Wyoming Alpha Chapter By-Laws

PHI BETA KAPPA

(Approved--United Chapters, December 1957; Phi Beta Kappa Society, May 2012)

Article One
Officers

I. The offices of the Chapter shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

II. Nominations for officers shall be made at the regular spring meeting. After the sitting chapter officers confirm that the nominees are willing to stand, the election shall follow by electronic ballot within two weeks. The officers shall perform the duties usually incumbent on such officers. The newly elected officers shall take office July 1 following the date of their election.

III. The President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for three-year terms and may be re-elected for no more than one consecutive term. No more than two officers should be elected in any year.

Article Two
Committees

I. The Executive Committee shall consist of the four officers of the Chapter and one Member-at-Large elected annually at the regular spring meeting. Its duties shall be as follows:

A. To administer the routine business of the Chapter between meetings.

B. To authorize disbursements by the Treasurer, other than those prescribed by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The Chapter, however, shall vote on any expenditure involving the levying of a special assessment on its members.

C. To arrange for public meetings and dinners and to choose speakers.

D. To devise and carry out plans for the encouragement of scholarship and research.

E. To appoint special committees as occasion demands for the regular functioning of Chapter business.

F. To fix the date of regular and special meetings. The regular spring meeting shall be held annually, and special meetings may be convened whenever necessary. At the regular spring meeting the order of business will normally include:

1. Call to order
2. Reading of the minutes of the preceding annual meeting and of intervening business meetings
3. Report of the Executive Committee
4. Report of the Treasurer
5. Report of other committees
6. Unfinished business
7. Consideration of communications from the Society
8. New business
9. Election of Officers
10. Adjournment

G. To call special meetings when requested by a majority of the Executive Committee or by a petition from no less than 20% of the Resident Members.

H. To record and report its activities to each succeeding regular meeting of the Chapter.

II. The Committee on Honorary and Alumni Members shall consist of the Secretary and three members elected by ballot for three-year terms, of whom one shall be elected each year at the regular spring meeting. No member of this committee shall be eligible for immediate reelection. The duties of this committee shall be:

A. To inquire diligently into the qualifications of all persons recommended for election to honorary or alumni membership. Recommendation for membership may come from any members of the Chapter at any time up to thirty days before the regular spring meeting. Such recommendation shall be formally presented in writing and shall contain a fair appraisal of the qualifications of the prospective member. And it shall be the duty of this committee to investigate, as a committee acting independently of other recommendations, persons who, in the opinion of the committee, are worthy of election as honorary or alumni members, and to recommend such persons for election in accordance with the provisions of the by-laws immediately below.

B. To set forth the names of all persons recommended for membership to all Chapter members one week prior to the regular spring election meeting.

C. To report the names of all persons recommended to the regular spring election meeting, together with a statement of the qualifications and achievements of each.

D. To propose for election those persons who, in the opinion of the committee, are best qualified for honorary or alumni membership.

III. The Committee on Members-in-Course shall consist of the President, the Secretary, and three members elected by ballot for three-year terms, of whom one shall be elected each year at the regular spring meeting. No member of this committee shall be eligible for immediate reelection. It shall be the duty of this committee:

A. To prepare as early as possible in the spring semester a list of those eligible to election as Members-in-Course.

B. To send out such lists to all Chapter members with an adequate statement on the scholastic backgrounds and achievements of each candidate as provided in Article Three (III, C) of these by-laws.

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Article Three
Membership

I. Membership in this chapter shall be founded upon the general principles set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society. The classes of membership are Members-in-Course, Alumni Members, Honorary Members, and Resident Members. Resident Members are defined in the By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society as members of other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who become officers or members of the teaching and research staff of the University of Wyoming. Resident Members have full privileges in the conduct of the affairs of
II. All elections to membership shall be by a three-fourths vote of the Chapter members present at
the regular spring meeting.

III. The following classes of members may be elected: (A) Honorary, (B) Alumni, (C) Members-in-
Course.

A. Honorary Members shall be chosen from the members of the Faculty of the University
and from other persons of distinguished attainment whose work in the promotion of
educational, literary, social, or scientific progress is generally and widely commended.
No more than two members of this class shall be elected in any one year. The election of
a candidate to honorary membership shall be subject to the special provision contained in
the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (Chapter Constitution, III,
6).

B. Alumni Members shall be chosen from the graduates of the University of ten or more
years' standing in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Constitution and By-
Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (Chapter Constitution, III, 5). Not more than two
members shall be elected from this group in any year.

C. Members-in-Course shall be chosen from the juniors and seniors of the University whose
character, scholarship, and intellectual interests are of superior quality.

1. To be eligible for election, undergraduate candidates must be seniors or second semester juniors;
   junior candidates must have completed 75 semester hours and seniors 95 semester hours. All
candidates must be pursuing a liberal education; that is, their primary interest must lie in courses
designed principally for a knowledge, understanding, or appreciation of the natural and social
world in which we live, as contrasted with training intended to develop manipulative skills or
vocational techniques. We define a liberal education as including completion of three semesters
of a single foreign language at the college level, or its equivalent. Candidates shall have declared
a liberal major for a degree to be granted by the College of Arts and Sciences or shall have
declared a major in Economics, Molecular Biology, or Microbiology, and shall meet the major
and group or honors requirements of that college. At least 90 hours of the candidate's course
work shall be in liberal courses as defined above. All eligible candidates must have a cumulative
grade point average of 3.50 or above at the time of election.

2. Transfer students shall be eligible to regular election as seniors on the basis of their records at the
University of Wyoming, together with official confirmation of work and character of high quality
from the college or university from which they have transferred. To be eligible for election all
transfer students must be completing at least 60 hours of coursework at the University of
Wyoming

3. The following provisions shall control the numbers elected from each group:
   a. Not more than four juniors shall be elected in any one year.
   b. The total number of undergraduates elected annually shall not exceed ten per cent of the
      number receiving liberal bachelor degrees at the last summer and winter commencements
      plus the number expected to receive liberal bachelor degrees at the next spring
      commencement.

4. Candidates for election shall be presented in order of academic standing and voted on at the
annual spring meeting by the Chapter members in attendance.

5. During the regular spring election meeting it shall be the duty of each member to contribute any pertinent information concerning the candidates under consideration. Thereafter, no member shall discuss the Proceedings with persons who are not members of Phi Beta Kappa.

6. Students who receive their degrees at the end of the summer or fall terms shall be considered for election at the election meeting in the spring of the year following their graduation. Their election shall be regulated by the provisions of Article Three (III, C).

7. Since good 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 qualified members present at the annual meeting. The name of any member so expelled shall be reported to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, with a statement of the grounds for the action.

Article Four
Initiation

I. The annual initiation shall be held prior to the Spring Commencement.

II. The presiding officer shall conduct the ceremony of initiation according to the approved form.

III. Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society shall, if possible, be given to members-elect before the time of initiation.

Article Five
Fees

I. On or before the date of initiation all persons elected to membership in the Chapter shall pay a fee to be determined by the executive committee.

II. All newly elected Members-in-Course shall be encouraged to make arrangements with the Secretary of the Chapter or independently for the purchase of Phi Beta Kappa keys prior to initiation.

III. The local Chapter dues shall be set by vote of the Chapter membership. The Chapter may, by majority vote, levy special assessments.

IV. The Secretary shall report promptly to the Secretary of the Phi Beta Kappa Society the names of all persons duly initiated into the Chapter and shall forward the general registration and fees provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Phi Beta Kappa Society (Article IV, 9, 10).

Article Six
Amendments to the By-Laws

A three-fourths vote of the Chapter members present at any meeting shall be necessary to amend these by-laws. Notice of the proposed amendment must, however, be sent to all active members of the Chapter at least ten days before said meeting. It is understood that all amendments are subject to approval by the Senate.
These By-Laws were revised by the Chapter more or less continuously from October 1956 to October 1957. All proposed revisions except that of Article Three, III C, 1 were approved by the Committee on Chapter By-Laws of the United Chapters of Phi Beta Kappa in a letter to the Chapter secretary, dated 12 February, 1957. A proposed revision of Article Three, III, C, 1 was finally approved by the same committee in a letter to the Chapter secretary, dated 2 December, 1957.

S. Roscoe Smith, Secretary
29 December, 1957

A further revision of these By-Laws was undertaken in the spring of 2012 and passed by the Chapter at the regular spring meeting that year. They have been forwarded to the Phi Beta Kappa Society for approval.

John Dorst, Secretary
5 March, 2012