



**The Gamma Beta Phi Society**  
*Service • Scholarship • Character*

## CONSTITUTION OF THE GAMMA BETA PHI SOCIETY

### **PREAMBLE**

THE GAMMA BETA PHI SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation, incorporated according to the laws of the State of Tennessee. In order to organize and regulate the manner in which the activities and affairs thereof are conducted, the following Constitution of The Gamma Beta Phi Society was adopted and enacted by the duly appointed and qualified representatives thereof, at the National Convention on April 5, 1995, in Nashville, Tennessee.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### Name of Corporation

- A. The name of the non-profit corporation is “The Gamma Beta Phi Society,” which shall hereinafter be identified and referred to simply as the “Society.”

### **ARTICLE II**

#### Nature and Purpose of Corporation

- A. The Society is a non-secret, non-profit, scholastic, honor, educational-service organization, for certain students, faculty and staff at accredited colleges and universities that recognizes and encourages excellence in education, promotes the development of leadership ability and character in the members thereof and fosters, disseminates, and improves education by appropriate service projects, through membership in a national association of local chapters of the Society at such colleges and universities. The Society is organized exclusively for educational purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations



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that qualify as exempt organizations under Section 501(c) (3) of Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

- B. No part of the earnings of the Society shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purpose of the Society identified herein. No substantial part of the activities of the Society shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the Society shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, the Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from Federal Income Tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Motto, Watchwords, Colors, Emblems, and Coat of Arms**

- A. The MOTTO shall be *Progressus per Eruditionem*.
- B. The WATCHWORDS shall be Scholarship, Service, and Character.
- C. The COLORS shall be Gold and Ebony.
- D. The Emblem of the Society shall be a shield on which shall be inscribed:



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1. three stars at the top of the shield (representing the spiritual values in life);
  2. the letters “Gamma” “Beta” “Phi” (representing the ideals of the organization) in the center of the shield-with the “Beta” being prominently displayed between and above the Gamma and the Phi,
  3. at the bottom of the shield an eagle with outspread wings bearing an olive branch in one claw and arrows in the other (representing loyalty to our country).
- E. The COAT OF ARMS shall have as its central theme the emblem of the organization, with a knight’s armored head at the top and the words “Scholarship, Service, and Character” (or the initials thereof) inscribed on a flowing ribbon around the base and lower part of the emblem. This Coat of Arms shall constitute the insignia of the Society to be used on all charters, certificates, and other official documents of the Society.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Membership**

#### **A. In General.**

1. Membership in the Society shall not be excluded or restricted by race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, genetic information, veteran status, and parental status, or as permitted by a chapter-sponsoring institution of higher education.
2. Members shall subscribe to the Society pledge:

I solemnly declare that I shall always strive to hold fast to the principles of honesty, to maintain a standard of academic excellence, to serve humanity, and to develop good character and leadership ability. I further pledge myself to cooperate with other members of The Gamma Beta Phi Society in the active promotion of these ideals in our school, community, state, and nation.



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3. Chapter membership and Member-at-Large status are open to qualifying students regardless of the presence of a chapter at the enrolled 2- or 4-year degree-granting institute of higher education who show commitment to excellence in education, good character, and service to others.
4. Chapter membership and Member-at-Large status are open to undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs students, subject to the Initial Qualifications.

## B. Categories of Memberships.

### 1. Chapter Member

- a. Chapter Member is a student member (i.e. undergraduate, graduate, professional student) who are affiliated with a Chapter at a Society-recognized institution of higher education.
- b. In addition to the Initial Qualifications, a Chapter Member must meet any additional reasonable qualifications set by the Chapter Bylaws.

### 2. Member-at-Large

- a. Member-at-Large is a student member who is not affiliated with a Chapter at a Society-recognized institution of higher education.
- b. In addition to the Initial Qualifications, a Member-at-Large must meet any additional reasonable qualifications set by the Society Bylaws.

### 3. Alumni Member

- a. Alumni Member is a former Chapter Member or Member-at-Large that were a student member; or former Chapter Advisors, and have met the qualifications for Alumni Members as specified in the Society Bylaws.

### 4. Honorary Member

- a. Honorary Member is a member who have met the qualifications for Honorary Member as specified in the Society Bylaws.

### 5. Professional Member

- a. Professional Member is a member who have met the qualifications for Professional Member as specified in the Society Bylaws.



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## C. Initial Qualifications.

1. Chapter Member and Member-at-Large shall meet the Initial Qualifications for membership as specified in the Society Bylaws.
2. Members in other membership categories shall meet the Initial Qualifications, if any, specified in the Society Bylaws.

## D. Continuing Membership Qualifications.

1. A Chapter Member shall meet the Continuing Membership Qualifications as specified in the member's Chapter Bylaws, if any, and the Society Bylaws
2. A Member-at-Large shall meet the Continuing Membership Qualifications as specified in the Society Bylaws.
3. Members in other membership categories shall meet the Continuing Membership Qualifications, if any, specified in the Society Bylaws.

## E. Change of Membership Status

1. Should the sponsoring institution of a Chapter cease to function or exist, a Chapter Member shall then be considered Member-at-Large.

## F. Chapter Advisor

1. Each Chapter must have a Chapter Advisor
2. Each Chapter Advisor shall be a full-time member of the faculty or staff of the academic institution where a chapter of the Society is located.
3. A Chapter Advisor shall be selected according to the Chapter Bylaws and in accordance with any regulations established by the Chapter's academic institution.



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**ARTICLE V**

**Organization and Government**

- A. This Society shall be governed by this Constitution and the Society Bylaws. The Society Bylaws shall be adopted and revised, from time to time by the National Senate in accordance with this Constitution.
1. The Society Bylaws are subordinate to this Constitution, and no provision of those Bylaws may conflict with this Constitution.
  2. Bylaws shall be adopted or amended by a simple majority vote of the voting members of the National Senate.
  3. All legislative, executive, administrative, judicial and quasi-judicial authority of the Society is hereby vested in the National Senate.
- B. The members of the Society shall be organized into (1) a National Senate, (2) Regions, and (3) Local Chapters.
1. **National Senate**
    - a. The National Senate of the Society shall be composed of:
      - i. National Executive Committee; and
      - ii. At least one (1) but no more than two (2) National Officer(s) representing each Region as defined in the Society Bylaws.
    - b. Authority and Responsibility of the National Executive Committee
      - i. In addition to the specific duties enumerated in this Constitution, the National Executive Committee of the Society shall have the following authority and responsibility;
      - ii. Interim interpretations of the rules, regulations and policies of the Society established by this Constitution, the Society Bylaws and the National Senate, and recommendations for changes therein;
      - iii. Continue service as a voting member of the National Senate;



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- iv. Representation of the Society at conventions, inductions, and other meetings;
- v. Determination of special national awards;
- vi. Hiring of a National Executive Director to carry out the day-to-day operations of the society;
- vii. Supervision, performance review, and ongoing advice and counsel to the National Executive Director;
- viii. Impeachment and removal from office of any National Senate member for any failure to fulfil the duties thereof, comply with the provisions of the Society Constitution or the Society Bylaws; and/or engage in conduct that reflects poorly on the Society or that member's academic institution;
- ix. Other authorities and responsibilities reasonably necessary to fulfill the mission, goals, and objectives of this Constitution.

## 2. Regions

- a. The Society shall consist of four or more Regions. The distribution of states among regions shall be proposed by the National Executive Committee and ratified by the National Senate. The distribution shall always give consideration to the geographic locations of the states and of the active chapters of the Society and to the best interests of the Society.
- b. There shall be periodic reviews and changes, if warranted, in the distribution of states among regions and/or in the number of regions in the Society.

## 3. Local Chapters

- a. Each Local Chapter of the Society shall be composed of Chapter Members, plus the Chapter Advisor(s).
- b. Chapter Bylaws
  - i. Each Chapter of the Society shall establish Chapter Bylaws to govern the administration and operation thereof.
  - ii. Chapter Bylaws shall conform to and not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution and Society Bylaws.



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- iii. Chapters may impose additional membership qualifications above the Initial Qualifications, provided
    1. The additional membership qualifications are established in the Chapter Bylaws; and
    2. The additional membership qualifications are approved by the National Executive Director, subject to an appeal to the National Executive Committee.
  - c. Chapter Bylaws must, at a minimum, provide for the following:
    - i. A Chapter Advisor,
    - ii. Chapter Officers,
    - iii. Initial Membership Qualifications,
    - iv. Continuing Membership Qualifications,
    - v. Amendment procedures,
    - vi. A non-discrimination statement, and
    - vii. Dissolution procedures
  - d. Chapter Bylaws and any amendments shall be submitted to the Society headquarters for review and approval according to the Society Bylaws.
4. Chapter Advisor
- a. Each Chapter shall have an Advisor who is a full-time member of the faculty or staff of the academic institution where a chapter of the Society is located.
  - b. The Chapter Advisor shall be selected according to the Chapter Bylaws and in accordance with any regulations established by the Chapter's academic institution.
5. Associate Advisor
- a. A Chapter may also have additional Associate Advisors to assist the Chapter Advisor.
  - b. Associate Advisors shall be selected according to the Chapter Bylaws and in accordance with any regulations established by the Chapter's academic institution.
  - c. Except for Subsection 4 a, above, and in qualification for the National Senate, when the term Advisor is used in this Constitution, it includes Associate Advisors.





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## 6. Induction of New Members

- a. Each Chapter shall hold an induction of new members through a dignified ceremony, without any elements or practices of secret orders, mysterious rituals, secret signs, passwords, handclaps, etc., and without any hazing of an inductee, either through physical discomfort or mental embarrassment of the inductee.
- b. Chapters shall hold a new member induction ceremony at least once per academic year.

## 7. Local Dues

- a. Each Chapter may establish annual local dues to be used for chapter operations.
- b. The amount shall be established in the Chapter Bylaws and approved by the National Executive Director.
- c. Such dues shall be collected at a set time each academic year,

## 8. Service Projects

- a. Each Local Chapter shall endeavor to implement service projects to
  - i. Foster, disseminate, and encourage education;
  - ii. Build, cultivate, and inspire good character; and/or
  - iii. Improve the lives and welfare of members of the academic institution and/or the community.

## 9. Local Policies

- a. Local Chapters may adopt reasonable policies to govern the members of their chapter, provided that such policies do not conflict with the provisions of this Constitution, the Society Bylaws, or the policies, regulations, or directions of the National Senate, National Executive Committee, or National Executive Director.
- b. If the sponsoring institutional policies are in conflict with the requirements of the Society, the National Executive Committee shall be empowered to waive or alter the requirements in this Article to the minimum extent required to satisfy the sponsoring academic institution.

## 10. Reports

- a. Each Chapter shall submit annual reports as required in the Society Bylaws to the



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Society's National Headquarters and National Executive Director by May 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. This annual report shall cover the activity for the Chapter for the prior academic year.

## 11. Chapter Probation, Revocation, and Dissolution

- a. Probation. For any reasonable suspicion of a violation of the requirements of this Constitution, the Society Bylaws, the institutional regulations, local, state, or federal law, or other situation reflecting poorly on the Society, the National Executive Director may place any Chapter on probation.
  - i. *No more than six (6) months after the local chapter has been declared to be on probation, the National Executive Director and Chapter shall present information related to the alleged violation to the National Executive Committee for a vote to lift the probation or revoke the Chapter.*
- b. Revocation. For any documented violation of the requirements of this Constitution, the Society Bylaws, the institutional regulations, local, state, or federal law, or other situation reflecting poorly on the Society, the National Executive Committee may revoke a Chapter by a majority vote.
  - i. *No less than three (3) months and no more six (6) months after the local chapter has been declared to be revoked, the Chapter may present information related to the alleged violation to the National Senate for a majority vote to dissolve or reinstate the Chapter. The National Executive Director and/or National Executive Committee may also present relevant information, which may include information from the academic institution and/or other authorities.*
- c. Dissolution. Should any chapter of The Gamma Beta Phi Society be revoked, dissolved or cease to function or exist as a chapter within the guidelines of this Constitution and Society Bylaws, the Chapter shall remit any funds, assets, tangible items, stocks, bonds, or any other items or property of value to the National Headquarters within a timely manner following the ceasing of operation of the local chapter, not to exceed 30 days from the ceasing of operation.



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Provided, however, that if the chapter's items of value are held by a 501(c)(3) organization, the National Executive Committee may waive this requirement.

- d. Reinstatement after Revocation. If the National Senate votes to reinstate a revoked Chapter and the Chapter is in good standing with the academic institution then any funds, assets, tangible items, stocks, bonds, or any other items or property of value will be reinstated to that individual Chapter.

## 12. Parliamentary Authority

- a. The final parliamentary authority at any and all meetings of the Society and/or any constituent groups thereof shall be the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, if applicable and which are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Society Bylaws, and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Voting

- A. The Chapter Advisor and one (1) Executive Member for a total of two (2) votes from the Chapter are eligible to vote for National Executive Committee Members and the National Officers representing their Region.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### Amendments

- A. The Constitution of the Society may be amended, altered, repealed, or restated by three quarters ( $\frac{3}{4}$ ) of the voting members of the National Senate.
  1. Such vote may take place in person, via U.S. Mail, via conference call, or via any



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other electronic means.

- B. Notice of proposed changes to the Society's Constitution must be sent in advance to all members of the National Senate at least 14 days before a vote is taken. Provided, however, that no amendment shall be made to this Constitution which would cause the Society to cease to qualify as an exempt nonprofit corporation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**Dissolution**

- A. The Society may be dissolved pursuant to the laws of the state of Tennessee; and in the event thereof, the assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any corresponding section of any future Federal Tax Code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a court of competent jurisdiction exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as such court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

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