

## **CONSTITUTION**

**National Pan-Hellenic Council**

**Oklahoma State University**

**October 2016**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the representatives of the established Divine Nine fraternities and sororities, similar in structure and background with both graduate and undergraduate chapters, recognizing the need for coordination and cooperation in activities of intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternities and sororities, recognizing that there are certain areas of action and programming that can best be carried out by the joint efforts of all such organizations, and believing that these needs can best be realized by formal organization, do hereby establish such an organization and bind ourselves to abide by the provisions of the following Constitution and Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE I – NAME**

Section 1: The name of this organization shall be the Oklahoma State University National Pan-Hellenic Council.

Section 2: The name of the organization shall henceforth be referred to as “OSU NPHC.”

### **ARTICLE II – PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

Section 1: To create, perpetuate, and to maintain constructive fraternity and sorority relationships.

Section 2: To enhance mutual respect, assistance, and cooperation among member groups.

Section 3: To foster an understanding of the structure and methods of operation among the affiliated organizations.

Section 4: To address, coordinate, and develop action strategies on matters of mutual concern to the affiliate organizations.

Section 5: To serve as the conduit for such action plans as they may be developed.

Section 6: To enrich the campus community through community service and philanthropic activity.

Section 7: To actively support individual organization endeavors on campus, in the

community, and state.

Section 8: And, to recognize the achievements of the council and its members.

### **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1A: Membership in OSU NPHC shall include the current list of Black Greek-letter Organizations (BGLOs) on the campus of Oklahoma State University. As of April 2013, this list includes: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.

Section 1B: Membership into OSU NPHC shall be extended to Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., as they become recognized on Oklahoma State University's campus. They will become members of OSU NPHC upon the reading and signing of their affirmation of the OSU NPHC Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2: A member organization, in order to remain in active status, shall be in good standing financially and judicially with Oklahoma State University, OSU NPHC and their respective inter/national organization.

Section 3: Each organization shall maintain at least a 2.5 GPA each semester. If the respective inter/national organization's required GPA is higher, the respective inter/national organization's required GPA supersedes the required 2.5 GPA listed above. Those organizations failing to do so shall be under academic probation until it is reported that the organization does meet the grade point average requirement.

Section 4: Each organization shall adhere to the principle delegate strength of two (2) representatives of their respective chapter at all general body meetings of OSU NPHC. One (1) delegate and one (1) executive board member will suffice to meet this standard. In times of low numbers, one (1) non-executive board member of an organization is required to be present to cast the organization's vote to meet this standard.

Section 5: Each semester every organization shall submit a roster of active members signed by their advisor to the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs. Members on the roster with a GPA below 2.5, or below their organization's standard, are not recognized toward delegate strength.

### **ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS**

Section 1: The officers of OSU NPHC shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. The Executive Board shall consist of the OSU NPHC officers.

Section 2: The officers shall serve for one year, upon installation at the end of the fall semester. After election or selection the incoming officers shall attend the OSU NPHC general body meetings as ex-officio members.

#### **ARTICLE V- OFFICER SELECTION**

Section 1: The offices of OSU NPHC shall be popularly elected by one vote per active chapter.

Section 2: In case the President is unable to complete his or her term of office, the Vice President shall assume the duties of the President on approval of a three fourths majority of OSU NPHC. Vacancies other than the President shall be filled by a chapter delegate in a special election. They shall be elected by a simple majority vote of OSU NPHC.

#### **ARTICLE VI – OFFICER QUALIFICATIONS**

Section 1: Candidates for an OSU NPHC officer position on the Executive Board must complete an application for the purposes of officer qualification verification and platform introduction.

Section 2A: Candidates for the offices of President and Vice President must have attended OSU NPHC general body meetings regularly during the semester immediately prior to the election for office.

Section 2B: Regular attendance is defined as approximately fifty percent (50%) of the previous semester's general body meetings.

Section 3: Candidates must have at least an overall 2.5 grade point average at the time of nomination.

Section 4: Candidates must also meet the officer requirements outlined in the current Student Rights and Responsibilities Governing Student Behavior document at Oklahoma State University.

Section 5: Candidates must be a member in good standing, academically, financially, judicially, of a member organization which is in good standing with OSU NPHC and the University.

#### **ARTICLE VII - REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

Section 1: The Judicial Board may remove any officer for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office.

Section 2: Grounds for the removal from office for any officer shall be:

Section 2A: Failure to carry out the duties of their office (as deemed by the OSU NPHC Delegates, Executive Board, Advisor, and Sponsor), violation of any regulations, or other legislation of OSU NPHC and the University;

Section 2B: Inappropriate conduct unbecoming of an OSU NPHC Executive Board officer and member of the Greek Community;

Section 2C: And, failure to maintain the academic standards of OSU NPHC officers and failure stay in good standing, academically, financially, and judicially, with the officer's member organization and the University.

Section 3A: All decisions will be made through the OSU NPHC Judicial Board unless the officer fails to continue to meet OSU NPHC Officer Qualifications specific to academic performance and being a member in good standing.

Section 3B: Officers that do not meet the academic standards set forth by the council will be immediately removed from office by the Advisor(s) and/or Sponsor.

#### **ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

Section 1: The general body meetings of OSU NPHC will be held weekly.

Section 2: All special meetings of this organization shall be called by the President. All member organizations should be notified in writing of any special meetings called three (3) days in advance.

Section 3: Member organization delegates are responsible for notifying their chapter members of all regularly scheduled general body meetings and special meetings of OSU NPHC.

Section 4: The Advisor and Sponsor shall be aware of all general body meetings of OSU NPHC and all executive board meetings of OSU NPHC.

Section 5: Member organization delegates, OSU NPHC officers and the NPHC Advisor(s) and Sponsor shall be the only persons allowed to request the floor unless by special consent of the President.

#### **ARTICLE IX – VOTING**

Section 1: Each active member organization shall have one (1) vote and may not vote if the member organization is not in financial good standing with OSU NPHC.

Section 2: Only the Judicial Board may vote on decisions pertaining to any one member organization.

Section 3: Voting by ballot is taken upon request of any OSU NPHC Delegate.

Section 4: The Executive Board shall have one vote whenever this vote will affect the result. The Executive Board's vote shall consist of a majority rule among the board members listed in Article IV.

## **ARTICLE X – ADVISOR AND SPONSOR**

Section 1: The Advisor(s) for OSU NPHC will be appointed from the Office of Fraternity & Sorority Affairs.

Section 2: The Sponsor for OSU NPHC will be appointed by the Advisor(s) and come from the Office of Multicultural Affairs or be a member of the OSU Faculty or Staff.

Section 3: The Advisor(s) and the Sponsor may counsel, discuss, and debate, but they may not vote nor hold any elected office.

## **ARTICLE XI – HAZING**

Section 1: The organizations of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. (NPHC) are committed to nurturing the ideals of sisterhood and brotherhood in an atmosphere of responsibility and respect. We are also committed to upholding the dignity and self-respect of all persons seeking membership therein. Hazing is antithetical to this commitment and is prohibited by the rules of each NPHC organization. In 1990, the member organizations of the NPHC jointly agreed to disband pledging as a form of admission. The members of the National Pan-Hellenic Council do hereby reaffirm our unequivocal opposition to hazing and those who seek to perpetuate it. The definition of hazing has been held to include any action taken or situation created that involves or results in abusive, physical contact or mutual harassment of a prospective fraternity or sorority member; and that any such action is considered hazing, whether it occurs on or off the fraternity or sorority premises, campus or place where chapters or prospective members meet. Hazing has also been described to include any action that results in excessive mutual or physical discomfort, embarrassment or harassment; that such activities include, but are not limited to paddling, creation of excessive fatigue, physical or psychological shock, morally degrading or humiliating activities, late work sessions that interfere with scholastic activities and any other activities inconsistent with fraternal law and regulations and policies of the affiliated educational institution and federal, state or local law; and such illegal conduct is inimical to the principles for which each organization stands and fails to foster respect for fellow members or preserve human dignity.

## **ARTICLE XII – GOVERNING DOCUMENTS**

Section 1: OSU NPHC and its member organizations recognize they continue to exist at the invitation of Oklahoma State University and hereby affirm their shared commitment to adhere to all University policies including those listed in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Document Governing Student Behavior and the Statement of Relationships and Expectations for Fraternities and Sororities at Oklahoma State University.

Section 2: OSU NPHC recognizes its relationship with the National Pan-Hellenic Council, Inc. and acknowledges NPHC, Inc. resolutions, policies, procedures, and best practices.

Section 3: OSU NPHC binds itself not only to this Constitution and its Bylaws but also to all current and future policies passed by the OSU NPHC.

### **ARTICLE XIII – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1: The constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the council by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active member organizations, provided that:

- A. Proposed amendment is submitted in proper written form.
- B. Vote will take place one meeting after the amendment is submitted.

Section 2: The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the council by simple majority vote of the active member organizations provided that:

- A. Proposed amendment is submitted in proper written form.
- B. Vote will take place one meeting after the amendment is submitted.