

Charter Constitution

Oklahoma Alpha Chapter of Phi Sigma Tau

(Philosophy Honor Society)

Oklahoma State University

By-Laws

Article I: Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau*, National Honor Society in Philosophy.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to uphold and carry out the objectives outlined in Article II of the national *Phi Sigma Tau* Constitution, to wit:

- to serve as a means of awarding distinction to students having high scholarship and personal interest in philosophy;
- to promote student interest in research and advanced study in this field;
- to provide opportunities for the publication of student research papers of merit;
- to encourage a professional spirit and friendship among those who have displayed marked ability in this field;
- to popularize interest in philosophy among the general collegiate public.

Article III: Chapter Officers

Section 1. Names of Chapter Officers.

The Chapter Officers of the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter shall be a President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer

Section 2. Qualifications of Chapter Officers.

Students who have been initiated and are members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.

Section 3. Duties of Chapter Officers.

Clause 1.

It shall be the duty of the President of Oklahoma *Alpha* to perform those functions normally assigned to a presiding officer. These functions include presiding at the regularly scheduled meetings of the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter and such coordination of

activities of committees and the local Executive Council as may be required to establish an agenda for these meetings.

Clause 2.

It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to serve as the Chairperson of the Program Committee as stipulated in Article XIV, Section 2, Clause 2 of the national constitution. As such, the Vice-President will also serve as a member of the Activities Committee of the Department of Philosophy, Oklahoma State University and, along with the Faculty Advisor, shall serve as a spokesperson for conveying to this committee the types of activities and philosophical topics the members of *Phi Sigma Tau* wish to pursue. Further, the Vice-President shall be prepared to perform the traditional duties associated with this office, to wit, assisting the President and fulfilling any presidential functions which may be necessary in the event of the President's absence.

Clause 3.

It shall be the duty of the Secretary-Treasurer to maintain accurate records, both financial and procedural, of the activities of the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter. The Secretary-Treasurer shall, with the assistance of the Faculty Advisor, arrange for a bank account to house the funds of Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter and see that all required forms, such as chapter minutes and membership records are filed promptly with the national Secretary-Treasurer, in accordance with Article XIV, Section 2, Clauses 3 and 4 of the national constitution.

Clause 4.

The above three officers shall constitute the Executive Council of the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter. The Executive Council shall meet regularly to plan meetings and coordinate activities for Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter.

Section 4. Election and Induction of Chapter Officers

Clause 1.

Officers of Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter shall be elected and inducted into office at the last regular meeting prior to commencement in the spring of each year. At this meeting candidates for each office will be asked to participate in a brief candidate forum in which each candidate addresses how he or she would fulfill the duties and obligations pertaining to that office.

Clause 2.

Students who have been initiated and are members in good standing shall be eligible for nomination for President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. The Faculty Advisor shall be selected by the OSU Philosophy Department faculty. Nominations for this office

shall be made after consultation with the Chair of the Philosophy Department, as specified in Article XIV, Section 2, Clause 5 of the national constitution.

Clause 3.

The election of chapter officers shall be by secret ballot, after which votes shall be counted by the local Executive Council and the results of the election announced by the President. Election to any office shall require the votes of a simple majority of active members present at the meeting. The President shall vote only in the event of a tie.

Clause 4.

Following the election of officers, the ceremony for the induction of chapter officers shall be conducted by the existing Executive Council. The ceremony for the induction shall be that prescribed by the national Executive Council.

Clause 5.

It shall be the duty of the Faculty Advisor to act as a liaison between the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter, the OSU philosophy department, and the national executive council of *Phi Sigma Tau* and to advise the chapter of all matters, as specified in Article XIV, Section 2, Clause 5 of the national constitution.

Section 5. Terms of Office and Officer Replacement

Clause 1.

Chapter officers shall serve for one year. The position of Faculty Advisor may be a continuing position.

Clause 2.

In the event of a vacancy in any office due to graduation or other reasons, the vacancy shall be filled by a special election at the next meeting after it is determined that the vacancy has occurred.

Article IV: Quorum

Section 1. Quorum. For purposes of transacting chapter business, a quorum shall be defined as 50% plus one active member.

Article V: Membership

Section 1. Active Membership

Active members shall be defined as those persons who may vote on chapter business because they meet eligibility requirements, have been initiated (See Section 3), and are members in good financial standing.

Clause 1. Eligibility

Students of Oklahoma State University, whether undergraduate or graduate, are eligible for active membership in Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter of *Phi Sigma Tau* if they have acquired 9 hours of philosophy courses with at least a 3.0 average in these courses and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75 or higher.

Clause 2. Fees for Active Members

A. National fees. The national initiation fee of \$25.00 must be paid to Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter before a person can be initiated. These fees are then forwarded to the national office.

Clause 3. Voting

To be eligible to vote on chapter business a person must be an active member in good standing. New members become active and therefore eligible to vote at the first regular meeting following their initiation into Oklahoma *Alpha* chapter. Students who have not met the financial obligations of the local chapter will not be considered to be in good standing and will therefore be ineligible to vote.

Section 2. Associate Membership

In addition to the active (voting) membership, Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter shall exercise the option specified in Article XII, Section 2 of the national constitution of establishing a classification of persons who shall be known as associate members.

Clause 1.

Associate membership shall be open to those persons who do not meet all the requirements of active membership, but who have indicated a genuine interest in philosophy and who wish to participate in the substantive activities of the organization, such as student presentations, guest lectures, debates, and symposia on philosophical issues. In addition, alumni of Oklahoma State University who have a major or minor in philosophy and teachers of philosophy above the rank of graduate assistant are eligible for associate membership.

Clause 2.

Associate members, while not being eligible to vote on procedural matters, may contribute to discussion on substantive matters of the society, i.e. matters involving philosophical topics to be discussed by the society.

Clause 3.

Associate members shall not be assessed chapter dues.

Section 3. Initiation

Clause 1.

The initiation ritual for Oklahoma *Alpha* shall be based on the model ceremony given in the national *Phi Sigma Tau* Manual. The ceremony may be altered to suit local needs and circumstances; however, any alteration should remain true to the spirit and content of the original.

Clause 2.

The formal initiation ceremony for Oklahoma *Alpha* shall be held the Friday after spring break, or, in the event of scheduling conflicts, as close to that date as possible.

Clause 3.

Students who become eligible for active membership at the end of the spring semester may be initiated in an informal ceremony early in the fall. It shall be the duty of the Executive Council to identify such persons, to establish their eligibility, and to set a date and time for the ceremony.

Article VI: Dues

A. Local dues. None required at present.

Article V: Committees

Section 1. Committee participation.

All active members shall be required to serve on at least one standing committee.

Section 2. Standing committees.

A set of standing committees will be established by the Executive Council at the beginning of each fall semester. Such committees could include a program committee (chaired by the vice-president), a publicity committee, a fund-raising committee, or others deemed necessary by the Executive Council.

Article VI: Chapter Meetings

Section 1. Scheduled Meetings.

Chapter business shall be conducted at the regularly scheduled chapter meetings which shall be duly publicized to members in advance. These meetings shall be scheduled for the 3rd Friday of the months of September, October, November, January, February, March, and April, or on the 4th Friday if there is a conflict (such as spring break or other school holiday).

Section 2. Other Activities.

Other meetings and discussions for pursuit of philosophical activities will frequently be scheduled by the Executive Council in cooperation with the OSU Department of Philosophy. All active members shall be kept informed of these activities by means of a semester calendar and/or newsletter.

Article VII: Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern the procedural matters of Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter in all instances in which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with the national constitution of *Phi Sigma Tau*.

Article VIII: Amendment of By-Laws

These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the active members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma *Alpha* Chapter, provided that (1) the proposed amendment has been duly circulated in writing to all members and (2) the proposed amendment has been discussed at two regularly scheduled business meetings after members have seen it in writing, not including the meeting at which it was first proposed.

Article IX: Reports to the Campus Life Office:

Section 1.

At the beginning of the fall semester, PST shall report the name of its officers and advisors to the Department of Campus Life, 606 Student union, and shall promptly report any changes that occur during the school year.

Section 2.

At the beginning of the fall semester, PSU will file with the Department of Campus Life a signed "Affirmation of Compliance."

Section 3.

The funds of PST will be deposited with the university banking services and these will be audited yearly, preferably at the time a new treasurer is installed.

Section 4.

It is understood that failure to submit such, materials, either through continued negligence or willful omission, may result in the suspension of the charter of this organization by the committee on Student Organizations.

By-laws adopted Spring, 2004