

THE
BYLAWS



of the
UMBC CHAPTER
of
TRIANGLE FRATERNITY

As Of
August 31, 2009

Contents

- ARTICLE I Pledges 1
 - §1. Definition 1
 - §2. Rights and Privileges 1
 - §3. Nomination 1
 - §4. Academic Requirements 1
 - §5. Bids 1
 - §6. Pledge Installation 1
 - §7. Initiation 2
 - §8. Release from Pledging 2

- ARTICLE II Officers 3
 - §1. Elected 3
 - §2. Appointed 4

- ARTICLE III Committees 6
 - §1. Defined Committees 6
 - §2. Rules of Order 7
 - §3. Duties and Privileges of Committee Chairmen 7
 - §4. Election of Committee Members 7

- ARTICLE IV Meetings 8
 - §1. Structure 8
 - §2. First Meeting 8
 - §3. Quorum 8
 - §4. Emergency Meetings 8
 - §5. Closed Meetings 8

- ARTICLE V Amendments 9

- ARTICLE VI Fraternity Regulations 10

- ARTICLE VII Suspension of Bylaws 11

ARTICLE I

PLEDGES

§1. DEFINITION

Pledges of the Chapter shall be probationary members of the Fraternity.

§2. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Each Pledge shall have the same rights, privileges, and responsibilities as an Active member, except for those restrictions specified in the National Constitution and Bylaws and the following:

1. Pledges may not hold Elected or Appointed office.
2. Pledges may not attend meetings of the Executive Board, nor may they attend meetings of the Ritual or Policy committees.
3. Pledges may not serve on defined committees, however, they may serve on Ad Hoc committees.

§3. NOMINATION

A Brother may nominate a man to pledge at any time. Nominees will be voted on immediately, or at the next meeting of the General Membership. To become a pledge, a candidate must receive a simple majority vote of the Active Membership and no more than two (2) objections.

§4. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

In order to become a pledge a nominated man must meet the following academic requirements:

1. Be a full time student at UMBC.
2. Have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
3. Be registered as an approved major for Triangle Fraternity.

Exceptions to the grade point average requirement may be made if the nominee meets National standards for pledging and receives a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership.

A man whose major is Interdisciplinary Studies must also meet the following additional requirements before pledging. A copy of his major plan must be received by the Active Membership for review, and that plan must lead to a Bachelor of Science Degree. The specific course plan will be voted on for approval at the next meeting of the Active Organization. If the proposed Interdisciplinary Studies plan is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the present Active Membership, the man may be considered to become a pledge.

§5. BIDS

If a nominee is approved, he is offered a bid to pledge the Fraternity and has until the next scheduled pledge installation ceremony to accept. Bids extended to approved nominees must be delivered in writing no less than four (4) days before the next pledge installation ceremony.

§6. PLEDGE INSTALLATION

There will be one scheduled pledge installation ceremony for each semester. Having voluntarily stated his acceptance of the invitation to pledgeship in TRIANGLE, the prospective member shall be promptly pledged in the manner prescribed by the National Bylaws.

§7. INITIATION

A vote of the the Active Membership will be taken in a Closed Meeting. Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, and to be initiated a pledge must receive no more than two (2) objections. After being approved for initiation, a pledge must be given an invitation to the initiation ceremony at least one week before the ceremony is scheduled to take place. A pledge must accept and pay the required fees no later than the day before the ceremony.

§8. RELEASE FROM PLEDGING

A pledge may be released for the following reasons:

1. Not being initiated for a full calendar year after pledging.
2. Withdrawing from school.
3. No longer meeting the requirements necessary to become a pledge.
4. Refusal to complete pledge education or initiation.
5. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership to remove the pledge.
6. Voluntarily removing himself from pledgeship.

Pledges who are released will take the release oath as specified in the National Constitution and/or Bylaws.

ARTICLE II

OFFICERS

§1. ELECTED

A. PRESIDENT

1. As Official Spokesperson, the President is required to attend Greek Presidents' Council meetings, as well as to be the primary contact for those outside the organization.
2. Publish the agenda for the General Membership meetings to the General Membership at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

B. VICE PRESIDENT

1. Should the secrecy of Ritual be compromised, the Executive Board must receive a report no later than 24 hours after discovery of the incident. The Brotherhood must be notified as soon as possible, and no later than 72 hours after discovery of the incident.
2. The Vice President must schedule a date for the Ritual by the fifth meeting of the semester.
3. If the Vice President cannot serve as an unbiased arbiter in a dispute, he must appoint another Brother to serve as an unbiased arbiter.
4. The member reeducation program must maintain the knowledge and spirit of the Ritual among the Brotherhood.

C. TREASURER

1. The Treasurer will keep paper records of all transactions.
2. The Treasurer will present a report at every meeting of the active organization listing all transactions since the last report.
3. Unless specifically budgeted, the Treasurer will receive majority consent of the Active Organization before dispersing chapter funds. In emergency situations, a three-quarters approval of the Executive Board may be obtained instead. This should be reported to the Active Organization as soon as possible.
4. Each semester, the Treasurer will offer a payment plan to the members of the Active Organization for the collection of dues.
5. At the close of the election meeting, the exiting Treasurer will collect budgets from the winning candidates.

D. SECRETARY

1. The Secretary must publish the minutes of General Membership meetings no later than 24 hours after the adjournment of the meeting.
2. The Secretary must check the chapter mailbox at least twice a week.

E. PLEDGE EDUCATOR

1. The Pledge Educator must give a report of Pledge affairs at least once a week during a closed meeting of the Active Membership while the Chapter has Pledges.
2. At the end of the pledging period for the semester, the Pledge Educator must report to the Active Membership those Pledges that have completed all the necessary requirements to be initiated.

F. RECRUITMENT CHAIR

1. The Recruitment Chair must submit a semester recruitment calendar to the General Membership at least two weeks before Rush begins or at the first chapter meeting of the semester, whichever is later.
2. The Recruitment Chair must keep statistics for recruitment events.
3. The Recruitment Chair should encourage attendance at Rush events.

G. PARLIAMENTARIAN

1. The Parliamentarian must keep the Active Organization apprised of changes to the Governing Documents being discussed in committee.
2. The Parliamentarian must make available the current Governing Documents of the Chapter.

H. SOCIAL CHAIR

1. The Social Chair must have a location and submit a budget for the Initiation banquet at least three weeks before the event is to take place.
2. The Social Chair must schedule and arrange for a Founder's Day Banquet at least three weeks before the event is to take place.

I. RISK CHAIR

The Risk Chair must maintain a list of emergency contact numbers for each member and a list of local emergency services' numbers (i.e. Hospital(s), Poison Control Center, Fire Department, etc...)

§2. APPOINTED

A. SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

1. The Sergeant-at-Arms must inspect the condition of the room before and after each meeting.
2. The Sergeant-at-Arms may appoint other Brothers as necessary to help to maintain security.

B. HISTORIAN

1. The Historian must keep an archive of all emails, agendas, and minutes.
2. The Historian must report on the Chapter's history to date at the Founder's Day banquet.
3. The Historian must keep a photograph with the name, picture, and date of initiation of each Brother of the Chapter.

C. ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVE

1. The Alumni Representative must organize at least one Active-Alumni social event per semester.

D. WEBMASTER

1. The Website must contain current officer contact information, an event calendar, and a link to the National Headquarters' website.
2. Changes to the website must be made in a timely manner.

E. SCHOLASTIC CHAIR

1. The Scholastic Chair must collect semester class schedules and Grade Point Averages from all Brothers by the second General Membership meeting of the semester.
2. The Scholastic Chair must report to the Executive Board the grade point average of any Brother who holds an average of less than two-point-five (2.5) by the third General Membership meeting of the semester.

F. IFC REPRESENTATIVE

If the IFC Representative must miss an IFC meeting, he will find another Brother to go in his place.

G. PHILANTHROPY CHAIR

1. The Philanthropy Chair must have at least one philanthropic activity planned by the fifth General Membership meeting each semester.
2. The Philanthropy Chair shall maintain a record of the hours each member has spent performing community service.

ARTICLE III

COMMITTEES

§1. DEFINED COMMITTEES

A. EXECUTIVE BOARD

1. The Executive Board shall consist of the President (as chair), the Vice President, the Treasurer, and the Secretary.
2. The Executive Board must submit a list of semester goals to the General Membership by the third meeting in the semester.
3. The Executive Board must hold meetings at least once a month to facilitate the administration of the Fraternity.
4. Only Brothers may attend Executive Board meetings.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. The committee shall consist of the chair and one (1) member per ten (10) active brothers, with a minimum of four (4) members and the chair.
2. No one who holds an office that submits a budget may be a member of the Finance committee.
3. Budget Proposals
 - (a) The budget for the following semester will be due to the Active Organization for discussion by the third to last meeting of the current semester.
 - (b) The budget for the following semester must be approved no later than the last meeting of the current semester.
 - (c) Officer budgets for the spring semester are due to the Finance Committee by the fifth to last meeting in the fall semester. Officer budgets for the fall semester are due to the Finance Committee at the close of the election meeting.
 - (d) The Finance Committee must hold a budget hearing for each proposed budget. The submitting officer should attend the budget hearing for his proposed budget.
 - (e) Proposed budgets may be freely altered by their author before or during their budget hearing.

C. RITUAL COMMITTEE

1. It is the duty of the Ritual Committee to make all necessary preparations for Ritual.
2. The Ritual Committee must secure a location and transportation for the Ritual at least three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled date.
3. The Ritual Committee shall facilitate the implementation, preparation, and take-down of the Ritual.
4. Only Brothers may attend Ritual Committee meetings.

D. RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

1. The duty of the Recruitment Committee is to plan and implement recruitment events.
2. At least one member of the Recruitment Committee must be at each Recruitment event.

E. SOCIAL COMMITTEE

1. The committee shall consist of the Vice President, the Social Chair, and a maximum of three (3) other members.
2. The duty of the committee is to help the Social Chair fulfill his duties.
3. There must be a member of the Social Committee overseeing each scheduled social event.

F. POLICY COMMITTEE

1. The Policy Committee shall consist of a maximum of four (4) members and the Chair.
2. The duty of the Policy Committee is to discuss any changes to the Chapter Governing Documents which are suggested or deemed necessary by the Active Organization.
3. The Policy Committee will present for the approval of the Active Organization any changes of the Governing Documents requested by the General Membership within three weeks of the motion to change them.
4. Only Brothers may attend Policy Committee meetings.

§2. RULES OF ORDER

1. Committees are expected to run their meetings under the Guidelines specified in the Regulations.
2. Quorum for committee meetings shall be defined as four-fifths (4/5) of the body.

§3. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

1. The chair of each committee may select from his committee a Vice Chairman and a Secretary.
2. It is the duty of the chairman to set reasonable and convenient meeting times.
3. The committee chairman must secure their meeting location by scheduling a room themselves or requesting one through the sergeant-at-arms.

§4. ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Members of all committees except the Ritual committee and the Recruitment committee shall be elected by a simple majority vote of the General Membership.
2. Term of office for Committee Members shall be one semester.
3. Election of committee members for the next semester shall take place before the last meeting of the current semester.
4. A committee member who misses two or more meetings may be dismissed at the Chairman's discretion.
5. Any vacant seat on a committee may be filled by an election at any meeting of the General Membership.

ARTICLE IV

MEETINGS

§1. STRUCTURE

General Membership meetings must have the following structure:

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes
- Officer and Committee reports
- Old Business
- Upcoming Events
- New Business
- Man of the Week
- Adjournment

§2. FIRST MEETING

General Membership meetings must begin by the second week of the semester.

§3. QUORUM

Quorum for General Membership meetings shall be reached when a majority of the Active Membership is in attendance.

§4. EMERGENCY MEETINGS

At his discretion, the President may call an emergency meeting of the General Membership. At least twenty-four (24) hours notice must be given.

§5. CLOSED MEETINGS

1. In addition to General Membership meetings, there will be Closed meetings of the Organization which only Brothers may attend.
2. The Vice President shall be Chair of the Closed Meeting. In his absence, the President shall serve as Chair.
3. The President or Vice President may call Closed Meetings with at least twenty-four (24) hours notice to the Active Organization.

ARTICLE V

AMENDMENTS

These Bylaws can be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership. Amendments to the bylaws must be presented to the Active Membership at least one week before the vote for approval can take place.

ARTICLE VI

FRATERNITY REGULATIONS

In addition to these Bylaws, there will be a set of Fraternity Regulations which expand upon these Bylaws and define standard operating procedure of the fraternity. These regulations, and changes thereto, shall be adopted by a majority vote of the Active Organization, unless a vote stricter than a majority vote is specified within the regulation. If so, the regulation can only be enacted and/or changed by that vote. They will provide for the continuance of those functions directed by the National and Chapter Constitutions, the Ritual, National and Chapter Bylaws, mandates of the National Convention, and/or good administrative practices not contrary to TRIANGLE precepts and governing documents.

ARTICLE VII

SUSPENSION OF BYLAWS

These bylaws can be suspended in part by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Active Membership. If the constitution of which these bylaws are a part has been suspended, then these bylaws are also suspended for the same period of time.