

# **The Gamma Phi Beta Sorority Collegiate Chapter Bylaws**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Epsilon Iota Chapter of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

## **ARTICLE II – OBJECT**

The object of this organization shall be to fulfill as an individual chapter the mission of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., which is to inspire the highest type of womanhood.

## **ARTICLE III – GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Government shall be conducted according to the International Article of Incorporation Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

## **ARTICLE IV – MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. There shall be only one class of members in the Epsilon Iota Chapter; namely initiated collegiate members. Such membership entails the fulfillment of all obligations imposed by the sorority and the chapter.

Section 2. New members shall be considered uninitiated voting members regarding the requirements and regulations of these bylaws and shall fulfill all of the obligations imposed by the sorority and the chapter.

Section 3. There shall be no membership discrimination based upon factors such as race, color, national origin, ethnic heritage, religion, disability, age, or sexual orientation. Males are not eligible for membership based on an exemption given to social sororities by Title IX.

Section 4: Members shall be enrolled a full-time undergraduate (minimum 12 credits) at Christopher Newport University, Newport News, VA. The chapter may vote to retain sisters who do not meet this requirement.

## **ARTICLE V – AFFILIATION**

Section 1. A member of another collegiate chapter of the Sorority who transfers to Christopher Newport University may be affiliated by a 2/3 vote of the members in good standing of the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Section 2. The member may be affiliated, provided:

- a. The chapter which initiated her and any subsequent chapter to which she was affiliated have sent a recommendation for affiliation and statement affirming her

fulfillment of all chapter, international, and house corporation board financial obligations.

b. Collegiate Panhellenic Association and college administration permit affiliation.

c. All procedures outlined in the *Collegiate Operation's Manual* have been followed, including payment of affiliation fee of \$25.

## **ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS**

Section 1. The elected offices of the executive council of Epsilon Iota Chapter shall include: president, administrative vice president, financial vice president, education vice president, membership vice president, public relations vice president, and panhellenic affairs vice president. Other elected offices are new member educator, standards chairwoman, and safety and wellness consultant

Section 2. The term of office shall be one year.

Section 3. Not later than October 5th of each year, a nominating committee shall be elected, composed of the chapter advisor and one initiated representative elected by each academic class. A freshmen class is to be included if the chapter has new members during the fall semester who are freshmen; otherwise the freshman representative will be elected no later than February 5<sup>th</sup>. New members have a vote on the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall present a list of candidates, one for each office, no later than the first regular meeting in March. Each candidate for an elective office shall be approved by the regional coordinator before election, whether at a regular election time or to fill a vacancy.

Section 4. Other offices, as listed in the chapter standing rules, shall be filled in a timely manner following annual elections and shall be appointed by the executive council. The term of office shall be one year.

Section 5. In order for a member of Chapter to be qualified for any of the foregoing offices, she shall be carrying at least 12 credit hours of college work and be in good standing with the chapter and Christopher Newport University. In the term preceding her election/ appointment, she shall have attained a cumulative grade point average of 2.8 or 2.6 respectively. She shall maintain this average each term in order to remain in office unless granted special permission by the regional coordinator.

Section 6. Summer school shall be included in the scholastic qualifications for holding office.

Section 7. In order to verify the fulfillment of the preceding conditions, each nominee for office and officer shall submit to the chapter president, on a confidential basis, a statement regarding her academic good standing and scholastic grade point average signed by an appropriate college or university official or her official grade report for the relevant academic terms.

Section 8. The officers of the Epsilon Iota Chapter shall be installed any time after elections, but no later than Bid Day of the following semester.

Section 9. Vacancies in all offices shall be filled by the following procedure for regular nominations, elections, and/or appointments. Vacancies shall be filled no later than two weeks after the vacancy occurs. Members filling vacancies shall serve until the next regular annual elections of appointment of officers.

## **ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS**

Section 1. The duties of the officers of the Epsilon Iota Chapter shall be those which are provided in the International Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, and as enumerated in the Gamma Phi Beta *Collegiate Operations Manual*.

Section 2. A bylaws revision committee shall be formed by the end of the first full month of the fall term after the International Convention. The parliamentarian, recording secretary and bylaws revision committee shall review and revise chapter bylaws as necessary. The revised bylaws, if applicable, shall be voted on by the chapter and be approved by the regional coordinator on or before December 1 of that year.”

## **ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS**

Section 1. Regular chapter meetings shall be held at a time and on a day of the week convenient to the chapter, as set forth in the chapter standing rules. There shall be at least two business (formal) chapter meetings with ritual per month, with the remainder being PACE, Fidelity or sisterhood meetings.

Section 2. All meetings, including membership selection, shall be conducted according to parliamentary procedure.

Section 3. All initiated and uninitiated members shall be required to attend each meeting and fulfill the duties assigned to them.

Section 4. A majority of initiated and uninitiated members shall constitute a quorum. Only initiated and uninitiated members in good standing may vote or transact chapter business in chapter meetings. Only initiated members in good standing may vote in chapter elections and membership selection meetings. Good standing is defined as having fulfilled all local and international obligations, including academics, as defined in the chapter’s Standing Rules.

## **ARTICLE IX – FINANCES**

Section 1. Chapter and annual international dues shall be payable to the chapter financial vice president through Billhighway, as stipulated in the chapter standing rules. Chapter dues shall be determined annually by the chapter and shall be based on the chapter budget for the current year.

Section 2. Financial obligations not paid by the dates stipulated in the chapter standing rules are considered delinquent and may be subject to a late fee or collection by an outside party. Delinquent

members not in good standing may not vote at chapter meetings or membership selection meetings, until their financial obligations are met.

Section 3. First and second membership fee installments are non-refundable upon remittance to International Headquarters.

Section 4. Non-resident members shall pay a housing fee and a guest fee as determined by the house corporation board.

Section 5. The first installment of the membership fee and the international building fund shall be due prior to initiation.

Section 6. The second installment of the membership fee shall be paid prior to initiation. The purchase of a Gamma Phi Beta badge is a requirement of all prospective members prior to initiation.

Section 7. The local building fund fee shall be paid by the end of the first full year following the semester in which the member was initiated.

Section 8. An affiliation fee of \$25.00, shall be paid by a member at the time of her affiliation with the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

## **ARTICLE X – SCHOLASTIC QUALIFICATIONS**

Section 1. Members must attain the scholastic qualifications required by the International Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, Panhellenic Bylaws, and the University.

Section 2. Scholastic qualifications for joining the Epsilon Iota Chapter are at least a 2.7 cumulative GPA and 12 credit hours. Exceptions may be made with approval of the chapter advisor and the regional coordinator after consultation with the sorority coordinator-scholarship.

Section 3. Scholastic qualifications for Initiation in the Epsilon Iota Chapter are as follows: the new member is required to be in academic good standing with Christopher Newport University and the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Section 4. Summer school shall be included in the semester scholastic qualifications for joining or initiation if it equals the normal requirements for hours/units and grade point average by the University. This is subject to the regional coordinator's approval.

## **ARTICLE XI – DISCIPLINE**

Section 1. Major infractions of the International Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, Loyalty Pledge, or any other cases deemed necessary shall be handled by the executive council in accordance with the discipline procedures as outlined in the *Collegiate Operations Manual*.

Section 2. Minor discipline infractions and social behavior shall be handled by the standards chairwoman and her committee as set forth in the chapter standing rules.

Section 3. The Epsilon Iota Chapter of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. shall not tolerate nor participate in any form of hazing.

Section 4. All initiated and uninitiated members of the Epsilon Iota Chapter shall abide by the chapter standing rules and house rules or face disciplinary action.

## **ARTICLE XII – AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. An amendment shall originate in the regular chapter meeting or executive council meeting.

Section 2. The amendment shall be proposed at one business meeting of the chapter and voted upon in the next business meeting. Before it is proposed, it shall be referred to the parliamentarian – censor for the proper wording and for the necessary research to determine that it does not conflict with the International Gamma Phi Beta Bylaws, Rules and Procedures, or University Regulations.

Section 3. These bylaws may be amended by a vote of 2/3 of the members in good standing of the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Section 4. Bylaw amendments shall be in effect after approval by the regional coordinator.

## **ARTICLE XIII- PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised*, shall govern the chapter in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are inconsistent with the Bylaws and Rules and Procedures of Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

- Adopted by the Epsilon Iota Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta on October 1, 2006.

Revision approved by: *Beth Mager*, Regional Coordinator on: *November 23, 2014*