

Constitution  
The Delta of Colorado Chapter  
Colorado State University (Revised November, 2002)

I. This Chapter is a constituent member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, an unincorporated organization (hereinafter, "Phi Beta Kappa Society"), or its successor-in-interest, and shall be known as the Delta of Colorado or as the Colorado State University Chapter.

II. This Chapter is under the general supervision and control of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The purpose of Phi Beta Kappa is to recognize and encourage scholarship, friendship, and cultural interests.

III. The membership of the Chapter shall consist of members in course, alumni members (if any), honorary members (if any), and resident members.

1. Only those persons shall be elected to membership whose qualifications have been carefully investigated. With a view to maintaining the historic character of Phi Beta Kappa, members of the faculty on the Nominating Committee shall be chosen predominantly from teachers of liberal subjects. Here, as elsewhere in this Constitution, liberal subjects and studies shall be considered to be those designed principally for a knowledge or understanding or appreciation of the natural and social world in which we live, as contrasted with training intended to develop skill or vocational techniques, such as most courses in departments or schools of technology, business administration, home economics, or applied arts, or those for the training of teachers.

2. The members in course shall be elected primarily on the basis of broad cultural interests and scholarly achievements. The number of undergraduates elected from any class, including any who may be elected in their junior year, shall ordinarily not exceed 10 per cent and in no case shall exceed 15 per cent of those expected to receive liberal bachelor degrees in that class. Only those students whose work has been definitely liberal in character and purpose shall be eligible to election as members in course, this requirement being satisfied ordinarily by a proportion of three-fourths of liberal studies. They shall also be completing at least two years of residence in the sheltering institution and must have obtained a minimum average grade specified in the Chapter by-laws. A limited number of undergraduates of outstanding ability may be elected in their junior year.

3. The Chapter shall be responsible for determining the courses or work which are to be considered liberal in character. The Chapter may take into consideration the results of such methods as honors work and comprehensive examinations and also the opinions of teachers and administrative officers concerning the character, capacity, scholarly achievements, and breadth of interest of each student under consideration.

4. If graduate students in course are elected, they must be completing, with an unusually high record, at least two years of graduate study leading toward the Ph.D. degree, must meet the same standards as to

liberal studies as are applied to undergraduates, and shall ordinarily be graduates of institutions not having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa and the possessors of a superior standing in their undergraduate work.

5. Graduates of the institution of not less than ten years' standing who, by contributions in the fields of the humane sciences and letters or by works of pure literature, have since graduation given clear evidence of the possession of distinguished scholarly capacities, may be elected to alumni membership. The number elected in any triennium should be strictly limited by the Chapter by-laws.

6. Men and women, not graduates of the institution, who, by contributions in the fields of the humane sciences and letters or by works of pure literature, have given clear evidence of the possession of distinguished scholarly capacities, may be elected to honorary membership. No graduate of another institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa shall be so elected unless the consent of that chapter has been obtained. The number elected in any triennium should be strictly limited by the Chapter by-laws.

7. Members of other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who are, or who become, members of the faculty or staff of the institution shall thereby become resident members of the Chapter with full privileges in the conduct of its affairs. Other members of Phi Beta Kappa in the vicinity may be invited to any meeting of the Chapter.

8. The Chapter may make further limitations or restrictions concerning any class of members other than resident.

9. Since good moral character is a qualification for membership, any member found, after being given due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to have lost this qualification may be expelled from Phi Beta Kappa by a four-fifths vote of the members present at a regular annual meeting of the Chapter.

10. A citation of the qualifications of each person elected to alumni or honorary membership shall be entered upon the minutes and submitted for record to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. A full report of all members elected, expelled, or recorded as having resigned or died shall be sent annually to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

IV. This Chapter shall send a delegation to represent it at each meeting of the Council of Phi Beta Kappa and shall contribute its share to the financial support of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

V. This Chapter shall, by suitable by-laws, provide for the election of officers, the selection of members, the conduct of its meetings, and such other matters as may be deemed proper; provided that said by-laws shall contain nothing inconsistent with this Constitution or with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and provided further that said by-laws and any amendment thereto shall not become effective until approved by the Senate.

VI. This Constitution may be amended only by the Council of the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

VII. This Chapter is organized and is to be operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3) (references herein to the Internal Revenue Code, hereinafter "IRC," include the corresponding section(s) of any future United States tax code).

No part of the net earnings of this Chapter shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its directors, officers, members, trustees, or other private persons, except that the Chapter shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Chapter shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Chapter shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements), any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision herein, the Chapter shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by an organization exempt from federal income tax under IRC section 501(c)(3), or (b) by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under IRC sections 170(c)(2), 2055(a)(2), or 2522(a)(2).

Upon the dissolution of this Chapter, after paying or making provision for the payment of all of the lawful debts and liabilities of the Chapter, the assets shall be distributed to one or more of the following categories of recipients, as the Chapter shall determine:

1. A nonprofit organization or organizations which may have been created to succeed the Chapter, as long as such organization or each such organization shall qualify as an organization described in section 501(c)(3); and/or
2. The Phi Beta Kappa Society, provided that it shall qualify at the time of distribution as an organization described in IRC section 501(c)(3); and/or
3. A nonprofit organization or organizations having similar aims and objectives as the Chapter and which may be selected as an appropriate recipient of such assets, as long as such organization or each such organization shall qualify as an organization described in IRC section 501(c)(3); and/or
4. The Federal government, or to a State or local government, but only if such assets will be used for a public purpose.

PHI BETA KAPPA CHAPTER BY-LAWS  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY CHAPTER

Article I. Officers and Organization

- Section 1. The membership of the chapter includes:
- a. Charter Members: the Phi Beta Kappa members of the Faculty to whom the charter of the chapter was granted;
  - b. Associate Members: members of other chapters who become members of the faculty or staff;
  - c. Members in Course: all members of the chapter elected as undergraduates or as graduate students;
  - d. Alumni Members: graduates of Colorado State University elected in recognition of scholarly achievement after graduation;
  - e. Honorary Members: non-graduates of Colorado State University chosen on the same basis as alumni members.
- Section 2. Members of the Chapter who have faculty status or staff positions at Colorado State University shall constitute the resident membership, together with members in course on campus. Other members of the chapter shall have full membership privileges, except the privilege of voting on candidates for election to membership and on amendments to these by-laws.
- Section 3. The officers of the chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Historian. A Screening officer may also be elected. Officers shall be elected by majority vote at the annual meeting. Unless objections are raised, elected officers may serve consecutive additional terms in the same office.
- Section 4. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the retiring President, the elected officers, and one additional member appointed by the President. The appointed member may be an undergraduate or graduate student member of the chapter. The Executive Committee shall have authority to conduct the affairs of the chapter between meetings, subject to instruction from the chapter and save as otherwise specifically provided by these by-laws.
- Section 5. The Committee on Members in Course shall be composed of six Faculty members of the chapter and the Secretary of the chapter ex-officio. Two members of the committee shall be appointed by the President each year for a term of three years, except that the first year two members shall be appointed for one year, two for two years, and two for three years. Membership on the committee shall be limited to Faculty members of the chapter who are giving instruction in liberal studies as defined in the chapter constitution, so chosen as to give equitable representation to the humanities, the social studies, and the sciences.

- Section 6. The Committee on Alumni and Honorary Members shall be responsible for considering persons proposed for election to alumni and honorary membership. The committee shall be composed of six Faculty members of the chapter appointed by the President, two appointed each year to serve for a term of three years, except that the first year two shall be appointed for one year, two for two years, and two for three years.
- Section 7. The retiring President may appoint annually a Nominating Committee which shall present to all resident members at least one week before the annual meeting nominations for officers for the ensuing year. Other nominations may be made from the floor.
- Section 8. An Auditing Committee of three members may be appointed annually by the President to review the accounts of the Treasurer and make a report at the annual meeting.
- Section 9. Special committees shall be appointed by the President or the Executive Committee.

## Article II. Meetings

- Section 1. Arrangements for the annual meeting and for other regular meetings shall be made by the Executive Committee. At the annual meeting, the normal order of business shall be as follows:
1. Call to order
  2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding annual and of intervening business meetings
  3. Report of the Executive Committee
  4. Report of the Treasurer
  5. Reports of other committees
  6. Unfinished business
  7. Consideration of communications from the United Chapters
  8. New business
  9. Election of officers
  10. Adjournment
- Section 2. Special meetings may be called by the President or the Executive Committee, and shall be called upon written request of four members. At the special meeting no business shall be transacted other than that stated in the notice of the meeting.
- Section 3. Written notice of meetings shall be sent by the Secretary to all resident members of the chapter at least one week in advance of the meeting. The notice shall state the purpose of the meeting and the business to be considered.
- Section 4. A quorum at meetings shall consist of ten resident members.

Section 5. Any vote shall be by secret ballot if requested by one or more of the members present.

Section 6. Locally resident members of other chapters who do not qualify for Associate Membership as defined in Article I, Section I, of these by-laws may be invited to any meeting, but they shall not participate in the transaction of business.

### Article III. Election and Admission of New Members

Section 1. Members in course shall be elected primarily on the-basis of broad cultural interests, scholarly achievement, and good character. Juniors and seniors who are enrolled at Colorado State University and are candidates for a liberal bachelor's degree shall be eligible for consideration, if their undergraduate record fulfills the following minimum requirements:

- a) The candidates shall be majoring in liberal subjects and studies and be taking a course program expected to include not less than 90 semester hours of liberal work among the 120 hours required for a liberal bachelor's degree, exclusive of required courses in physical education.
- b) The candidate shall have completed at least three full semesters of work (45 semester hours) in residence at Colorado State University and be fully registered for the fourth semester;
- c) For election as a junior, the candidate shall have completed at least 75 semester hours of college work. The caliber of this work should be of exceptional distinction, including, for all graded work, a quality point ratio of at least 3.8, where the grade "A" carries four quality points, the grade "c" two quality points, and the grade "D" one quality point. The minimum quality point ratio for election as a senior shall be 3.7.
- d) Students electing a combined curriculum may be considered if they have completed at least 90 semester hours of liberal work and have fulfilled at least half of the regular major and minor requirements for a liberal bachelor's degree;
- e) Grades earned in applied or professional work shall not be counted in computing the quality point ratio for purposes of eligibility. Applied and professional work shall be understood to include all training intended to develop skill or vocational techniques in such fields as business administration, education, engineering, home economics, journalism, industrial science, military and air science, physical education, radio, secretarial science, speech, applied art, applied music, and applied science.

f) Weight shall be given to the breadth of the program for each candidate as shown by the number and variety of courses taken outside their major. Weight shall also be given balance and proportion in the (candidate's degree program as a whole;

g) Candidates shall have demonstrated knowledge of mathematics and of a foreign language at least minimally appropriate for liberal education.

Section 2. Subject to other provisions of the chapter constitution and these by-laws, students who complete their college course at the end of the summer session and become eligible at that time may be considered with the eligible group of the next academic year.

Section 3. The number of undergraduates elected from any class, including those who may be elected as juniors, shall ordinarily not exceed ten percent, and in no case shall exceed fifteen percent, of the undergraduates expected to receive the liberal bachelor's degree in that class. A maximum of one-fifth of the members elected from any class may be elected on the basis of junior standing.

Section 4. Election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa is wholly within the discretion of the members of this chapter, subject only to the limitations imposed by the constitution and by-laws of the chapter and no right to election shall adhere to any student solely by reason of fulfillment of the minimum quality point ratio for election to membership in course.

Section 5. Graduate students shall be elected to membership in course only in strict accord with the provisions of the chapter constitution. The number of graduate students elected in any year shall ordinarily be limited to a maximum of five percent of the candidates for doctor's degrees in liberal fields.

Section 6. Nominations for membership in course shall be made by the Committee on Members in Course. Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require an affirmative vote by three-fourths of the resident members present. Candidates may also be nominated from the floor, but in such cases an affirmative vote by four-fifths of the resident members present shall be required for election. Elections shall continue until ended by the passage of a motion from the floor or until a quota, determined in advance of the balloting, has been reached.

Section 7. Nominations for election to alumni membership shall be referred to the Committee on Alumni and Honorary Members. No nomination for alumni membership shall be brought before the chapter for action unless favorably reported by the committee.

The committee shall be guided by criteria defined in Article III, Sections 5 and 6, of the chapter constitution, and committee recommendations shall include a written statement of the qualifications of each nominee. Election shall be by secret ballot; election shall be by no less than a four-fifths majority of the resident members present and voting. No more than two alumni members may be elected in any year, nor more than four in any triennium.

Section 8. Procedures for the nomination and election of honorary members shall be the same as for alumni members, except that election shall be by no less than an 85 percent majority of the resident members present and voting. A statement of the qualifications of each candidate elected to honorary membership shall be sent to the Secretary of the United Chapters, as provided in Article III, Section 10, of the chapter constitution. No graduate of another institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa shall be recommended for election without the consent of that chapter. No more than two honorary members may be elected in any triennium.

Section 9. Provision shall normally be made for initiating new members in course. In its discretion, the Executive Committee may waive the initiation of an alumnus or honorary member.

Section 10. Since good moral character is a qualification for membership, any member of the chapter found, after being given due notice and an opportunity to be heard, to have lost this qualification may be expelled from Phi Beta Kappa by a four-fifths vote of the resident members present at the annual meeting. The name of any member so expelled shall be reported to the Secretary of the United Chapters, with a statement of the grounds for the action.

#### Article IV. Fees

Section 1. The initiation fee for members in course and for alumni members shall be determined by the Executive Committee. It shall cover, as a minimum, a ticket to the initiation and the registration and Council Fund payments to the United Chapters. The chapter shall be responsible for registration and Council Fund payments for honorary members, who shall pay no initiation fee.

Section 2. Payment of the initiation fee shall be regarded as formal acceptance of election and shall be made before initiation.

Section 3. Members in course and alumni members shall be expected to purchase a key and requested to take out an initial subscription to The American Scholar at the special introductory rate for new members.

- Section 4. Resident members of the chapter, exclusive of professor emeriti and undergraduate members are encouraged to pay annual dues of \$25.
- Section 5. Special assessments may be levied against resident members by majority vote of the members present at any meeting, provided that written notice of the intention to propose such an assessment is given in the announcement of the meeting.
- Section 6. Registration and Council Fund payments shall be forwarded by the Secretary to the Treasurer of the United Chapters in accordance with Article IV of the by-laws of the United Chapters.

#### Article V. Amendments

Amendments to these by-laws, not inconsistent with the constitution and other lawful regulations of the United Chapters, may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the resident members present at any regular meeting, either upon motion presented and tabled at the preceding regular or special meeting, or upon condition that written notice of the proposed changes has been sent to all resident members at least three weeks in advance of the meeting. All amendments shall be subject to the approval of the Senate of the United Chapters.

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