voted on by the other members.

If a current member or members of the Judicial board are to be brought before the board, the Executive Vice President and President shall appoint a temporary Judicial board member(s). Their decision will not need to be made on the records, except for appeal purposes.

If an appeal is not made (see section 3), the ruling of the Judicial board will be final.

ARTICLE VI THE MEETINGS

Section 1 - This Chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma will hold its regular meetings once a week on a designated date that the Chapter decides upon. Meetings can be changed or canceled by the Executive Board. Special meetings can be canceled by no less than twenty-percent (20%) majority vote of members in good standing of the Chapter.

Section 2 - QUORUM

A quorum will be **two-thirds (2/3)** of the active membership to transact any business.

Section 3 - Attendance to all Chapter meetings shall be mandatory. If arriving late to a Chapter meeting, you will not be admitted to the meeting until after the opening ritual is completed.

Section 4 - The words “**active membership**” in reference to any vote shall read “active membership present at this meeting.” This does not alter the need for a quorum or the right to vote by proxy.

ARTICLE VII THE ADVISORY BOARD

Section 1 - The Advisory Board shall consist of individuals who are not active members of the local Chapter. The size of the Advisory Board shall be in accordance with the standards for chartering advisory requirements (colonization manual).

ARTICLE VIII THE CORPORATION BOARD

Section 1 - The Corporation Board shall be the official nonprofit legal representative of this Chapter.

ARTICLE IX DISCIPLINE

Section 1 - The right of appeal of the active membership regarding all disciplinary action shall not be violated

ARTICLE X SCHOLARSHIP

Section 1 - Academic excellence shall be awarded to the active(s) with the highest **semester grade point average** and shall be the duly honored at the **White Rose Formal**.

Section 2 - All other awards and honors shall be voted upon by the active membership and the recipients shall be duly honored at the **White rose Formal**.

Section 3 - Academic excellence shall be awarded to the active(s) with the highest **grade point average** and shall be duly honored at the **White Rose Formal** for the previous fall semester and the fall informal dance for the previous spring semester.

ARTICLE XI AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - By-Laws and Amendments may be repealed or amended by any active member. The motion must have a **2/3 majority vote** in favor of the motion to pass. The motion must be announced at least one week prior to the vote.

Section 2 - Repeal of existing articles of this Constitution shall be presented as follows:
“Articles ----, Section -- of the Constitution is amended as follows...”

Section 3 - By-Laws and Amendments may be repealed or amended only during the last month of each semester (or Quarter).

ARTICLE XIII BY-LAWS

BY-LAW I - All actions of a Sigma Tau Gamma member should reflect honesty and the six principles of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

BY-LAW II - Attendance to all Chapter meetings and Initiation Ceremonies is mandatory. All other functions passed by a **2/3 vote** of the active members will be mandatory. All other social functions are optional. There will be two (2) unexcused absences per semester. The third unexcused absence will result in possible suspension pending a decision by the Judicial Board.

BY-LAW III - PAYMENT OF FRATERNITY CHAPTER BILLS

Section 1

Par 1. During the second meeting called to order by the President each semester, fifty percent of all money owed to the Fraternity, being dues, parlor, rent, or other debt deemed regular by the membership must be paid in whole.

Par 2. During the sixth meeting called to order by the President each semester, all money owed to the Fraternity, being dues, parlor, rent, or other debt deemed regular by the membership must be paid in whole.

Par 3. Only members in financial hardship may defer their financial obligation through a promissory note to Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, which includes both the member's signature as well as a signature from parent or guardian. The Promissory note cannot defer payment of debt beyond the semester the debt was incurred. Further the promissory note will state terms of interest due beyond expiration and will be turned over to a collection agency at the discretion of the Executive Board in the case of default.

Section 2

Par 1. No member shall have debt to Sigma Tau Gamma beyond the semester the debt was incurred.

Par 2. Any member with previous semester debt beyond second meeting of each semester shall be suspended as an active member until financial obligations previous and current, are satisfied. Upon Thirty (30) days of suspension without satisfaction of debt, expulsion proceedings will be motioned by the Vice President of Finance at the first chapter meeting thereafter.

Section 3

Par 1. A member can be relieved of the rules of this amendment by a 2/3 vote of the membership.

BY-LAW IV - GRIEVANCES

Any person wishing to file a grievance must present it to the Chairman of the Judiciary Board in writing. The grievance shall be reviewed by the committee members within five (5) days of submission at a closed meeting. Should there be a valid case, an open meeting shall be held within one week of posted notification. The two parties shall present their case before the active membership. A **2/3 vote** of the active membership shall constitute a decision.

BY-LAW V - All excuses shall be brought to the Judicial Board in writing within five (5) days after being accused. Equal time and consideration will be given to each case. Three tardys are defined as unexcused.

BY-LAW VI - If the judicial Board has no option in a decision, there will be an appeal before the Chapter.

BY-LAW VII - If a sincere effort was made to attend, the person will be excused.

BY-LAW VIII - Initiation Ceremonies are mandatory events. If found unexcused, it will carry two (2) unexcused absences.

BY-LAW IX - Leaving a Chapter meeting early will carry as one tardy absence.

BY-LAW X - SUSPENSION

Suspension will consist of the following:

- A) Prohibition to attend any social event.
- B) Loss of voting and voice privileges at Chapter meetings.
- C) Meeting all financial obligations.
- D) Attendance to all mandatory functions.

The term suspension shall be up to the discretion of the Judicial Board, and not to exceed a maximum of nine (9) weeks.

BY-LAW XI - In the event of sponsorship of an official program or service of the Chapter, a simple majority vote of the active membership will be required to approve the program.

BY-LAW XII - The Chapters President will be required to attend the President's Academy, providing sponsorship by the national headquarters.

BY-LAW XIII - All Vice-Presidents will be required to attend all regional conclaves.

BY-LAW XIV - The Chapter will pay the hotel cost and registration fee for two (2) Grand Chapter Delegates.

BY-LAW XV - The Sergeant-at-Arms, and the committee the vote is relevant to, will count any votes taken at the active Chapter meeting. All secret ballots will be available for inspection after recipient has been notified.

BY-LAW XVI - Promissory notes for dues are due the last month of each semester.

BY-LAW XVII - All active members shall be on a committee or hold an office within a full semester of being initiated. The penalty for not doing so upon the discretion of the Judicial Board.