Bylaws of

Texas A&M International University

Chapter 296

Revised December, 2012
# PHI KAPPA PHI CHAPTER BYLAWS

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BYLAWS OF THE
Texas A&M International University
Chapter 296
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi

For the purpose of promoting high academic standards at Texas A&M International University, Laredo, Texas; maintaining a chapter of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (to be referred to as “the Society” or “Phi Kappa Phi”) chartered and installed at Texas A&M International University on November 13, 2005; and furthering the ideals and objectives of the Society; the members of the Texas A&M International University chapter do hereby adopt the following Bylaws for its government.

ARTICLE I
Name and Objectives

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization is the Texas A&M International University Chapter # 296 of The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi.

Section 2. Purposes. The primary purposes of this organization are to promote the pursuit of excellence in all fields of higher education; to recognize outstanding achievement by students, faculty, and others through election to membership and through various awards for distinguished achievement; and to engage the community of scholars in service to others.

Section 3. Governing Regulations. This organization shall be governed in accordance with the Bylaws of the Society, as adopted by the Biennial Convention on August 11, 2012, with amendments, if any, that may be made from time to time, and by the provisions of these Bylaws with amendments, if any, that may be made from time to time.

ARTICLE II
Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter is open to scholars with integrity and high ethical standards from all academic disciplines without regard to a person’s race, color, gender, national origin, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or sexual orientation. Members who so choose may become active members in more than one chapter by submitting chapter dues to each chapter.

Section 2. The following membership categories are authorized.

2.1 Active Members: Active members of the Society are those who have paid Society dues for the current year. Those who pay both Society dues and chapter dues of $10 are also active members of the Society and the chapter. Members who fail to pay Society dues for the current year are inactive members who do not enjoy the privileges of voting, serving on committees, or serving as officer to this chapter or the Society.

2.2 Active members: Life

2.21 Active-for-Life. They have been invited and initiated, and have paid the Active-for-Life membership fee or have been accorded this status by the action of the Board of Directors of the Society (to be referred to as the “Board”). Active-for-Life members who wish to remain active chapter members must continue to pay any required chapter dues, as determined by this chapter.

2.22 Distinguished. An active or inactive member who has served the Society in an outstanding manner may be nominated for Distinguished membership by a member or this chapter. Upon the payment of the cost of Active-for-Life membership, and upon approval by a Board subcommittee appointed by the Society President, the individual will receive an Active-for-Life membership and a distinguished member certificate.

2.23 Honorary. A nonmember (not an alumnus, alumna, employee, or student of the college or university) who has achieved eminence in some academic, creative, intellectual or other career endeavor may be nominated for Honorary Membership by a member or by this chapter. Upon the payment of the cost of five years’ national membership dues in Phi Kappa Phi, and upon approval by a Board subcommittee appointed by the Society President, the individual will receive an Honorary Membership in Phi Kappa Phi and an honorary member certificate. This chapter may choose to honor a member by purchasing an Active-for-Life membership.

Section 3. Those persons who are recognized as scholars by this chapter, in compliance with the following standards, and any "Honorary
Members” as described in Section 2.23 above, shall be eligible for Membership:

3.1 Undergraduate students in any department of this institution who have completed at least 24 semester hours, or the equivalent, and

3.11 who, in their junior year rank academically in the upper 7.5 percent of the class, after completing at least two academic years or 72 semester hours or the equivalent, or

3.12 who, in their senior year, rank academically in the upper 10 percent of the class after completing at least three academic years or 90 semester hours or the equivalent at the time of initiation.

3.2 Graduate and professional students at this institution who demonstrate an outstanding record in graduate or professional study by ranking scholastically in the upper 10 percent of all graduate and professional students, have an outstanding record as evaluated by the chapter selection committee, and meet one of the following requirements:

3.21 Have been registered as post baccalaureate students in this institution on a full-time basis for at least one academic year or on a part-time basis for the equivalent of at least one academic year or 18 semester units or the equivalent.

3.22 Are former post baccalaureate students who have been awarded an advanced degree since the most recent invitation of members to join the chapter.

3.3 Eligibility may be determined separately for each academic unit or program within a member institution, e.g., department, school, or college.

3.4 Alumni who are graduates from any class of five years’ standing or more. These should be persons whose achievements since graduation have been outstanding and whose academic records while at this institution were high, with an increasing emphasis on the former as the period since graduation becomes longer.

3.41 The number of members initiated in any year by this chapter from the alumni of this institution, with the exception of the first five years after the installation, shall not exceed two percent of the number of undergraduates and graduate students invited by the chapter that year.

3.42 If this chapter invites fewer than 200 students per year, it may initiate a maximum of four persons per year from the eligible alumni of this institution.

3.5 Members of this institution’s faculty, administration, and professional staff whose records and/or achievements have rendered them worthy of membership. Those who do not hold a collegiate degree, but who have distinguished themselves professionally, may be initiated provided prior approval for their initiation is obtained from the Board.

3.51 The number of members initiated in any year by this chapter from the faculty, administration, and professional staff of this institution, with the exception of the first five years after installation, shall not exceed three percent of the number of students invited by the chapter that year.

3.52 Chapters that invite fewer than two hundred students per year shall be allowed to initiate a maximum of six persons per year from the faculty, administration, and professional staff of that institution.

3.6 Members of New Chapters

3.61 Members of a predecessor honor society functioning in the manner of Phi Kappa Phi who would have qualified for membership in Phi Kappa Phi under requirements specified in subsections 3.1 through 3.4 above may be invited to membership provided they are invited by this chapter within five years after installation.

3.62 Graduates of this institution where no predecessor honor society similar to Phi Kappa Phi existed and who would have qualified for membership in Phi Kappa Phi under requirements specified in subsections 3.1 through 3.4 above may be invited to membership provided they are invited by this chapter within five years after installation.

Section 4 Invitation to Membership

4.1 All invitations to membership shall be approved either at a regularly called meeting of the chapter at which a quorum is present OR by mail or electronic
mail ballot sent to all active members OR by the chapter's executive committee.

4.2 An affirmative vote of two-thirds shall be necessary for the approval of any person for membership.

Section 5. Membership Privileges

5.1 Active members have access to all available benefits offered by the Society and are eligible to:

5.11 Vote in chapters, if Society and chapter dues are current.

5.12 Hold office in chapters if Society and chapter dues are current.

5.13 Serve as chapter delegates to any Biennial Convention if Society and chapter dues are current.

5.14 Serve on Society committees if Society dues are current.

5.15 Hold Society office if Society dues are current.

5.2 Charter members have the privilege of signing the charter for a new chapter.

Section 6. Membership Responsibilities

6.1 Members should conduct themselves at all times in a manner consistent with integrity and high ethical standards.

6.2 If a member fails to behave with integrity and high ethical standards, the person’s membership may be revoked by the chapter’s Executive Committee or by the Society’s Board in accordance with Society policy. If the membership is revoked, the person has the right to appeal this decision to the Society President.

ARTICLE III
The Executive Committee
and
Chapter Governance

The management of the chapter shall be vested in an Executive Committee, consisting of chapter officers, and such additional members as the chapter may prescribe.
3.112 At Conventions, the chapter's delegate shall vote on behalf of the chapter. The delegate may be the chapter President, chapter President-Elect, or an active member designated by the chapter as its proxy.

3.2 It shall be the duty of the chapter President-Elect to preside at meetings in the absence of the President, and to succeed to the presidency in the event of death, removal, incapacity, or resignation of the President.

3.3 The chapter Secretary is responsible for maintaining records and supplies for the chapter. It shall be the Secretary’s duty to keep and publish minutes of chapter and Executive Committee meetings; to maintain correspondence and other files related to Society Headquarters and affairs of the chapter; to prepare lists of eligible candidates to be voted on by the chapter; and to prepare materials and documents required for the initiation of candidates.

3.4 The chapter Treasurer is to receive, deposit and account for all monies received by the chapter from dues and other sources: to pay all bills approved by the Executive Committee; to arrange for the investment of all funds not required for current operation; to prepare an annual budget and arrange for an annual audit or review of the record books; to prepare the chapter Finance Report; to submit Form 990 or Form 990-N to the IRS by November 15; and to prepare and submit other reports required by Society Headquarters.

3.5 It shall be the duty of the chapter Public Relations Officer to disseminate news of chapter activities to the various media; to submit to Society Headquarters news items for potential inclusion in the Phi Kappa Phi Forum (the Society’s quarterly magazine); and to take whatever other steps the chapter Public Relations Officer deems advisable to promote the purposes of the chapter and the Society.

3.6 It shall be the duty of the chapter Student Vice Presidents to perform such duties as are assigned to them by the President.

3.7 It shall be the duty of the immediate Past President of the chapter to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Duties of the Chapter Executive Committee. It will be the responsibility of the Executive Committee to supervise annual and long-range planning of chapter activities; to advise and assist chapter officers and committees; to have jurisdiction over matters pertaining to the chapter but not provided for in these Bylaws or in the Society Bylaws; to elect delegates to conventions and other meetings of the Society; and, in the event of the loss of any chapter officer by reason of death, removal, incapacity, or resignation, to appoint a temporary officer to serve until the election of new officers.

ARTICLE IV
Meetings

Section 1. Calling of Meetings. Chapter meetings will be held upon call of the President or the Executive Committee. All active members shall be duly notified of chapter meetings by the Secretary.

Section 2. Quorum. At least a majority of the executive committee will constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at any regular or special meeting.

Section 3. Procedure. In all matters not specified by these Bylaws or the Society Bylaws, the procedures set forth in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order will be used.

ARTICLE V
Fees, Dues, and Assessments

Section 1. Initiation Fees. Before initiation, each newly-elected member will pay to the Society, through the chapter Treasurer or via the internet directly to the Society, an initiation fee established by the Society entitling him/her to a membership certificate and an emblem. Also included in this fee are first year national dues, which entitle the member to a one-year subscription to the Phi Kappa Phi Forum and numerous other benefits. In addition, he/she will, at the same time, pay an initiation fee of $20 established by the chapter, such monies to be used to pay expenses incurred by the chapter for initiation ceremonies. No membership will be valid unless these fees have been paid.

Section 2. Active Membership Dues. To remain active, all members other than those newly initiated will pay chapter annual dues of $10 to Society Headquarters, together with national annual dues in an amount determined by the
Society Board. All dues payments shall be made to Society Headquarters in response to the annual dues statement sent to each member.

ARTICLE VI
Obligations to the Society

Section 1. Reports. Chapters will submit by the specified date certain reports to Society Headquarters. These include, but are not limited to, the Chapter Officer List, the Chapter Annual Report, and the Chapter Finance Report.

Section 2. Initiation Materials. Chapters will submit all initiation materials, including but not limited to the Transmittal Checklist, Permanent Record of Election Forms, and initiation fees, to Society Headquarters within 30 days of the initiation. All initiation materials are due at Society Headquarters by June 15.

Section 3. Society Meeting Participation. It is the responsibility of chapters to send appropriate delegates who are active chapter members to Society conventions and other Society meetings.

ARTICLE VII
Amendments

Section 1. Amendments. These chapter Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the active members present at a chapter meeting specifically called for the purpose of amending the Bylaws; OR by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the members of the chapter executive board/committee.

Section 2. Limitations. All amendments to these Bylaws will be in harmony with the Bylaws of the Society.

Section 3. When chapter Bylaws are updated solely to reflect changes in Society Bylaws approved at a Phi Kappa Phi Convention, the chapter Bylaws affected by those national changes may be amended without a vote of the general membership of the chapter within 90 days after the relevant Society Bylaws revisions have been approved. If the revised chapter Bylaws have not been sent to the national office for approval within 90 days, national staff will make necessary revisions and return an updated version.