

Beta Psi Omega National Constitution

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HISTORY:

Beta Psi Omega was first established at the University of Maryland - College Park on March 9, 2010 and was originally named Beta Iota Omicron. The founding sister, Divya Kulshreshtha, was frustrated that there were no professional resources available for students in the biological sciences who were pursuing careers in research, while there were ample resources available for students in health sciences and chemistry. This niche was filled when Beta Psi Omega was born. In the Spring of 2010, the fraternity became recognized by the Student Government Association and in Fall 2010, the first officers were elected into position. Their names were Nareh Issayans, James Booth, David Accame, Breonna Smith, Amy Carpenter, and Julie Adhya. They combined their visions and ideas with Divya's to initiate the first pledge class in Fall 2010.

In the Fall of 2011, the members voted to change the name from Beta Iota Omicron to Beta Psi Omega, in order to improve campus recognition and marketability, as well as to better identify with the professional Greek community. It should also be of note that at the founding campus, University of Maryland, Biology classes are given the course name of "BSCI," hence Beta Psi was a fitting name.

In the Summer of 2014, the National Board was founded by Kristen Fishler with the help of David Accame and James Booth. The duties of this board are to oversee the recruitment and development of new chapters, to discuss and vote on local and National Constitution improvements, and to organize National meetings and conventions. Alumni from all Chapters and colonies will be eligible for election to this board.

On September 12, 2014, a group of students at the California State University, Fullerton were initiated by the National Board into the Beta Chapter. On this day, Beta Psi Omega became a Nation-wide organization. Beta Psi Omega is the first Co-Ed fraternity on their campus.

MISSION:

The primary purpose of Beta Psi Omega is to help students help themselves. The overarching mission is to provide a supportive brotherhood for students pursuing careers in the biological sciences, and to further the advancement of biology as a science and a profession. The fraternity is committed to serving the needs of the students and thereby the community. Beta Psi Omega aims to provide passionate students with opportunities, insights, and guidance to success. The official colors of Beta Psi Omega are green and gold.

The fraternity thrives on five core pillars, detailed below. The fraternity seeks to uphold these pillars within its members, officers, and events. The fraternity is a tangible example of these pillars, which are exhibited to the general public. The five pillars of excellence are as follows:

Intellect: Beta Psi Omega aims to extend beyond the normal realm of education and allows its members to approach learning with a unique attitude. We would like our members to learn how to think, not what to think, and learn to apply this knowledge in a variety of situations.

Service: We are a community based organization with the basic goal of helping students help themselves. In addition to serving the professional needs of students in the biological sciences, Beta Psi Omega extends its helping hand to other service based projects.

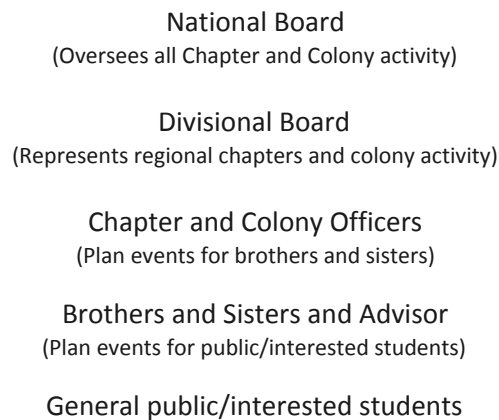
Unity: Beta Psi Omega believes that the power of the sum is greater than the individual parts. The organization therefore aims to foster connections not only with its members, but with resources on campus, and the surrounding professional world as a whole.

Diversity: This organization is a representation of the varied perspectives in the biological sciences. Since biology has such an eclectic foundation, we aim to expose students to this diversity within the field and within their career options. Therefore, there is no particular student template we are searching for, but rather students who simply love what it is that they do. We encourage all majors to be a part of this organization.

Proactivity: A key feature our members should embody is the ability to approach problems and issues constructively. We constantly seek improvement within the organization and within each other to ensure survival of the best and brightest versions of ourselves. If we can achieve that, it ensures that Beta Psi Omega is continuously improving and evolving.

Article I: Organizational Setup

The best depiction of the hierarchy of Beta Psi Omega is as follows:



Beta Psi Omega strives to implement valuable leadership and organizational skills in all of its members. Those who are not members of Beta Psi Omega have an opportunity to gain valuable guidance through public events. Although it may seem counterintuitive to allow others to access our resources without being members, Beta Psi Omega is committed to serving the needs of the students and thereby the community. Not only do these semester events serve as a great way to advertise our organization to students, but these events establish the fraternity's presence on campus and allow employers and professors to reach out to us. Moreover, the brothers and sisters will gain valuable leadership and organizational experience by working together to achieve a common goal.

The nucleus of the organization are the officers who will plan events to accommodate the specific academic and professional needs of the brothers and sisters and to oversee their Chapter's activity (See Article III for more details).

An advisor is the University liaison for all of Beta Psi Omega's activities. The officers must meet with the advisor at least once per semester so that they are up to date with the fraternity's accomplishments and challenges, so they may provide constructive feedback on how the fraternity can improve as an organization. They are a crucial part in promoting what the fraternity has accomplished to faculty and

staff, and positive and consistent relations with the advisor should be a priority.

Section A: Definition of a Colony and Chapter

The definition of a colony includes a group of students at a 4 year University that meets all of the eligibility requirements of new Chapters (see article VIII), has been approved to begin rush/pledging by the National Board, and has initiated an Alpha class. This Alpha class will consist of the officers and members who have completed the group's first round of pledging. A colony will be eligible to petition for a Charter once one year has passed since the induction of their first pledge class. However, it is possible that a colony will take longer than one year to apply for a Charter. Factors which would prevent a colony from becoming a Chapter include: Constitutional violations, failure to meet benchmark deadlines, lack of communication between officers, members, and the National Board, and circumstances which undermine the vision and mission of the fraternity. These factors will be reviewed on a semesterly basis and discussed with each colony to offer advice on areas of strength and improvement.

The definition of a Chapter includes any colony that has been reviewed by the National Board, meets all the qualifications of a Chapter, and has been issued a Charter by the National Board. Each Chapter must touch base with their Divisional Chair at least once per semester to update them on rush/pledging, pillar events, and ask questions or request advice.

Section B: Colony Benchmarks

Benchmarks are to be completed during the time points below. These are the minimum requirements that will be expected of each colony. Successful completion of these benchmarks will keep a colony on track to becoming eligible for a Chapter Charter. Failure to complete benchmarks will result in a review of the colony by the National Board.

Semester 1: Fill 5 core officer positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Public Relations), induct Alpha class, conduct at least 2 pillar events, acquire an Advisor

Semester 2: Fill any remaining board positions as listed in the Constitution, conduct remaining pillar events, , hold Founder's Day event, members now responsible for completing 15 service hours each semester, meet National philanthropy fundraising goals **Year 2:** Become eligible to petition to National Board for Chapter Charter

Article II: The National Board

The National Board's primary purpose is to provide guidance and mentorship to colonies and Chapters throughout their growth processes, while helping to further the mission of Beta Psi Omega through Constitutional amendment approval, convention planning, resource management, and maintaining alumni relations. The Board will also manage legal issues by defending trademarking disputes and any actions taken against the fraternity, both locally and Nationally.

Section A: Organizational Setup

The National Board will be made up of a maximum of 2 Co-Presidents, Vice-President of Internal Affairs, Vice-President of External Affairs, Vice-President of Finance, Vice-President of Outreach, Secretary,, Divisional Chairs, and Web Master. As the organization expands, positions such as Event Planner and Alumni Liaison will be added.

Co-Presidents: responsible for approving/rejecting Constitutional Amendments, will arrange and lead Board meetings on a regular basis, implement new ideas and improve the quality of the resources, aid,

and support the National Board can offer to members.

Vice-President of Internal Affairs: maintains internal conflict within the fraternity, oversees divisional chairs, presides at the organization meetings in the absence of the Co-Presidents.

Vice-President of External Affairs: maintain the Alumni networking database, contact Alumni twice per year to update on Chapter and National Board news, establishes relations with external organizations, including sponsorships and partnerships.

Vice-President of Finance: track all funds received, donated, and/or spent by the National Board, will create a fiscal report following the completion of each semester (January and June)

Vice-President of Outreach: oversees the establishment of new colonies, advises in pledging process, revises pledging handbook annually, and oversees chapter establishment process.

Secretary: takes notes at meetings, counting ballots at elections, and sending out emails and minutes after every meeting

Web Master: will maintain the National website and National apparel store, aid each colony in the creation of their own website under the National domain name.

Divisional Chair: report any updates/questions/concerns from National Board, will maintain relations with their assigned Chapters or colonies and report any questions and progress to the National Board, and coordinate divisional events.

Section B: Election

Elections to all National Board positions will be held annually to correspond with the end of the academic year. All alumni are eligible to run for National Board office. There are no limitations to the number of terms a National Board officer can hold.

In order to be considered for candidacy, alumni must submit an Application for Candidacy. This application will be received in the form of a "Fraternity Resume." The Fraternity Resume is a summary of the applicant's activity and achievements within the fraternity. Applicants may also wish to include other relevant information which provides evidence of the applicant's leadership ability, teamwork experience, and participation in fraternity activities.

Each Chapter/colony will be given a single vote per position. Sitting National Board members will not participate in the voting process, which will provide a balance of power between Chapters and the National Board. Once all applications are received, the National Board will send all application materials to each Chapter/colony's officers. Majority voting will determine who is elected to the Board. In the event of a tie, there will be a re-vote.

Section C: Amendments to the Constitution

The purpose of this constitution is to provide general guidelines to ensure the growth and success of Beta Psi Omega. The constitution serves to protect the mission statement and has the best interest of the organization in mind. However, if there is a general consensus that a policy, article, or section is not aligned with the best interest of Beta Psi Omega, the policy will be reviewed by the Chapter and National Board, and amended accordingly.

An amendment may be proposed at a Divisional meeting by any member. If another member seconds the amendment proposal, a discussion of the amendment will occur. If a formal draft has not been drawn up, it is the officer's responsibility to create a draft of the proposed amendment by the next Divisional meeting. At this meeting, the Division will vote whether they will send it to National Board for review; majority rule wins. The Divisional Chair will then send the Amendment to the National Board for review at least 2 weeks before the next Divisional meeting. This gives both parties (National and Division) the opportunity to discuss and create a working version of the amendment in time for the Division's next meeting. During the first week, the National Board will discuss whether the Amendments will be approved, rejected, or revised. The second week will be used to discuss and revise the proposed amendments with the Division. Amendment(s) will then be sent back to the Division where they will formally vote on acceptance of the amendment. Majority rule wins. Following the approval of the Division, the amendment will be added into the Division's constitution by the National Board. If the National Board believes the amendment will benefit all Divisions, this will be motioned to all subsidiary Divisions before adding to the National Constitution.

In the case that a Division presents an amendment to the National Board which violates the mission and/or values of the fraternity and/or is discriminatory, the National Board has the responsibility to reject the amendment. In this case, a formal document must be sent to the Division detailing why the amendment in question will not be implemented.

Section D: Violations of the National Constitution

In the case that a Chapter or colony violates the Constitution, the National Board reserves the right to take action by either placing the group on probation or disaffiliation. The status of probation will allow the Chapter six months to make improvements/changes to their current order, while the status of disaffiliation will immediately revoke the Charter until further notice. An official notification will be sent to the chapter's or colony's university. An additional semester of probation may be granted at the discretion of the National Board if positive progress is demonstrated. Following disaffiliation, the group may not seek re-affiliation for two years after the end of the semester in which the offense occurred. In order to become re-affiliated, a formal review process will occur between the proposed officers and National Board. If a colony is found to violate the Constitution, mission, or values of the fraternity within their probationary period, they will not be granted Chapter status.

The National Board reserves the right to investigate allegations of misconduct and fraud in all Chapters and colonies. The Chapter reserves the right to request evidence of these allegations. This includes, but is not limited to, requesting access to financial records, official communications, and unofficial transcripts.

Section E: Dues

Annual Chapter dues will be collected at the beginning of each academic year, and will be used to paying the organizational email addresses. National Membership Dues will be collected twice a year (Fall and Spring) in addition to dues collected by the Chapter or colony. National dues will be collected as a part the total dues paid to each Chapter/colony. It is the Chapter or colony's responsibility to send the appropriate amount to National upon collection of their dues. Each member will be responsible for paying the same fee at every Chapter or colony. In the case that a member is exempt from paying dues, they will not be expected to pay National dues. These dues will benefit all members/alumni of Beta Psi Omega and include, but are not limited to: National Conventions, website maintenance, trademarking,

and associated costs of potential legal disputes. These dues are flexible to meet the growing needs of the fraternity and will not be used for the personal benefit of any specific Chapter, colony, member, or alumni. A National Board fiscal report will be reported to each Chapter and colony at the end of each semester to delineate the distribution of funds that were received.

Article III: The Chapter Officers

The officers are the nucleus of the organization. It is critical to ensure that they are committed to the positions they are elected to and can serve as a leading example for members to follow. They set the tone for the entire organization and therefore hold a large responsibility.

Section A: Election

Elections for the positions of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Historian, and Academic Chair will occur once per year during one of the April chapter meetings. The aforementioned positions are year-long terms. Elections for Secretary, Service Chair, Public Relations, and Social Chair will occur twice a year - at a November and April chapter meeting. The aforementioned positions are semester-long terms. Semester positions are available to allow recently initiated brothers and sisters to become involved on the officer board and create flexibility for people who can only be in office for one semester. All offices shall be held only by currently enrolled students. Pledge Master will only be elected once per year, during the end of the previous semester before pledging. Since pledging only consumes one semester, it is not necessary for this position to be an entire year. Further, a member of the most recent pledge class may not run for Pledge Master until they have had the opportunity to experience one full semester of pledging as a member.

Although planning for each semester should start during summer/winter breaks, the elected officers will not formally hold their position until the semester after the election takes place. This is so the newly elected officers can observe the position so they are not thrown into a position in which they have no idea how to operate. After elections, the newly elected officers will be given the constitution test. They must score a 95% to pass. If they do not pass the first time, they may retake the test. Officers may hold the same position for a maximum of two terms. If they wish to remain an officer after this time, they may run for a different position.

Brothers and sisters must be active for one full semester before they are permitted to vote. Pledges do not have the right to vote in elections the semester they are inducted. On the day of the election, all members are expected to be present. Those interested in running for a position will give a short speech. Following the speeches, an anonymous paper ballot vote will be conducted. Paper ballots are required due to technical errors that can and have occurred with electronic ballots. Electronic ballots will only be counted for members who are abroad, or are excused from missing Chapter. The secretary will count the totals, which will be recounted by the historian separately. Majority wins. In the event of a tie, a re-vote will determine the winner.

Section B: Roles

The specific duties of each position are outlined below. The listed duties are guidelines. The position, however, may require more or less of the officer depending on the circumstances. The officer must be flexible and ambitious with his or her expectations and attitudes toward the position. Chapters and colonies are able to add officer positions to fit their specific needs with the approval of the National Board.

President: Creating a calendar of all events at the beginning of the semester, running the officer meetings, running chapter meetings, addressing the public at events, acting as liaison between the chapter and the National Board, and implementing new ideas to improve the fraternity

*Note: In order to run for President, the candidate must have previously held any officer position. This is to ensure that the candidate already has an idea of the commitment that the position requires. However, exceptions to this rule can be made at the officer board's discretion.

Vice President: Working with the President to make sure events run smoothly, filling in for the president or other officers in the event that they cannot tend to their duties, serving as SGA liaison, and organizing Pillar group planning

Treasurer: Tracking expenses, organizing and overseeing fundraisers, collecting dues

Academic Chair: Monitoring the fraternity's overall academic progress by collecting GPA information every term, holding exam meetings, organizing tutoring services, study halls and study groups

Historian: Giving constitution examination to next generation of officers, counting ballot during elections, taking pictures at events, completing the yearly report, keeping track of alumni by emailing them for updates each semester, planning Founder's Day in March

Secretary: Taking notes at meetings, counting ballots at elections, sending out emails, keeping track of attendance and disciplinary measures

Public Relations: Updating social media, creating advertisements for Rush and professional events

Pledge Master: Serving as main contact for pledges during the pledging process, coordinating and creating all pledging activities and tracking pledging assignments

*Note: The pledge master may recruit one or two members to be the Pledge Mom/Dad to assist with these duties. See pledging handbook for more details.

Service Chair: Organizing service events for the fraternity and monitoring service hours of the brothers and sisters

Social Chair: Organizing a variety of different social events necessary for member cohesion

Section C: Meetings

Officer meetings will be held once per week at a time that is convenient for all officers. It is mandatory that all officers be present at these meetings. Valid excuses from meetings are documented illnesses, a family emergency, and official review sessions for exams. Missing meetings to study or for any other reason is not a valid excuse.

The president should prepare a meeting agenda each week. During the meeting, all of the officers should sit in a circle. The purpose of the circle is to enhance communication and ensure that all voices are heard equally. Everyone shall be sitting so as to symbolize the equal importance of each officer. The officers are all working together towards a common goal, and each role is critical in the success of the

organization. The secretary should record notes during the meeting. Within 24 hours of the meeting, the secretary should send the meeting notes to the other fraternity members.

Section D: Impeachment

For infractions involving the neglect of duties by an officer (whether it be their officer duties or member requirements), an officer or member will inform the rest of the officer board. The officers will then discuss the severity of the infraction and determine on a case by case basis whether there should be a warning issued, or whether the individual in question should be relieved of their duties. In the latter situation, the board must come to a near unanimous decision. In order for impeachment to be approved, all officers minus one must agree. This is to prevent someone who may not be able to see things clearly from swaying the overall impeachment decision. If this decision is reached, the officer will be asked to submit his/her resignation as officer, but may continue Beta Psi Omega as an active member of Beta Psi Omega.

Article IV: Brothers and Sisters

Beta Psi Omega is a fraternity, a network of people with a common interest in mind. The brothers and sisters of this fraternity have a relationship, which is deeper than friendship, an unconditional duty to look out for the best interest of fellow brothers and sisters academically, professionally, and socially. The following are a few guidelines created to enhance and nurture the relationship between brothers and sisters.

Section A: Active versus Inactive Membership/Study Abroad

Active membership requires brothers and sisters to be actively engaged in the activities the fraternity offers. It requires brothers and sisters to help organize at least one of the five pillar events which will be open to the general public, attend all mandatory events for members, attend two chapter meetings each month, and complete 15 hours of community service during each semester.

Inactive membership is an option that a member may choose when he/she feels unable to fulfill the requirements of regular membership. Inactive membership consists of reduced dues (half of normal) and no required attendance at events, with the exception of two chapter meetings per semester. However, an inactive member is still allowed and encouraged to attend all other events, if possible. Inactivity must be approved by the officer board and there must be a reason behind a member's request to go inactive. The officers will assess if inactivity is appropriate for a member on a case by case basis. Brothers and sisters wishing to become inactive must apply to do so before the last day of the drop-add period for the semester. Members will be granted a maximum of one semester of inactivity. In special cases, an additional semester of inactivity may be allowed if deemed appropriate by the officers. A member may not be inactive for his or her last semester of undergrad.

Checklist for Active Members:

Organize one of the five pillar events open to the public

Attend all mandatory events for members

Attend two chapter meetings per month

Attend one social event

Pay full dues

15 Community Service Hours

Checklist for Inactive Members:

Attend 2 chapter meetings per semester

Pay half dues

Section B: Discipline

Beta Psi Omega seeks to foster strong bonds between quality students. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that the students remain dedicated and behave properly, even after they have completed pledging. Only the highest standard of behavior is acceptable. The following are possible reasons for discipline, and in extreme cases, dismissal. This is not an exhaustive list of reasons a member or officer can be brought before the Executive Board to discuss possible termination of their membership:

- Failure to meet the aforementioned requirements for membership
- Failure to attend mandatory events
- Failure to fulfill the service hour requirement
- Failure to plan a substantial Pillar event within the allotted time
- Inappropriate conduct towards another brother or sister, or a member of the public
- Impeding the mission of Beta Psi Omega
- Academic dishonesty
- Failure to uphold the university's policies and regulations

Beta Psi Omega will function on a strike system. All of the events listed above are punishable by strike. For the first strike, a warning will be given. For the second strike, the brother or sister in question will be brought in front of the officer board, with a majority of board members present. The officer board will then inform the brother or sister what rules he/she has breached. The brother/sister will then have the chance to defend his/her membership. The board may choose to give the brother/sister another chance. On the third offense however, the brother/sister's membership will be terminated.

If offenses are severe or recurring, the officer board may subject the member to a disciplinary meeting, even if the member does not have two strikes. The member will be asked to give an account of the situation(s) in question and reasons for acting the way he or she did. After hearing all sides of the incident(s), the officers will deliberate and vote on whether or not the brother/sister's membership will be terminated. A vote of 80% or higher must be reached in order for membership to be terminated. After deliberation, if the officers deem it necessary and reach a vote of 80% or higher, the member in question will be permanently dismissed from the fraternity. This action shall only be taken in the face of extreme circumstances, such as proven academic dishonesty, blatant disrespect towards other members, or tarnishing the reputation of the fraternity.

There is no tolerance for academic dishonesty. If a brother/sister has committed academic dishonesty, the three-strike policy does not apply. He or she will promptly be dismissed from the fraternity.

Strikes are wiped clean at the end of each school year. However, members who obtain two strikes will be monitored by the executive board in the following school year, and brought in for disciplinary hearings upon receiving their first strike in the new school year.

Section C: Service Hours

In order to positively impact the community that we are a part of, the brothers and sisters of Beta Psi Omega will all have a service hour requirement of 15 hours per semester or 10 hours per quarter. At least one-third (5 hours) must be fulfilled at service events organized by the fraternity. The remaining 10 hours can be acquired any service opportunity, and must be signed off on by the supervisor of the service event, on a service sheet provided by the fraternity.

Article V: Pledging

The details of pledging are expansive and confidential. Therefore, the constitution will touch on the major points of pledging, but full details are available in the Pledging Handbook.

Section A: Rushing

Rushing will occur for one week after the drop-add period. There will be a minimum of four events total, two of which must be interactive. For example, hosting a guest lecturer would not be interactive. However, having a debate about the topic of the guest lecturer would satisfy this requirement. It is important to structure rushing as to get to know people interested in membership. During rush, those who are interested should submit the written application and sign up for an interview. At the end of rush, bids will be sent by email which will determine the next pledge class. The structure of Rush will remain the same from year to year, with minor changes as deemed necessary by the officers and approved by the National Board. Details from previous years can be found in the Pledging Handbook and yearly reports.

Section B: Bidding

A bid essentially asks the student if he/she would be interested in pledging to attain membership in our fraternity. The student always has the option to say no. After rush, the officers will review the applications and interviews. All active brothers and sisters will participate and give feedback during rush, but the officers have the final say in this decision.

Section C: Selection Credentials

Character is paramount in selecting possible candidates. Membership in this organization shall not be denied to any student on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation or disability. The five pillars serve as a good guide in selection and determining character. Does this person have the intellectual capacity to think beyond the classroom? Does this person give back to the community? Does this person demonstrate proactivity? Does this person strive to respect and contribute to a diverse community? Does this person have the ability to positively interact with others? Dedication is also weighed heavily. It is difficult to measure dedication during a limited Rush period. However, this will also be tested during the pledging process.

Grade Point Average is something that is considered, but not weighed heavily. The key feature of our organization is to *help* students. There is no minimum GPA requirement to rush. To stay in the fraternity however, a member must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.5 and show adamant dedication toward academics. If a member's GPA falls below a cumulative 2.5 he/she will be put on probation and will have one semester to bring it to 2.5 or higher. The academic chair and the member's Big should monitor progress. If the member fails to bring his/her GPA up, he/she will be asked to submit their resignation. During the probation period, the member will not be permitted to attend social fraternity gatherings, only academic and professional ones.

Section D: Pledging Events

Pledging will consist of study halls, social events, and pillar-themed events. Study hall will last at least 1.5 hours and all other events must last at least one hour. At least two officers must be present at every event. The idea is that the pledges will see and interact with each other 2-3 times per week during pledging. Pledging is a time for the prospective members to bond throughout their journey towards becoming a brother or sister. All pledges are required to attend each event unless they have class, lab, or work scheduled during that time. In order to acclimate the prospective members to processes used for initiated members of the fraternity, a strict three-strike system will be used as discipline for any unexcused absences or missed assignments. Similar to the disciplinary actions used for brothers and sisters, the first strike will serve as a warning, while the second strike warrants a one-on-one meeting with that prospective member and the pledge master to discuss any shortcomings made and ways to successfully complete pledging. The third strike will result in immediate termination from the pledging process. The details of the pillar pledging events can be seen in the Pledging Handbook.

Section E: Homework Assignments

Because the pledging events may not adequately cover all of the skills and activities the fraternity wants to instill in its members, homework will be assigned. The specifics of the homework assignments can be found in the Pledging Handbook. All of the homework must be completed. These assignments will serve to expand the professional skills and knowledge base of the pledges. Not completing homework reflects an apathetic attitude towards the fraternity and the pledge's self-improvement and will not be tolerated. Failure to complete a homework assignment will result in termination of pledge status.

Section F: Initiation

Initiation to Beta Psi Omega will be granted after successful completion of all of the pledging events and homework assignments. Details of the ceremony can be found in the Pledging Handbook. Once initiated, the student can then begin to associate him/herself with Beta Psi Omega and call him/herself a brother/sister. The semester following their initiation, the member has full voting rights and must pay dues.

Section G: Feedback forms

Feedback forms are to be completed by the pledges to ensure that no hazing or unfair treatment is being conducted and that the officers and members are adequately conveying professional skills and information. Hazing is not tolerated in Beta Psi Omega. The feedback forms serve to protect the pledges and may be completed anonymously. None of the officers or current brothers/sisters may be present when the feedback forms are being completed. All of the forms must be placed in a large envelope addressed to the National Board by a pledge. This ensures confidentiality. No brother or sister is permitted to see the feedback forms before they are sent. After the National Board reviews the feedback forms, they will be mailed back to each chapter so that assessments and improvements may be made. The feedback forms are available in the Pledging Handbook.

Article VI: Events

Section A: Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings will be conducted twice a month. All brothers/sisters are expected to be present at these meetings. At the meetings, the members will discuss the upcoming events and any other concerns or issues which need to be addressed. The secretary will take notes and send them to the entire chapter within 24 hours of the meeting. An online survey will be sent out at least one month before the new semester begins to find times when the most people can meet. However, the decided times will inevitably exclude a few members of the fraternity due to scheduling conflicts. In the case that a

member is unable to attend a meeting, a university-excused absence must be presented to the officer board (i.e. doctor's note, death in the family, class, etc.) within 24 hours of the scheduled Chapter meeting. If an excuse is approved, the member will not be penalized for missing the chapter meeting. However, he/she is still obligated to arrange a time to meet with the President, VP (or both) within the next 5 business days to go over the notes of the meeting. Regardless of whether the absence is excused or unexcused, this meeting will still be arranged.

Section B: General Public Events

There will be five public events held annually, each with a corresponding pillar of excellence, which must be open to the general public. This is critical to ensure that the values of the organization are being carried forward to represent the public image of Beta Psi Omega. The event planning groups will consist of members initiated in the previous year only. In this way, each brother or sister will only be responsible for planning one pillar event in his or her time as a member. However, all brothers and sisters are encouraged to help out with future events. These events are mandatory for all members and attendance will be taken. During pledging, pledges are expected to attend all of the general public events unless they have a university excused absence. Since these events are mandatory for members and pledges, attendance at these events may take the place of one study hall. At the chapter following each event, feedback should be prompted to the members by the officers. Notes from this feedback should be placed in the yearly report for future reference.

Section C: Service

The fraternity will provide at least 15 hours worth of community service events throughout the semester, if not more. Service hours can also be awarded for tutoring and other fraternity services at the discretion of the Service Chair. One fundraising event per year must benefit the National philanthropy (See Article VIII).

Section D: Socials

Socialization is critical in this fraternity as it helps to form key relationships. There should be a minimum of 3 social events each semester, only one of which are mandatory for members. Pictures should be taken to put into the yearly report.

Section E: Beta Psi Omega Day

Every year in March, the fraternity will celebrate Beta Psi Omega Day, as a commemoration of our establishment as a national organization. This event will be celebrated with an alumni appreciation event, such as a dinner with some type of commemorative ceremony looking back on the history of the fraternity. Invitations should be sent out to all alumni at least one month prior to the event.

Article VII: Establishment of New colonies

If an individual is interested in starting a chapter at his or her University, there are a few things that must be considered: must be a four year accredited institution, the institution must demonstrate a need for Beta Psi Omega to exist, and there must be a dedicated group of people who will function as the officer board and are capable of fulfilling the guidelines laid out in this constitution. If a person is interested in starting a chapter, he or she should contact the National Board to start the initiation process.

Article VIII: Philanthropy

The National philanthropy of Beta Psi Omega will be voted on every two years. Each Chapter is required to host one service event per school year that will benefit this philanthropy. At the conclusion of each

school year, the money raised for each Chapter will be sent to the National Board, which will make one large donation in the name of Beta Psi Omega. However, each chapter is encouraged to host other events throughout the year to benefit the philanthropy or other organizations of interest. Chapters are encouraged to partner with philanthropies of their choice.

Beta Psi Omega does not restrict membership or discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, marital status, personal appearance, age, national origin, political affiliation, physical or mental disability, or on the basis of rights secured by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. (For definitions of “personal appearance” and “sexual orientation,” see the University’s Code of Human Relations (“Code.”))