

Constitution



TRIANGLE FRATERNITY
OF UMBC

October 23, 2010

Preamble

This document shall define the Organization known as the UMBC Chapter of Triangle Fraternity. This Constitution, its Bylaws, and Chapter Regulations shall be in accordance with and superseded by the Triangle Fraternity National Constitution, Bylaws, Regulations, and Ritual.

Article I - Name

Section 1 - Definition

This Organization shall be officially designated as the UMBC Chapter of Triangle Fraternity.

Section 2 - Use of Name

1. The UMBC Chapter of Triangle Fraternity shall not become involved in any other organization in a manner in which it loses its name.
2. The "UMBC Chapter of Triangle Fraternity" shall from this point on in this document be referred to as "Chapter".

Article II - Purpose

1. The purpose of the Chapter will be to sustain a fraternity of engineers, architects and scientists at UMBC, by maintaining a quality of membership which achieves or exceeds that stated in the precepts of the Fraternity and the Code of Ethics.
2. The Chapter shall not become involved in any other organization in a manner in which it violates its purpose.

Article III - Membership

Section 1 - Definition of Brother

A Brother shall be defined as a member who has been initiated into Triangle.

Section 2 - Members

The membership of the Chapter shall consist of Active, Alumni, Associate, Honorary, and Affiliate members.

1. Active Members are those members holding student status at UMBC who do not hold another membership status.
2. Alumni members are those brothers who have graduated from UMBC, as well as brothers still attending UMBC who have been approved for alumni status.
3. Associate and Honorary members shall be as defined in the National Constitution.
4. The membership status of Pledges of the Chapter is expressed in the Bylaws.

Section 3 - Restrictions

A Brother may only hold one membership status at one time.

Section 4 - Groups of Members

1. The General Membership shall be defined as all members of the Chapter.
2. The Active Membership shall consist of Active members of the Chapter.
3. The Brotherhood shall consist of all initiated members of the Chapter.
4. A Brother is defined as a member of the Brotherhood.

Article IV - Officers

Section 1 - Elected

The elected offices of the Chapter shall be:

Para. 1 - President

The duties of the President are:

1. to represent the Chapter as the official spokesman.
2. to serve as chair of the General Membership meetings.
3. to serve as chair of the Executive Board.
4. to schedule the General Membership and Executive Board meetings.
5. to create an agenda for each meeting of the General Membership.
6. to oversee all officers of the Chapter and ensure they fulfill their duties as defined by this Constitution.

Para. 2 - Vice President

The duties of the Vice President are:

1. to safeguard any Ritual documents possessed by the Chapter.
2. to oversee the planning and implementation of Ritual.
3. to chair the Ritual committee.
4. to serve as an un-biased arbiter in disputes between Brothers.
5. to facilitate communication between Brothers.

6. to organize Brotherhood building activities with the Social Chair and Pledge Educator.
7. to create and maintain a member reeducation program.
8. to assist the President as needed.
9. to assume the duties of the President in the event of his absence, incapacitation, or vacancy of office.

Para. 3 - Pledge Educator

The duties of the Pledge Educator are:

1. to create and implement a Pledge education program that is based on the Triangle member manual and Fraternity history.
2. to schedule Pledge Education meetings for the Pledge class.
3. to facilitate the development of brotherhood between the Pledges and the Brothers.
4. to prepare the Pledges for initiation.
5. to assume the duties of the Vice President in the event of his absence, incapacitation, or vacancy of office.

Para. 4 - Treasurer

The duties of the Treasurer are:

1. to collect money from Brothers for dues and fees.
2. to disperse Chapter funds.
3. to monitor the bank accounts of the Chapter and keep a record of all transactions.
4. to chair the Finance committee.
5. to assume the duties of the Pledge Educator in the event of his absence, incapacitation, or vacancy of office.

Para. 5 - Secretary

The duties of the Secretary are:

1. to record and archive the minutes of all Executive Board and General Membership meetings.
2. to record the attendance of all members at meetings.

3. to collect and distribute contact information for all Chapter members and affiliates, and maintain an e-mail list.
4. to mail all required forms and fees to the National Headquarters.
5. to assume the duties of the Treasurer in the event of his absence, incapacitation, or vacancy of office.

Para. 6 - Recruitment Chair

The duties of the Recruitment Chair are:

1. to create and implement a schedule of recruitment events.
2. to organize and oversee all recruitment activities of the Chapter.
3. to chair the Recruitment committee.

Para. 7 - Parliamentarian

The duties of the Parliamentarian are:

1. to maintain and enforce the governing documents of the fraternity.
2. to know and enforce parliamentary procedure during meetings.
3. to chair the Policy committee.

Para. 8 - Social Chair

The duties of the Social Chair are:

1. to plan and organize social events for the Chapter with other organizations and Triangle Chapters.
2. to organize the annual Founders Day banquet.
3. to organize the banquet following each initiation.
4. to chair the Social committee.

Para. 9 - Risk Chair

The duties of the Risk Chair are:

1. to promote the safety of members in all Chapter activities.
2. to know and enforce the current regulations regarding member conduct.

Section 2 - Appointed

The appointed offices of the Chapter are:

Para. 1 - Sergeant-at-Arms

The duties of the Sergeant-at-Arms are:

1. to provide for security when necessary at all Chapter functions.
2. to ensure the privacy of all closed meetings and secret activities of the Chapter.
3. to arrange meeting locations for General Membership and committee meetings as necessary.

Para. 2 - Historian

The duties of the Historian are:

1. to keep an archive of non-secret Chapter documents.
2. to document all Chapter events.
3. to keep a record of every member of the Chapter since its founding, including deceased or expelled Brothers and Pledges.
4. to know and teach the history and traditions of the Chapter.

Para. 3 - Alumni Representative

The duties of the Alumni Representative are:

1. to attend meetings of the Alumni organization.
2. to report the activities of the Active membership to the Alumni organization and vice versa.
3. to facilitate the interaction of Alumni and Active members.

Para. 4 - Webmaster

The duties of the Webmaster are:

1. to maintain and update the Chapter's website.

Para. 5 - Scholastic Chair

The duties of the Scholastic Chair are:

1. to keep a current record of all members' GPAs, majors, and class schedules.
2. to promote academic achievement.
3. to schedule study hours and encourage attendance when necessary.

Para. 6 - IFC Representative

The duties of the IFC Representative are:

1. to represent the Chapter at IFC meetings.
2. to report to the Active organization the activities of the IFC.

Para. 7 - Philanthropy Chair

The duties of the Philanthropy Chair are:

1. to plan the Chapter's community service activities.
2. to encourage members to participate in service programs.

Section 3 - Election and Appointment

1. Brothers will be elected for Elected Offices as detailed in the Election article of this Constitution.
2. Brothers will be appointed for Appointed Offices by the President. To make an appointment, the President must get the approval of a majority of the Executive Board.

Section 4 - Eligibility for Office

Only Active members may hold an elected or appointed office. No Brother may have more than one elected office, or more than one appointed office, at a time. In circumstances where it is necessary a Brother may have both an elected and an appointed office. To hold an office, a Brother must have a cumulative GPA of no lower than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.

Section 5 - Term of Office

Unless truncated by removal or resignation, the term of office for elected positions shall be until the installation of the officer's successor. If a Brother is elected to the same office that he currently holds, he must still take part in the Officer Installation Ceremony, where his previous term ends and a new one begins.

Term of Office for appointed positions is until the office is reappointed by the president or until the officer is removed from office.

Section 6 - Removal of an Officer

Procedures to commence removal of an officer shall be enacted upon the majority vote of the Active Brothers at a meeting of the General Membership. If it is proposed that the President be removed from office, he shall immediately relinquish the chair to the Vice President.

Para. 1 - Elected

1. A notice will be sent to ALL members of the Chapter immediately following the meeting where the proposal for removal is presented.
2. At a meeting no less than one week after the proposal is presented, the charges against the officer will be presented to the General Membership.
3. Following presentation of charges, the officer in question will have a chance to issue a rebuttal.
4. Discussion may occur at the discretion of the chair.
5. A vote shall be taken by secret ballot of the Active Organization.
6. A two-thirds (2/3) vote will result in removal of the officer.

Para. 2 - Appointed

1. With the approval of the Executive Board, the President may reappoint Brothers to an appointed office at any time.
2. A two-thirds vote of the Active Membership at a meeting will result in the immediate removal of a Brother from appointed office, at which time the President will appoint a different Brother (with the approval of the Executive Board).

Article V - Elections

Section 1 - Time

Elections will take place no later than the fifth-to-last meeting of the Spring Semester.

Section 2 - Nominations

Nominations for the officers will take place during the two meetings of the general membership immediately preceding the election meeting. Only Active Brothers who plan to stay Active throughout the academic year following the elections may be nominated for an office. A Brother may not nominate himself, and each nomination must be seconded by another Brother.

Section 3 - Ineligibility of Graduating Members

Active Brothers graduating in the semester in which the elections are taking place are not eligible to vote or run for office.

Section 4 - Election Chair

The president will appoint a Brother, who is ineligible to vote, to serve as Election Chair. This brother will oversee all election procedures.

Section 5 - Budgets

1. In his campaign speech, each Brother running for office will present a budget for that office.
2. If a Brother fails to present a budget with his campaign speech, he renders himself ineligible for office.

Section 6 - Procedure

The voting will be done by secret ballot. If no candidate receives a clear majority of the vote, the candidate with the least number of votes is dropped and a run-off election is held for the remaining candidates, this procedure is repeated until a candidate receives a clear majority of the vote. In the case of a tie between two candidates, the member present with the lowest chapter Bond Number must cast a tie breaking vote before the results are announced.

Section 7 - Installation of New Officers

Officers-elect will assume their offices at an Officer Installation Ceremony held no later than three weeks after their election.

Section 8 - Vacancy of Office

If an office is vacated the election procedure will begin immediately with only one week of nominations. If a Brother is running for the vacated office and he already holds an office in the same category, then nominations to fill the office he may leave must begin. If the Brother is not elected to the office then the election to fill his office does not occur.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1 - Attendance

Meetings of the General Membership will be open to the public. At his discretion, the chair of a General Membership meeting may choose to restrict attendance to members of the Fraternity.

Section 2 - Scheduling

Meetings of the General Membership shall be held weekly at a time in which convenience, and the number of voting Brothers in attendance can be maximized.

Section 3 - Parliamentary Procedure

The meetings shall run by a form of Robert's Rules of Order modified to conform to the interests of the Chapter; modifications to the standard will be expressed in the Bylaws.

Section 4 - Voting

In order to cast a vote in a meeting of the General Membership one must be an Active member.

Article VII - Bylaws

In addition to this constitution there shall be Bylaws which will regulate the organization by building on the rules set forth in this document.

Article VIII - Amendments

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Active Membership. Amendments to the constitution must be presented to the Active Membership at least one week before the vote for approval can take place.

Article IX - Suspension of Document

This constitution or a part thereof can be temporarily suspended by a three-fourths vote of the Active Membership.