

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION  
of  
THE ORDER OF OMEGA

Article I - Name

- Section 1. The name of this Organization shall be The Order of Omega.  
Section 2. The Order of Omega is a Leadership Honor Society.  
Section 3. Each local unit of the Order shall be called a Chapter.

Article II - Purpose

- Section 1. The purpose of The Order of Omega shall be threefold:

First, to recognize those students who have attained a high standard of leadership in inter-Greek activities, to encourage them to continue along this line, and to inspire others to strive for similar conspicuous attainment.

Second, to bring together the most representative fraternity and sorority members, and to create an organization which will help to mold the sentiment of the institution on questions of local and intercollegiate affairs.

Third, to bring together members of the faculty, alumni, and student members of the institution's fraternities and sororities on a basis of mutual interest, understanding, and helpfulness.

Article III - Emblem and Colors

- Section 1. The emblem of the Order shall be the Greek letter designating Omega.  
Section 2. The colors of the Order shall be ivory and gold.

Article IV - Membership

- Section 1. The membership of this Order shall be confined to members of Greek-letter, social organizations.  
Section 2. There shall be four classes of members: first, student; second, faculty; third, alumni; and fourth, honorary.

Student members shall be those duly elected to membership as students by a chapter and they shall be so designated during the remaining period of their collegiate enrollment.

Faculty members shall be those members of the faculty or the administrative staff of a collegiate institution elected by a chapter as faculty members, or those formerly elected to membership who may subsequently be serving on the faculty or staff of such an institution.

Alumni members shall be all former student members after their graduation or the termination of their collegiate enrollment.

Honorary members shall be those elected honoris causa by a chapter of the Order.

- Section 3. Membership in The Order of Omega entitles the person elected to the rights and privileges of life membership, except that only active members may vote and hold office in a local chapter.
- Section 4. The active membership of the Order shall consist of the student members of the collegiate chapters as hereinafter defined and those members who have been elected to offices in the National Organization.
- Section 5. The total number of faculty and alumni members shall not exceed forty per cent (40%) of the membership of the chapter.

#### Article V - Eligibility

- Section 1. The qualifications for membership in the Order shall be character, scholarship and intelligence, service and leadership in the inter-Greek affairs of their institutions.
- Section 2. Exemplary character shall be the primary consideration for membership in this Order.
- Section 3. To be eligible for membership in The Order of Omega, a student shall meet the following minimum requirements:
- a. One full academic year of residence in the institution where elected.
  - b. Junior or senior (undergraduate) standing;
  - c. Rank academically above the all-fraternity or all-sorority average of the system. If the fraternity or sorority average is less than the minimum requirement for graduation, that chapter shall be denied initiation privileges until such time as it has maintained this minimum academic requirement.
  - d. Be in good standing with the fraternal organization.
- Section 4. In the selection of student members, the complete collegiate record of each candidate (both in and out of the local institution as far as possible, including also their record in other institutions attended) shall be obtained and classified into the following heads or groups:
- a. Character
  - b. Scholarships
  - c. Greek offices held
  - d. IFC or Panhellenic participation
  - e. IFC or Panhellenic offices held
  - f. Service to the university
  - g. Service to the local community

#### Article VI - Election of Members

- Section 1. New members may be chosen either annually or semi-annually by each chapter, the manner and frequency of elections being subject to the provisions of the chapter's bylaws; provided that honorary members may be elected as frequently as a chapter may desire.

- Section 2. The number of students elected to membership in any one year may not exceed three percent (3%) of the total number of enrolled full-time Greek undergraduates at the beginning of the academic year on the main campus, or fifteen (15), whichever number is greater.
- Section 3. The election of student members under the provisions of this Constitution shall be left to the discretion of the individual collegiate chapter, subject to such restrictions as may be imposed by the National from time to time.
- Section 4. Two-thirds (2/3) of the active members of a chapter shall be present in order to conduct an election of members. In cases where the number of members participating in an election to membership is ten or less, two (2) negative votes shall exclude a candidate from membership; where the number participating in the election is from eleven to twenty inclusive, three (3) negative votes shall be required to exclude a candidate; and where the number participating in an election is twenty-one or more, four (4) negative votes shall be required to exclude a proposed member.

#### Article VII - Organization

- Section 1. The National Organization shall consist of an association of all the active collegiate chapters of the Order, divided into Provinces, the boundaries of which shall be designated by a vote of the Executive Council.
- Section 2. Each national officer shall be entitled to one vote and each chapter shall be entitled to one official voting delegate in the National matters.
- Section 3. The national officers of the Order shall be as follows: executive director, president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and editor. All national officers will come from faculty-administration and alumni class of members.
- Section 4. Selection of the National Officers shall be by a majority vote of the Board of Directors in attendance at the annual meeting. Terms of office shall be staggered so as no more than two new officers shall be elected in any one year.
- The term of office shall be four years and National Officers may be elected to consecutive terms.
- National Officers shall be reviewed each year by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting. A National Officer may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of the membership of the Board of Directors in attendance at the annual meeting.
- Section 5. Selection of the Board of Directors shall be by a vote of the total membership in attendance at the annual meeting. Each chapter and board member shall have one vote. A simple majority is all that is needed to elect a person to the Board of Directors.
- Section 6. Term of office of the Board of Directors shall be for three (3) years.
- Section 7. The Executive Council shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

#### Article VIII - Local Powers

- Section 1. Each collegiate chapter shall have complete control of all matters of local concern under such restrictions as may be imposed by this Constitution. In no case shall such local power be exercised in a way contrary to the ideals and purposes of the Order as set forth in the Constitution, Bylaws and Ritual of the National Organization. In case a chapter be charged with disregarding any of the conditions of its charter, the Executive Council shall have power of full inquiry; and may, in its discretion, take those steps the Council deems necessary.

- Section 2. Each chapter shall be required to submit to the Executive Council, for its approval, all bylaws and all such amendments thereto as may be adopted from time to time.
- Section 3. The officers of each collegiate chapter shall be a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a faculty advisor. Where desired, the offices of secretary and treasurer may be combined and held by a faculty member. All officers shall be elected by the chapter at some convenient time as may be provided in the bylaws of the chapter. The faculty advisor shall be nominated from among the active faculty members of the chapter. Any officer of a chapter shall be eligible for reelection or reappointment.
- Section 4. Every officer of a chapter shall be appropriately installed as soon as may be convenient after election.

#### Article IX - Suspension and Expulsion

- Section 1. Any member convicted by the chapter to which they belong of conduct unbecoming of the Order shall be dishonorably dismissed, deprived of membership, and required to surrender the pin and certificate; notification of which fact shall be sent to the member in question. Such expulsion must be approved by three-fourths (3/4) of the active members of the local chapter in which the proceedings have been initiated and shall be subject to review by the Executive Council before it shall be made finally effective.
- Section 2. Resignation or expulsion from a fraternal organization shall be subject to termination of membership in The Order of Omega. Such expulsion shall be subject to review by the Executive Council.

#### Article X - Bylaws

- Section 1. The Executive Council shall be empowered to pass, repeal, or modify bylaws relating to the mode of procedure with reference to initiation, installation, extension, general policy, and all other matters of a similar character not expressly provided for in this Constitution. These restrictions shall not be construed as limiting in any way the action of the Executive Council in emergency cases.

#### Article XI - Amendments

- Section 1. Any amendment to this Constitution shall require for its passage an affirmative vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the combined votes of the national officers and of the active collegiate chapters secured by mail vote within two months after its submission.

NATIONAL BYLAWS  
of  
THE ORDER OF OMEGA

Article I - Meetings

Section 1:

- a. The National Board of Directors and the Executive Council shall have a joint meeting at least once a year. To constitute an official meeting, two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board and Council must be in attendance. All of the Organization's members are eligible to attend the National meeting.
- b. The Executive Council may meet more often to conduct business of the Organization.

Article II - List of Officers and Their Duties

Section 1:

- a. Executive Director - The Executive Committee and Board of Directors shall select and maintain an Executive Director with a National Office. The Executive Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Board.  
The duties of the Executive Director shall be to take charge of the daily operations of the National Office and to coordinate the recruiting effort to bring in new schools to the Organization.
  - President - In charge of calling the Executive Council and Board of Directors' meeting and to preside at such meetings.
  - Vice President - In charge of the Executive Council meeting, if the president is unable to attend. Is in charge of the national scholarship program.
  - Secretary/Treasurer - Is in charge of the minutes of the annual meeting. Is in charge of giving the annual fiscal report on the Organization.
  - Editor - Is directly responsible for the editing and the production of Omega Trends, the official newsletter of The National Order of Omega.
- b. Each officer and board member shall keep written records of activity for the year with one set to be filed in the National Office.
  - c. Each retiring officer and board member shall make an annual written report to be filed with the National Office for use by the following officer or board member.

Section 2:

- a. If a vacancy in an office should occur during the year, the president shall nominate a replacement with concurrence from the Executive Council and Board of Directors. A simple majority is all that is needed to support the nomination.

Article III - Finances

Section 1 - Initiation Fee:

- a. There shall be a one-time National initiation fee of \$25.00. This shall include the National pin and certificate. This fee should be sent with the form provided by the National Office at least four (4) weeks before the date of initiation. This shall be the fee for the following categories of members: students, faculty, alumni. The honorary members may be initiated for a \$10.00 fee.
- b. Each local chapter shall decide if it is to have local dues and how much they will be.

Article IV - Parliamentary Authority

Section 1:

- a. The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard for conducting the National meeting.

Article V - Amendments

Section 1:

- a. Any amendment to these Bylaws shall require for its passage an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the combined votes of the national officers and of the active collegiate chapters secured by mail vote within two months after its submission.

BYLAWS OF OMEGA UPSILON CHAPTER  
of the  
NATIONAL ORDER OF OMEGA  
Lamar University

ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility

- a. The qualifications for membership in the Order shall be character, scholarship and intelligence, service and leadership in the inter-greek affairs.
- b. To be eligible for membership, a student shall meet the following minimum requirements:
  - (1) One full academic year of enrollment at Lamar University
  - (2) Junior or senior (undergraduate) standing
  - (3) Rank academically above the all-fraternity or all-sorority average of the system (cumulative average).

Section 2. Election to Membership

- a. Two-thirds of the active members of the chapter shall be present to conduct election of members.
- b. Membership in Omega Upsilon Chapter shall be by invitation issued by the chapter, provided that the chapter has properly evaluated the application of each candidate, and that an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members in good standing is secured. Voting shall be by ballot.
- c. In cases where the number of members participating in an election to membership is ten or less, two negative votes shall exclude a candidate from membership; where the member participating in the election is from eleven to twenty inclusive, three negative votes shall be required to exclude a candidate.
- d. Members will be chosen annually, or when necessary, semi-annually. Honorary members may be elected as frequently as the chapter may desire. The fall semester shall be the time of primary membership selection. Spring selection will be contingent upon the percentage selected the previous fall semester.

Section 3. Scholastic Standards

- a. The chapter shall strive to maintain a campus scholastic ranking which is above the all-fraternity or all-sorority average.
- b. All active members of Omega Upsilon Chapter shall maintain individual scholastic averages of at least a 2.5 for the previous grading period. Those members failing to maintain the minimum average may not hold an office and may not vote on questions before the chapter, including membership. Exceptions to these requirements must be approved by the Faculty Advisor.

Section 4. Initiation

- a. The method of announcing candidates for initiation shall be determined by a committee established for that purpose, with the Vice President as chairperson.
- b. All initiation ceremonies will be conducted according to the Ritual, National Order of Omega.



## ARTICLE II - MEETINGS

- Section 1. Chapter Meetings
- a. Chapter meetings shall be held once a month with additional meetings scheduled as necessary.
  - b. Attendance will be required of all active members. Excuses may be granted by the President when necessary.
  - c. Two-thirds of the members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for chapter meetings.
- Section 2. Chapter Bylaws
- a. A dated copy of the approved chapter bylaws shall be furnished to each active member.
  - b. A Bylaws Committee shall review the chapter by laws every fall for necessary revising or amending.

## ARTICLE III - ORGANIZATION

- Section 1. Nomination and Election of Officers
- a. The officers of Omega Upsilon Chapter shall be nominated by a Nominating Committee of approximately three active members, appointed by the President, with the approval of the Officers' Council. The President and the Faculty Advisor are ex-officio members of the committee.
  - b. The nominating Committee shall meet prior to the last meeting of the spring semester each year and compile a slate of chapter officers.
  - c. To be eligible for office a member must:
    - (1) Have all financial obligations paid in full to the chapter and the National Order of Omega.
    - (2) Be approved by the Officers' Council.
    - (3) Be a member in good standing of the chapter and of the National Order of Omega.
  - d. Election of chapter officers shall take place at the last meeting of the spring semester. Officers shall be elected by a majority of the chapter members in good standing present.
  - e. No officer shall receive any compensation for serving as chapter officer either by reduction of dues or fees or otherwise.
  - f. Any officer shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment.
- Section 2. Installation of Officers
- a. Chapter officers shall be installed prior to the end of the spring semester.
  - b. Chapter officers shall be installed according to the ceremony as written by and for this chapter.
- Section 3. List of Officers and Duties
- a. Elected Officers
    - President - In charge of planning meeting and organizing officers and members. Presides at Officers' Council meetings. See officer notebook for detailed duties.
    - Vice President - In charge of Initiation Ceremony and Ritual. See officer notebook for detailed duties.
    - Secretary - In charge of minutes from meetings, bylaws, check



notebooks during summer. See officer notebook for detailed duties.

Treasurer - In charge of financial records, collecting dues, paying National dues. See officer notebook for detailed duties.

Faculty Advisor - Nominated from among the active faculty members and appointed by the National President for a term of one year.

- b. Each officer shall keep an officer notebook and instruct the successor in the duties of the office, turning over to the successor all chapter properties connected with that office.
- c. Each retiring officer shall make an annual written report to be retained in the notebook.

#### Section 4. Vacancies

- a. If a vacancy in an office should occur during the year, the Officers' Council shall nominate a candidate for the office. A regular election, training, and installation shall take place.
- b. If a vacancy in office should occur during the summer, and if the officer should have to fulfill any duties before the first Officers' Council of the fall, the President, with the approval of the Faculty Advisor, shall appoint someone to fill the office until said Officers' Council. A regular election, training, and installation shall then take place.

#### Section 5. Standing Committees

- a. Nominating Committee (see Article III, Section 1 of these bylaws).
- b. The Bylaws Committee shall be composed of the Secretary as chairperson, the President, Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor, and three members. The duties of this committee shall be to prepare the chapter bylaws for revision or amendment. (See Article II, Section 2, b. of these bylaws.)

#### Section 6. Officers' Council

- a. Personnel of the Officers' Council shall be: President, who shall preside, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Faculty Advisor. Other members may be invited at the discretion of the President.
- b. Meetings shall be held one week prior to chapter meeting at a time and place decided upon by the Officers' Council at the beginning of the fall term. These meetings shall be a means for the officers to exchange ideas, to analyze the needs of the chapter, to plan the agenda for chapter meetings.

### ARTICLE IV - FINANCES

#### Section 1. Initiation Fee

An initiation fee as established by the National Order of Omega and semesterly dues shall be paid prior to the date of initiation. The national initiation fee shall be sent immediately to the National Order of Omega. The balance shall be deposited by the Treasurer.

- Section 2. Semesterly dues will be ~~\$2~~ and shall be paid at the first meeting of each semester.

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Section 3. Delinquent Accounts

- a. Any member owing an account more than thirty days delinquent shall cease automatically to be in good standing with the chapter, and shall not vote on questions before the chapter, including membership.
- b. If payment or acceptable arrangements for payment have not been made within thirty days from the date the member was placed in bad standing, the membership shall be terminated, with the approval by three-fourths of the active members and review by the Officers' Council before it shall be made finally effective.
- c. Exceptions to this procedure will be made only in the case of severe financial emergency which can be confirmed by the Officers' Council.

Section 4. Miscellaneous

- a. There shall be one organization account for the chapter in the name of the Order of Omega which shall be administered by the Treasurer of the chapter. The account will be handled by the Student Club Account of Lamar University.
- b. The National Membership fee of each member shall be paid to the National Order of Omega (in conformity with the National Membership policies).

ARTICLE V - CALENDAR

Section 1. Chapter Calendar

- a. The Officers' Council shall prepare a tentative chapter calendar in the late spring of each year. The events of the fall and spring semesters shall be outlined at this time. The chapter shall discuss and adopt these calendars at the first meeting of the fall semester and thereafter when necessary.
- b. Such calendars shall include:
  - (1) Election of new members
  - (2) Initiation services in accordance with the Ritual, National Order of Omega.
  - (3) All-Greek activities and meetings.

ARTICLE VI - CHAPTER PROPERTIES

Section 1. Ritualistic Properties

The Vice President shall check all ritualistic properties and provide for their safekeeping in the file cabinet in the Advisor's office.

Section 2. Memorabilia and Archives

The secretary shall be in charge of memorabilia and archives to be kept in the file in the Advisor's office.

Section 3. Inventory

In the late spring of each year, the outgoing and incoming Vice Presidents and Secretaries shall take inventory of all chapter ritualistic properties, memorabilia, archives, and all other chapter property.

ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments

- a. The chapter bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the chapter members in good standing present. They are then submitted to the General Council for approval.
- b. After the approvals have been received, the chapter shall formally adopt the approved bylaws as amended by a three-fourths vote of the chapter members in good standing present.

ARTICLE VIII - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. Reference

The current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall be the standard for chapter parliamentary procedure.