



Delta Gamma

1873

Proposed Constitutional Amendments for 2022

ARTICLE IV. DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 1. General qualifications for membership. The membership of this Fraternity shall consist entirely of women. A candidate must be a person of good character and standing and meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Be registered in a course leading to a bachelor's degree or its equivalent
- B. Be a non-collegiate member of a group chartered by petition or an alumna initiate of a petitioning or established group
- C. Demonstrate a significant relationship with Delta Gamma Fraternity and a desire to fulfill a special role in support of a collegiate chapter or alumnae chapter or association.

All members shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by this Constitution, pledged, if a collegiate member, and initiated according to the ritual of the Fraternity. After joining Delta Gamma no member shall become an initiated member of any other National Panhellenic Conference group. No woman initiated into another National Panhellenic Conference member group shall be offered membership into Delta Gamma Fraternity.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 1. General qualifications for membership The membership of this Fraternity shall consist entirely of women. A candidate must be a person of good character and standing and meet one of the following criteria:

- A. Be a matriculated student at a college or university where there is a collegiate chapter
- B. Be a non-collegiate member of a group chartered by petition or an alumna initiate of a petitioning or established group
- C. Demonstrate a significant relationship with Delta Gamma Fraternity and a desire to fulfill a special role in support of a collegiate chapter or alumnae chapter or association.



All members shall have been selected in the manner prescribed by this Constitution, pledged, if a collegiate member, and initiated according to the ritual of the Fraternity. After joining Delta Gamma no member shall become an initiated member of any other National Panhellenic Conference group. No woman initiated into another National Panhellenic Conference member group shall be offered membership into Delta Gamma Fraternity.

RATIONALE:

Many colleges and universities offer programs outside of a traditional bachelor's degree path, such as programs for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities, and students enrolled in these programs are often eligible to participate in sorority recruitment. For example, Delta Gamma, as a member of the National Panhellenic Council, currently participates in two programs at the University of Georgia (Destination Dawgs) and Auburn University (Eagles Program) which provide educational opportunities to individuals with intellectual disabilities. Amending the language to remove bachelor's degree will give the Fraternity the flexibility to be more inclusive in its membership as educational offerings on college campuses evolve.

ARTICLE IV. DEFINITION OF MEMBERSHIP

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Classification of membership The membership shall be divided into two classes: (A) collegiate members and (B) alumnae members.

- A. Collegiate members of the Fraternity shall be those who are members of a collegiate chapter and those unmarried undergraduate members who have transferred to an institution where there is a collegiate chapter of the Fraternity. (See Article XVI. Section 1 for the definition of membership in a collegiate chapter.)
- B. Alumnae members of the Fraternity shall be those who are not collegiate members.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

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- B. Alumnae members of the Fraternity shall be those who are not collegiate members.

RATIONALE:

The distinction of unmarried members limits our Fraternity and what it can provide to members, no matter their marital status. A woman who is married during her time as a collegian may choose to become an alumna, but it is not a requirement. We recommend the removal of the word "unmarried" to eliminate any confusion.

ARTICLE V: SELECTION OF MEMBERS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Selection of collegiate members Collegiate candidates may be pledged and initiated by a collegiate chapter, by the procedures followed in the establishment and installation of new chapters, or by the Convention.

- A. Eligibility for pledging To be eligible for pledging a candidate for membership shall meet all of the following qualifications:
1. The qualifications stated in Section 1 of Article IV.
 2. Be sponsored by a member of Delta Gamma.
 3. Receive the approval of the chapter members in a manner selected by the chapter which has been included in the bylaws of the chapter. Negative votes unsupported by reasons deemed adequate by the evaluating committee of the chapter may be reconsidered.
 4. Be approved by the Council-designated regional collegiate officer if she is married, a graduate student, or if she has previously been a new member of another fraternity.
 5. If a candidate has previously attended another institution where there is a collegiate chapter of the Fraternity, her eligibility must be approved by the president and vice president: membership of that chapter.
 6. Be registered in the college or university where she is to be pledged and have achieved a minimum of a "C" college grade point average. If college grades are not available, an equivalent minimum grade point average of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from secondary school may be used.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Selection of collegiate members Collegiate candidates may be pledged and initiated by a collegiate chapter, by the procedures followed in the establishment and installation of new chapters, or by the Convention.

- A. Eligibility for pledging To be eligible for pledging a candidate for membership shall meet all of the following qualifications:
1. The qualifications stated in Section 1 of Article IV.
 2. Be sponsored by a member of Delta Gamma.
 3. Receive the approval of the chapter members in a manner aligned with the Fraternity's approved voting model and in alignment with the objects of the Fraternity as outlined in Article II of this Constitution.
 4. Be registered in the college or university where she is to be pledged and have achieved a minimum of a "C" college grade point average. If college grades are not available, an equivalent minimum grade point average of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from secondary school may be used.

RATIONALE:

This update removes outdated permissions from the Constitution and updates language surrounding voting methods. All chapters are required to utilize the Fraternity's voting model, so the reference to chapter bylaws is unnecessary. Article II is added to strengthen the tie between our values and our selection process, as membership selection should be rooted in our values. It is recommended that Sections 1.A.(4) and (5) be removed in their entirety.



ARTICLE V. SELECTION OF MEMBERS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Selection of collegiate members, C. Eligibility for Initiation

To be eligible for initiation, a collegiate candidate for membership shall:

1. Meet the qualifications stated in Article IV. Section 1 at the time of Initiation.
2. Have been pledged in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
3. Have fulfilled all of her financial obligations to the Fraternity.
4. Be registered in the college or university where she is to be initiated and have achieved a minimum of a "C" college grade point average. If college grades are not available, an equivalent minimum grade point average of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from secondary school may be used.
5. Receive the approval of three-fourths of the members of the chapter. If the three-fourths approval is not obtained and the new member term would expire before the next initiation, the Council designated regional collegiate officer must approve the postponement.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

To be eligible for initiation, a collegiate candidate for membership shall:

1. Meet the qualifications stated in Article IV. Section 1 at the time of Initiation.
2. Have been pledged in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution.
3. Have fulfilled all of her financial obligations to the Fraternity.
4. Be registered in the college or university where she is to be initiated and have achieved a minimum of a "C" college grade point average. If college grades are not available, an equivalent minimum grade point average of a 2.5 on a 4.0 scale from secondary school may be used.

RATIONALE:

In order to mirror our member expulsion process and provide due process to our new members, we recommend eliminating the Vote to Initiate. Instead of this vote, chapter members can utilize the Honor Board process to delay a new member's initiation or terminate her new membership as only Council has the authority to terminate new membership. The chapter vote is merely a formality, as chapter members are instructed to bring any concerns with new members to Honor Board. It is recommended Section 1. C. (5) be deleted in its entirety.

ARTICLE VI. FEES, DUES AND ASSESSMENTS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 5. Fraternity assessments No Fraternity assessments, other than those provided in the Constitution shall be imposed, except by two-thirds vote at Convention, or between Conventions by a two-thirds vote of the collegiate and alumnae chapters, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate, the National Panhellenic Conference Alternate Delegates, and those chairmen and/or directors designated by Council; the vote value to be as provided in Article VIII. Section 3. taken in the manner as provided in Article XXV. Section 3.



PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 5. Fraternity assessments No Fraternity assessments, other than those provided in the Constitution shall be imposed, except by two-thirds vote at Convention, or between Conventions by a two-thirds vote of the collegiate and alumnae chapters, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, and those chairmen and/or directors designated by Council; the vote value to be as provided in Article VIII. Section 3. taken in the manner as provided in Article XXV. Section 3.

RATIONALE:

This change would align our Constitution with the structure change of the National Panhellenic Conference (“NPC”), which no longer allows a separate delegation from each member organization. Delta Gamma’s Fraternity President serves as the NPC Delegate following NPC’s structural change and, as a result, she is necessarily included in the Amendment language. It is recommended to eliminate the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate and the National Panhellenic Conference Alternate Delegates language from Section 5.

ARTICLE VIII. CONVENTION

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Official membership of Convention The official membership of the Convention shall consist of one delegate from each collegiate chapter, one delegate from each alumnae chapter, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate, the National Panhellenic Conference Alternate Delegates, and those chairmen and/or directors as may be designated by Council.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Official membership of Convention The official membership of the Convention shall consist of one delegate from each collegiate chapter, one delegate from each alumnae chapter, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, and those chairmen and/or directors as may be designated by Council. It is recommended to eliminate

RATIONALE:

This change would align our Constitution with the structure change of the National Panhellenic Conference (“NPC”), which no longer allows a separate delegation from each member organization. Delta Gamma’s Fraternity President serves as the NPC Delegate following NPC’s structural change and, as a result, she is necessarily included in the Amendment language. It is recommended to eliminate the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate and the National Panhellenic Conference Alternate Delegates language from Section 2.

ARTICLE XV: WITHDRAWAL, RELINQUISHMENT AND SUSPENSION OF CHARTERS AND CERTIFICATIONS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Charter of an alumnae chapter and certification of an alumnae association

- B. Financial Obligations When an alumnae chapter or alumnae association fails to meet its financial obligations to the Fraternity for a two (2)-year or greater period or fails to file all reports designated and fails to comply with ARTICLE XVIII, Council may forgive the said debt(s) in order for the chapter or association to reorganize as a probationary chapter or association provided:
1. The chapter or association pays a reactivation fee and
 2. The chapter or association meets all financial and filing obligations for a three (3)-year period after reorganization at which time the probationary status is lifted.
 3. A probationary chapter that has met all reorganization financial and filing obligations shall be seated at Convention in accordance with ARTICLE VIII.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Charter of an alumnae chapter and certification of an alumnae association

- B. Financial Obligations When an alumnae chapter or alumnae association fails to meet its financial obligations to the Fraternity for a two (2)-year or greater period or fails to file all reports designated and fails to comply with ARTICLE XVIII, Council may forgive the said debt(s) in order for the chapter or association to reorganize as a probationary chapter or association provided:

The chapter or association meets all financial and filing obligations for a three (3)-year period after reorganization at which time the probationary status is lifted.

RATIONALE:

Alumnae groups coming back into the program are saddled with financial and potentially procedural hurdles that do not set them up for success long term. This amendment makes adjustments to help groups that want to be a part of things but are just learning the requirements and systems. It is recommended to remove Sections 2. B. (1) and (3) in their entirety.



ARTICLE XVI. COLLEGIATE CHAPTERS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Membership Every unmarried undergraduate member of the Fraternity, taking work leading to a degree in the institution where her chapter is located shall be a member of that chapter. At the discretion of Council, collegians may be granted exception under extreme circumstances and may assume alumnae status. Only those Delta Gammas who are students in the institution where a collegiate chapter is located may be members of that chapter. Married and/or graduate members, registered in the institution where a chapter is located, may be members of that chapter.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Membership Every undergraduate member of the Fraternity matriculating at the institution where her chapter is located shall be a member of that chapter. At the discretion of Council, collegians may be granted exception under extreme circumstances and may assume alumnae status. Only those Delta Gammas who are students in the institution where a collegiate chapter is located may be members of that chapter. Graduate members registered in the institution where a chapter is located may be members of that chapter.

RATIONALE:

The distinction of unmarried members limits our Fraternity and what it can provide to members, no matter their marital status. A woman who is married during her time as a collegian may choose to become an alumna, but it is not a requirement. It is recommended to remove the word “unmarried” in the first sentence to eliminate any confusion, as well as the word “Married” from the last sentence, as it is no longer needed. We have also eliminated reference to taking work leading to a degree to be in compliance with the other Constitutional references to educational pursuits.

ARTICLE XIX. REGIONS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Regional Officers and duties

- A. There shall be Council-designated officers for all regions who shall perform those duties assigned to them by Council. They shall be alumnae members residing in the region, if possible.
- B. Under the direction of a member of Council, the regional collegiate officers shall have supervision of collegiate chapters in the region and any unaffiliated collegiate members attending a college in which there is a chapter of Delta Gamma. Areas of oversight will include, but not be limited to, areas of record keeping, correspondence, financial administration, chapter programming, member recruitment, member education, Panhellenic representation, scholarship, rituals, maintenance of standards of conduct, and collegiate housing.
- C. Under the direction of a member of Council, the regional alumnae officers shall be responsible for the advancement of alumnae activity and the interest of the alumnae members of the Fraternity in their region. Areas of oversight will include, but not be limited to, record keeping, correspondence, financial administration, member programming, member recruitment, and Panhellenic representation.



PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 2. Regional Officers and duties

- A. There shall be Council-designated officers for all regions who shall perform those duties assigned to them by Council. They shall be alumnae members residing in the region, if possible.
- B. Under the direction of a member of Council, the regional collegiate officers shall have supervision of collegiate chapters in the region and any unaffiliated collegiate members attending a college in which there is a chapter of Delta Gamma. Areas of oversight will include, but not be limited to, areas of record keeping, correspondence, financial administration, chapter programming, member recruitment, member education, Panhellenic interests, scholarship, rituals, maintenance of standards of conduct, and collegiate housing.
- C. Under the direction of a member of Council, the regional alumnae officers shall be responsible for the advancement of alumnae activity and the interest of the alumnae members of the Fraternity in their region. Areas of oversight will include, but not be limited to, record keeping, correspondence, financial administration, member programming, member recruitment, and Panhellenic interests.

RATIONALE:

This change would align our Constitution with the structure change of the National Panhellenic Conference, which no longer allows a separate delegation from each member organization.

ARTICLE XX. HOUSE CORPORATIONS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Requirement Council, in its sole discretion, will determine whether there shall be a House Corporation for an existing or anticipated collegiate chapter. House Corporations exist for the purpose of establishing, providing and supporting a suitable social environment for the collegiate chapter including, but not limited to, owning, maintaining, equipping and managing a chapter house or facility. All Delta Gamma owned housing will have a house corporation. The alumnae chapter or association organized in the community of the chapter shall be responsible for the formation of such corporation according to local, state, or provincial laws and under the direction of Council (see Article XVIII. Section 5).

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 1. Requirement Council, in its sole discretion, will determine whether there shall be a House Corporation for an existing or anticipated collegiate chapter. House Corporations exist for the purpose of establishing, providing and supporting a suitable social environment for the collegiate chapter including, but not limited to, owning, maintaining, equipping and managing a chapter house or facility. All Delta Gamma owned housing will have a house corporation unless owned by the Fraternity Housing Corporation. The alumnae chapter or association organized in the community of the chapter shall be responsible for the formation of such corporation according to local, state, or provincial laws and under the direction of Council (see Article XVIII. Section 5).



RATIONALE:

With the onset of the Fraternity Housing Corporation owning chapter housing facilities, the need for a traditional House Corporation no longer exists for every Delta Gamma property. By adding this language, those properties owned by FHC can be managed under a different structure while conforming to the spirit of this section by providing the oversight as intended.

ARTICLE XXI: INSIGNIA

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 3. Pledge pin The pledge pin shall be a white-enameled shield bearing the Greek letters Pi Alpha in gold.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 3. New Member pin The new member pin shall be a white-enameled shield bearing the Greek letters Pi Alpha in gold.

RATIONALE:

All members of the National Panhellenic Conference, including Delta Gamma, have discontinued use of the term “pledge” as an adjective. This amendment, updating the language to “new member” is in line with current Fraternity terminology.

ARTICLE XXV: AMENDMENTS

CURRENT LANGUAGE:

Section 3. Amendment by mail The Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution may be amended between Conventions by mail, by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the chapters, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, the National Panhellenic Conference Delegate, the National Panhellenic Conference Alternate Delegates, and those chairmen and/or directors as may be designated by Council; the vote value to be as provided in Article VIII. Section 3 and provided that the Fraternity Constitution and Elections Chairman shall have been given thirty (30) days prior to mailing. In order to be counted, votes must be received within six weeks of the date on which they were mailed by the Fraternity. Return is to be by ordinary US mail postage pre-paid to the Treasurer.



PROPOSED LANGUAGE:

Section 3. Amendment by mail The Articles of Incorporation and this Constitution may be amended between Conventions by mail, an electronic voting method, or any other method deemed acceptable by the Fraternity Constitution and Elections Chairman and Council, by an affirmative vote of two thirds of the chapters, the members of Council, the Executive Director, the Regional officers, and those chairmen and/or directors as may be designated by Council; the vote value to be as provided in Article VIII. Section 3 and provided that the Fraternity Constitution and Elections Chairman shall have been given thirty (30) days prior to mailing. In order to be counted, votes must be received within six weeks of the date on which they were mailed by the Fraternity. Return is to be by ordinary US mail postage pre-paid to the Treasurer.

RATIONALE:

Changing the methods of vote transmission to include electronic means rather than only USPS mail allows for more flexibility with this method of amending the Constitution if needed. This change also would align our Constitution with the structure change of the National Panhellenic Conference (“NPC”), which no longer allows a separate delegation from each member organization. Delta Gamma’s Fraternity President serves as the NPC Delegate following NPC’s structural change and, as a result, she is necessarily included in the Amendment language.

