

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 objects of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., to develop the highest type of womanhood through education, social life, and service to country, community, and humanity.

ARTICLE III – GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Government shall be 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 of 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. Gamma Phi Beta shall not haze any prospective or current member for the purpose of admission into or affiliation with the organization. Members of Gamma Phi Beta are free to leave or dissociate without fear or retribution or harassment. Gamma Phi Beta shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, national origin, age, or sexual orientation.

Section 4. The new member is eligible to join provided that she is not, nor has she been, an initiated member of an existing National Panhellenic Conference Fraternity or Sorority.

Section 5. Students that are considered part-time by the University will remain in active status within the sorority.

ARTICLE V – AFFILIATION

Section 1. A member of another Greek-letter 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 President's Book have been followed, including payment of affiliation fee, not to exceed \$25.

ARTICLE VI – OFFICERS

Section 1. The elected offices of the executive council at Epsilon Iota shall include: President, Administrative vice president, Financial vice president, Education vice president, Membership vice president, Public relations vice president, and Panhellenic affairs vice president. (NOTE: Executive council will consist of seven (7) voting members. The only other elected officer is the new member educator.) During "regular voting procedures," all officers shall be elected during voting. Under special circumstances (i.e. vacant office) any member not in an executive office or new member educator may be appointed.

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

Section 3. No later than November 5th of each year, a nominating committee shall be formed, composed of the chapter advisor and one initiated representative elected by each class. If the new member class has not been initiated by the time the nominating committee begins functioning, its representative shall be elected and serve without a vote. She shall present a list of prospective officers, chosen by the new member class, to the nominating committee prior to the meeting. She shall not participate in the committee meeting.

A list of candidates, one for each office, shall be presented to the nominating committee no later than the second regular meeting in November. Each candidate for an elected office shall be approved by the Province Collegiate Director before elections, whether at 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 semester.

Section 5. In order for a member of Epsilon Iota to be qualified for any foregoing offices, she shall have active member status and be in good standing with the chapter and the university. In previous term, an elected officer must have attained at least a 2.6 cumulative GPA; however, an appointed officer must have attained at least a 2.5 cumulative GPA. She shall maintain this average each term in order to remain in office unless granted special permission from the Province Collegiate Director.

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

Section 7. 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 8. 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 or appointment of officers.

ARTICLE VII – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The duties of officers in the Epsilon Iota Chapter shall be those which are provided in the International Bylaws, Rules, and Procedures, and as enumerated in the Greek-letter Section of the President's Book.

Section 2. After each International Convention of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., a copy of the Model Bylaws will be sent from the International Headquarters to Greek-letter chapters. 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 the Bylaws revision committee shall review and revise these Model Bylaws and then the Bylaws shall be voted on by the chapter and approved by the Province Collegiate Director on or before December 1st of that year.

Section 3. Outgoing officers shall hand over their notebooks and manuals as stated in the chapter Standing Rules by the end of the semester.

ARTICLE VIII – MEETINGS

Section 1. Regular chapter meetings shall be held at a time and day of the week convenient to the chapter, as set forth in the chapter Standing Rules. There shall be at least two formal ritual meetings per month, with the remainder being PACE, Sisterhood, or Crescent Values.

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 2/3 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.

ARTICLE IX – FINANCES

Section 1. Chapter and annual international dues shall be payable to the chapter Financial Vice-President 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. Non-resident members shall pay a housing fee and a guest fee as determined by the house corporation board.

Section 4. The first installment of the membership fee and the international building fund shall be due prior to initiation.

Section 5. 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 at the time of initiation, unless permission has been granted by the Executive Director, prior to initiation, to wear a relative's badge.

Section 6. 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 7. An affiliation fee, not to exceed \$25.00, shall be paid by a member at the time of her affiliation with the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Section 8. Annual Dues – Each member shall pay annual international dues of \$90.00. These dues are payable in equal semi-annual installments.

Section 9. Continuing new members shall pay half of one semester dues.

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 2.5 cumulative GPA and 12 credit hours.

Section 3. Scholastic qualifications for initiation in Epsilon Iota Chapter are as follows, the new member 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 Province Collegiate Director 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 disciplinary procedures as outlined in the President's Book.

Section 2. Minor discipline infractions and social behavior shall be handled by the Standards Chair 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 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 in the Epsilon Iota Chapter.

Section 4. Bylaw amendments shall be in effect after approval by the Province Collegiate Director.

Section 5. In order to meet Christopher Newport University Standards, any revisions to the by-laws must be reviewed by the Office of Student Activities.

ARTICLE XIII – ADVISORS

Section 1. It is required that a faculty or staff member from Christopher Newport University fulfill the duties of a faculty advisor for the Epsilon Iota chapter.

Section 2. In accepting the role of faculty advisor, the individual accepts the responsibility for working with our organization on financial, legal, and programmatic issues related to our operation. The advisor is expected to be knowledgeable about federal, state, local laws, and university policies and to dissuade officers from activities they violate university policies or laws. The advisor should work closely with our organization in coordinating activities to insure that they are conducted in compliance with Christopher Newport University policies and the laws of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the City of Newport News.

Section 3. The advisor should be elected and/or changed at a ritual meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of members and new members in good standing.

Section 4. An advisor can be removed at a ritual meeting by a 2/3 majority vote of members and new members in good standing. Reasons for removal are listed below, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Inability to take an active role in our organization's operations.
- b. Acting outside the scope of duties defined by our organization or the university.
- c. A violation of any university policy or procedure.

ARTICLE XIV- 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 the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

- Adopted by the Epsilon Iota Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta on October 1, 2006.
- Adopted by International Headquarters and in effect on October 1, 2006.
- (After approval by IH, each chapter initiated and uninitiated member and advisor shall be given a copy of the chapter Bylaws.)

- Revised October 1 , 2006 (Sabrina Carlson, AVP).
- Revised October 14, 2007 (Lauren Linville, AVP)
- Revised August 17, 2009 (Shannon Leitch, AVP)