

Constitution of Lambda Pi Eta

Sigma Kappa Chapter

Christopher Newport University

Article I - Name

The Christopher Newport University chapter of Lambda Pi Eta has been designated as the Sigma Kappa Chapter by charter letter of the national organization of Lambda Pi Eta, effective October 11, 2004.

Article II - Purpose

Section 1. The purposes of Lambda Pi Eta shall be: (a) to recognize, foster and reward outstanding scholastic achievement in communication studies; (b) to stimulate interest in the field of communication; (c) to promote and encourage professional development among communication majors; (d) to provide an opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas in the field of communication; (e) to establish and maintain closer relationships and mutual understanding between speech communication studies faculty and students; and (f) to explore options for graduate education in communication studies.

Section 2. Lambda Pi Eta is the honor society of the National Communication Association (NCA). Lambda Pi Eta exists to further the mission of the Association and is subject to the Association's policies and procedures. The Christopher Newport University chapter exists to further the mission of the Communication Studies Department and the university and is subject also to departmental and university policies and procedures.

Section 3. Lambda Pi Eta shall not have any prospective member for the purpose of admission into or affiliation with the organization. Members of Lambda Pi Eta are free to leave or dissociate without fear of retribution or harassment. Lambda Pi Eta shall not discriminate based on race, creed, color, sex, age, national origin, disability, and sexual orientation.

Article III - Chapter Administration

Section 1. Lambda Pi Eta will be administered by student officers elected by the membership and under the auspices of the CNU Communication Studies Department.

Section 2. A chapter sponsor/advisor will be selected from the CNU full time communication faculty for the management of the Sigma Kappa Chapter of Lambda Pi Eta.

Section 3. The chapter sponsor/advisor can appoint any staff support that is needed to carry out the programs and mission of the honor society.

Section 4. The local chapter sponsor/advisor of Lambda Pi Eta will consult with Lambda Pi Eta's National Officers and Faculty Advisory Board in administering the honor society.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. To be eligible for consideration for admission applicants must have completed 60 semester credit-hours; have a minimum cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 for all courses taken; have at least a 3.25 GPA for all communication studies courses; completed the equivalent of 12 semester credit-hours in communication studies; and currently be enrolled as a student in good standing, as determined by the institution's policies. In addition, students should display commitment to the field of communication and exhibit high standards of personal and professional character.

Section 2. Election to Membership. Eligible students may apply for membership during fall and spring recruitment periods. At the end of each recruitment period, the faculty of the department of Communication Studies reviews all completed applications to determine whether or not a student meets the general requirements outlined in Article IV, Section 1. Students who meet the requirements completely are permitted unconditional membership, and will be initiated during the spring semester.

In some cases, the department may grant conditional admittance to a student who meets all but one of the general criteria. Conditional admittance grants a student probationary membership for one semester. Should the final requirement be met, the student automatically receives unconditional membership without having to reapply. If the student fails to complete the terms of the probationary membership, s/he must reapply to the organization in a later semester.

Section 3. Membership in the organization is restricted to those who meet the requirements. No rushing and social pressure shall be used to ensure acceptance of invitation to membership or initiation into membership.

Section 4. The chapter shall collect and transmit to the National Communication Association an initiation fee for each member eligible for membership in the local chapter and a list of new members by December 1 and/or April 1 of each year.

Article V - Chapter Officers

Section 1. The Sigma Kappa chapter will elect the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Historian. The chapter may elect to install a differing leadership structure by majority decision of the chapter. In addition, a faculty advisor shall be elected or appointed from the faculty or staff of the sponsoring academic unit.

Section 2. According to resolution 0607-02, each officer has the following responsibilities:

1. **PRESIDENT:** The president is the formal representative of the organization on campus and in the community. As such, the president shall conduct all meetings, complete all formal paperwork related to chapter business, participate in campus wide departmental events, and serve as a spokesperson for the Department of Communication Studies on LPE issues.
2. **VICE PRESIDENT:** The vice president shall oversee all committees and is responsible for events produced by the Sigma Kappa chapter. As such, the vice president shall be responsible for providing committee reports, participating in campus wide and departmental events, and serve as a spokesperson for the Department of Communication Studies on LPE issues.
3. **SECRETARY:** The secretary shall be responsible for recording all LPE meetings. As such, the secretary shall distribute minutes in a timely fashion to the LPE listserv and distribute copies of minutes, resolutions and other forms as necessary. The secretary shall also serve as the Sigma Kappa chapter's representative to the National Communication Association's annual business meeting, and will report on national business to the entire chapter.
4. **HISTORIAN:** The historian is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our chapter scrapbook. As such, the historian is responsible for photographing LPE events, keeping copies of all publicity, forms, and announcements related to LPE, and collecting other historical data as necessary, and further be it,

Section 3. Officers shall be elected for a term of one academic year, from spring until spring. All officers shall be elected from and by the members during spring semester and shall assume the duties of their respective offices at the last regular meeting of the academic year.

Section 4. If a person is elected to office but cannot complete the term she/he is to be replaced by an election of the current membership.

Section 5. The Vice President may appoint such committees as shall be appropriate for furthering the purposes of Lambda Pi Eta. Current standing committees as outlined by resolution 0607-02 are:

1. **FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE:** The fundraising committee is responsible for conducting fall and spring fundraisers for the organization and overseeing any committee appointees throughout the year.
2. **SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIR:** The social committee is responsible for conducting fall and spring social events for the organization and overseeing any committee appointees throughout the year.
3. **RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR:** The recruitment committee is responsible for assisting in the screening and application processes for LPE, coordinating campus-wide recruiting, participating in events related to recruiting (including induction) and overseeing any committee appointees throughout the year.

Section 6. Finances will be controlled by the secretary of the Communication Studies Department.

Article VI - Chapter Meetings

Section 1. The regular meetings of Lambda Pi Eta will occur bi-monthly, and shall be determined by the Advisor with a vote of the general membership.

Section 2. It shall be the purpose of these business meetings to conduct whatever business is in the interest of the membership of the organization.

Section 3. A quorum for conducting business at the chapter meeting shall consist of at least half of the unconditional members of Lambda Pi Eta.

Article VII – Amendments

Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed to the voting membership by any member of the organization and the advisor. Amendments shall be declared adopted upon approval by a 2/3 majority vote of the chapter.

Article VIII – Ratification

This Constitution shall become effective upon ratification by a majority of the organization's membership and Office of Student Activities.