

By-Laws of the Psi Omega Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha

Article I

Name and Location of the Organization

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Psi Omega Chapter of the Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society.

Section 2. This shall be situated at the University of California, San Diego.

Section 3. This document supersedes any previously approved By-Laws.

Article II

Purpose of Organization

Section 1. The objectives of this organization shall be as follows:

- a. to stimulate productive scholarship and intelligent interest in the subject of political science;
- b. to seek to promote a better understanding of political science among its members;
- c. to promote worthwhile curricular and extracurricular activities related to political science;
- d. to advance and diffuse knowledge and interest in political science;
- e. to organize and conduct seminars, conferences, research, discussion groups, and publications in the subject of political science.

Section 2. It is a professed goal of this chapter to recognize superior scholastic ability in the field of political science at the University of California, San Diego and to ensure that those possessing these qualifications will be afforded the opportunity to become a proponent of the above principles of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Article III

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be active, faculty, or honorary, as detailed below.

Section 2. Primary qualifications of student candidates for active membership include high scholarship and interest in political science. Election to active membership shall be among such junior, senior, and graduate students who are majoring in political science at the University of California, San Diego and meet each of the following qualifications:

- a. completion of at least seven political science courses, at least three of which must be upper division courses. Transfer students must have completed at least two of the three upper division courses at the University of California, San Diego;
- b. not less than a 3.6 GPA in political science courses;
- c. must have declared political science as major of study at the University of California, San Diego.

Section 3. Any member of the faculty of the department of political science at the University of California, San Diego may be elected to faculty membership. Faculty members shall possess all the privileges of active members, except holding office and voting rights.

Section 4. Any person of recognized ability and achievement in the field of political science, and who is deemed worthy of special recognition by the chapter for his/her contribution to the objectives for which this chapter strives, may be elected as an honorary member. No more than two such members may be elected in anyone year. Honorary members shall possess all the privileges of active members except that of holding office and voting privileges. The election of an honorary member must take place at any general membership meeting throughout the year. In order to be elected, 2/3rds of the membership present at that meeting must concur with the nomination of the honorary member. Officers, excluding the president, are allowed to vote. The president will preside over the voting.

Section 5. Any persons duly elected to membership (other than honorary) at another institution, who subsequently enroll as students or are serving as faculty members at the University of California, San Diego, shall be deemed members of this chapter.

Section 6. The Psi Omega chapter shall initiate new members at such time as is deemed advisable by the organization's officers and faculty advisor. Initiations must occur annually, but can also occur quarterly.

Section 7. The privileges of membership of an active member once initiated may be suspended or revoked by the unanimous vote of the entire chapter.

Article IV Officers and Committees

Section 1. Officers of this chapter shall be as follows: a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Faculty Advisor(s).

Section 2. All officers shall be elected by majority of those present and voting at the election meeting, to be held on or before the fifth week of the Spring academic quarter of each year. The current president will preside over the elections. Potential officers can nominate themselves, or can be nominated by other members of the Psi Omega chapter. Nominees may make brief speeches before the votes are cast. Votes will be cast by secret ballot. The president will cast a vote only in the case of a tie. If the election is close, the president, under the direction of the Faculty Advisor, may choose to have a run-off election between the leading candidates. Officers shall serve a term of one year.

Section 3. The duties of the President shall be as follows:

- a. to call special meetings of this chapter;
- b. to appoint committees and committee chairman as he/she deems necessary;
- c. to be responsible (with the Faculty Advisor) for arranging speakers, programs, and entertainment for meetings of the chapter; .
- d. to see to it that the chapter follows the general policy direction as set forth in Article II;
- e. to name the time and location of the meetings.

Section 4. The Vice-President shall assist the President and Faculty Advisor in any way possible and fulfill the duties of the President in the President's absence.

Section 5. The Secretary shall handle all correspondence of the chapter, including the following:

- a. notification of members of the time and place of meetings;
- b. keeping the minutes of the proceedings thereof.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall assume the duty of collecting and handling all dues, fees, etc., which pertain to this organization.

Section 7. The Faculty Advisor shall assist the President in arranging speakers, programs, and entertainment for the meetings for this chapter. He/she shall also seek to provide greater communication between the student and faculty members of the organization.

Section 8. Chairmen of such committees as the President may appoint shall designate the meeting times and places for the members of their respective committees as they shall deem appropriate. Important chairships to consider include a social chair, a publicity chair, and a chair for a speakers committee.

Section 9. Vacancies occurring on committees shall be filled by appointment of the President of this chapter. Vacancies occurring in any elected office shall be filled by a nomination by the President and the approval of the nomination by 50% + 1 of the entire membership.

Section 10. Any officer of the chapter may be removed by the concurrence of three-fourths (3/4) majority of the entire active membership of the chapter.

Article V Fees and Dues

Section 1. For initiation into the chapter, a one-time membership fee, including national dues and dues to the local chapter, shall be collected by the Treasurer by the day of initiation, or by a time pre-arranged as deemed necessary by the officers,

Section 2. Annual dues, if assessed, shall be approved by the active and faculty members present at the first business meeting held during the fall quarter. Payment of such dues will be required for participation in chapter activities.

Section 3. In the case of the initiation of honorary members, the chapter treasury shall be assessed for the initiation fee payable to the national office.

Section 4. All initiation fees of active, faculty, and honorary members shall be paid by the political science department administrative assistant to the national office within ten days of the initiation date.

Section 5. No other dues or fees will be assessed or collected by the officers of this chapter except by majority resolution attained only through a vote at any business meeting with quorum

of a majority of the chapter membership. Such fees shall be delivered to the Treasurer or political science department administrative assistant.

Article VI Meetings

Section 1. Business meetings of this organization shall be held as necessary during the period September through June (excluding university breaks) at a time and place determined by the President to be most convenient and expedient.

Section 2. Attendance of all active members is required at all business meetings and initiations. Notice of time and place of meetings shall be made by the officers of the chapter at least three days prior to the date of the meeting.

Section 3. Special meetings may be called at any time when deemed necessary by the President of the chapter.

Section 4. The procedure at all meetings, chapter and committee, shall be governed by accepted Parliamentary rules of order, and members shall observe proper decorum during the sessions of the chapter and its various committees.

Article VII Constitution and Amendments

Section 1. The chapter shall have the power to make and amend these by-laws not inconsistent with the word and spirit of the national constitution, as may be deemed necessary.

Section 2. Amendments shall be adopted by the favorable concurrence of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of those members present and voting, provided that such amendment or amendments shall have been read in full to the chapter.

Section 3. This constitution, containing amends to the original constitution of February 1, 2000 shall be ratified by no fewer than two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting at the business meetings of February 17, 2006.

Approved this Seventeenth Day of February in the Year Two Thousand Six.