

# CONSTITUTION

Updated 7/30/07

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## Article I - Name

The name of this society shall be Delta Nu Alpha Biological Honor Society.

## Article II - Purpose

The Purpose of Delta Nu Alpha Biological Honor Society shall be to function as an honor and professional society for students of the biological sciences. Its activities shall be designed to stimulate interest, scholarly attainment, and investigation in the biological sciences, and to promote the dissemination of information and new interpretations among students of the life sciences.

## Article III - Insignia

**Section 1.** The official emblem of the Society shall be a shield-shaped key upon which are engraved a coiled serpent and the three initials of the organization.

**Section 2.** The coat of arms shall be that officially adopted by the 1947 Biennial Convention.

**Section 3.** The pattern copies of the key and coat of arms maintained in the national archives shall be the official design.

**Section 4.** The colors of the Society shall be red and green.

**Section 5.** The flower of the Society shall be a red rose of the type commonly referred to as American Beauty.

## Article IV - Membership

**Section 1.** The membership shall be divided into six classes: regular, associate, graduate, honorary, alumna/ us and corporate. Delta Nu Alpha is a non-discriminating organization that does not consider age, race, color, creed, sex, national origin or sexual preference.

**Section 2.** Regular members shall be:

a) Undergraduates intending to major or minor in biological science at an institution where a chapter of Delta Nu Alpha is located.

- b) Shall have completed at least one term of the second year of a four-year curriculum or its equivalent.
- c) Shall have completed at least three term courses in biological science, of which at least one is not an introductory course, with an average grade of B or its equivalent in those biology courses.
- d) Shall be in good academic standing with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.2.
- e) Shall maintain a B average grade in courses in biological sciences.
- f) Only regular members may hold the constitutionally specified chapter offices, vote on chapter membership nominations and national questions, and represent the chapter or vote at national conventions.

**Section 3.** Graduate members shall be either graduate students currently enrolled in a life science at an institution where there is a chapter or faculty members actively serving in the biological sciences. They may participate in the local activities of any chapter except for the holding of constitutionally specified chapter offices and voting on chapter membership and national matters. They may attend district or national conventions, and, upon special designation, represent their original chapter at a national convention. They shall not be eligible for undergraduate awards.

**Section 4.** Associate members shall be those undergraduates whose interests include the life sciences in some significant way but who are ineligible for regular membership. Associate members shall be eligible to participate in all local, district, and national activities except those specifically reserved to regular members by this constitution and the national constitution once national affiliation has been achieved..

**Section 5.** Chapter honorary members may be elected by any chapter in recognition of significant accomplishment as biologists, or of outstanding service to the chapter.

**Section 6.** Biology majors who have graduated from an institution at which a charter is later granted may become alumni members of the new chapter. Alumni members will receive an individual subscription to BIOS. Regular members who have become inactive may become Alumni members with payment of the appropriate fee.

which support undergraduate education in the biological sciences. A corporation may be elected to membership by a majority of the local regular members.

**Section 7b.** National corporate members shall be corporations, institutions or other organizations which support undergraduate education in the biological sciences. A corporation may be elected to membership by a majority of the National Executive Committee. Corporate members will be listed in each issue of BIOS and each corporate member will receive a membership certificate for display. Each corporate member will also have the privilege of providing a display at the national or district conventions.

**Section 8.** National honorary members may be elected by the biennial convention on nomination by the national officers. (Any member or chapter may propose prospective nominees.) Such membership shall be reserved for persons of outstanding accomplishment and stature in one or more of the biological sciences or persons rendering outstanding service to Delta Nu Alpha.

**Section 9.** Regular, graduate and honorary members may wear the official insignia and shall remain members for life unless removed under the provisions of Section 11. Associate members are affiliated with the local chapter and may not wear the chord or sash at graduation, but may wear the insignia at events allowed under Section 4 of this article. Unless they qualify for regular membership, this affiliation shall terminate automatically when they cease to be undergraduate students.

**Section 10.** Members shall be nominated to the various categories by a committee that includes both regular members and faculty. Election shall be by at least a majority vote of the regular members present at a regular meeting.

**Section 11.** A regular member transferring from one institution to another shall be automatically eligible for membership in a chapter in his new institution unless he does not qualify under the normally prescribed requirements of his new chapter.

**Section 12.** Each chapter or club shall adopt specific membership requirements which are not in conflict with the requirements outlined in Section 2 and which are meaningful in the specific local situation. It is assumed that local chapters and clubs will require high standards of scientific conduct in their nominees and members. No person shall be refused nomination on any basis other than failure to meet requirements in this constitution or in chapter by-laws.

**Section 13.** A regular member of a chapter may be removed from chapter membership only for cause by a vote of 3/4 of the entire voting membership. Any such removal must be approved by the chapter advisor (counselor) and is subject to appeal to the National Executive Committee.

**Section 14.** Stated local membership requirements shall be submitted to the chapter advisor and the District Director for approval. In case of disagreement or conflict between local requirements or local action and this constitution, the matter shall be referred to the National President for adjudication subject to final appeal to the National Executive Committee.

**Section 15.** The Chapter Executive Committee shall, from time to time, adopt such by-laws, regulations, and definitions as are necessary to accomplish the equitable and reasonable application of these provisions.

## **Article V - Chapter Government**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall adopt by-laws which set forth the specific policies and practices it deems necessary for the effective functioning of the chapter in the local situation. Each chapter shall have full authority to regulate its local affairs as it sees fit, subject to the restrictions of Section 2 of this article.

**Section 2.** There shall be no provisions in chapter bylaws which are contrary to this constitution or the national by-laws which derive therefrom. The National Executive Committee shall have the power to annul any local by-laws which it holds to be in violation of the provisions or clear intent of this constitution, but it shall not do so without prior consultation with the chapter concerned. Such consultation shall make clear the objection to the by-law concerned and give the chapter an opportunity to state its reasons regarding the provision as valid.

**Section 3.** Chapter by-laws and all amendments thereto shall be filed with both the appropriate Regional Vice President and the District Director who shall bring to the attention of the National President any provisions which may violate Section 2 of this article.

## **Article VI - Chapter Officers**

**Section 1.** Each chapter shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, an Honors Council liason, and an historian from among its regular members.

**Section 2.** The duties of these officers shall be those normally assigned to such offices.

**Section 3.** These officers should hold office for one year. The time of election and the time for assumption of duties shall be specified in the chapter by-laws.

**Section 4.** At the same time it elects officers, a chapter shall, if necessary, elect a chapter advisor (counselor) from among the biological sciences or College of Medicine faculty or staff. The advisor shall be, or shall become by this election, a graduate member. An advisor shall serve for a term of not more than three years but may be re-elected. The prospective regular members of a new chapter shall elect the first advisor (counselor) prior to the installation of the chapter.

**Section 5.** The chapter advisor (counselor) shall assist and advise the chapter and especially its officers in carrying out the chapter programs and aid in developing new policies and programs that contribute to its local effectiveness. The chapter advisor shall serve as permanent custodian of chapter records and funds making sure that they are maintained in good order and that each successive group of chapter officers are informed as to their responsibilities. The chapter advisor may delegate custodial duties during the academic year but shall check and reclaim all records and funds at the close of each academic year.

**Section 6.** Chapter officers are responsible for submitting promptly and in correct form such reports as are requested by the national and district officers. Chapter advisors shall review such reports for accuracy prior to submission.

## **Article VII – Comittees**

**Section 1.** Committees can be proposed by any member but shall ultimately be approved by the Chapter Executive Committee by majority vote. The function and duration of the committee shall also be determined by a majority vote of the Committee.

**Section 2.** Committee chairs shall be appointed and approved by a majority vote of the Chapter Executive Committee and shall be held by regular members, associate member, or graduate member.

**Section 3.** Committee chairpersons shall be required to meet with the Chapter Executive Committee whenever such meeting is requested by the Committee.

**Section 4.** Any associate, graduate, or regular member may participate and be a part of the committee.

## **Article VIII - By-Laws**

The Chapter Executive Committee shall, from time to time, adopt such by-laws as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this constitution. It shall be the purpose of the by-laws to state the specific procedures and practices in effect at any given time.

## **Article IX - Amendments**

**Section 1.** Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by the Chapter Executive Committee, any officer, committee chair, any chapter advisor, or any regular member in good standing. Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to the President who shall submit it to the next meeting of the Chapter Executive Committee. The Committee shall report the amendment to the next general meeting with its recommendations.

**Section 2.** The amendment shall become effective if it is approved by two-thirds of the chapter members.

**Section 3.** A reply period of not less than sixty days nor more than ninety days shall be specified in the request for approval. The ballot shall be declared closed at the end of the specified time. The timing shall be such that any poll will be completed within the same academic year in which it is initiated.

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## **BY-LAWS**

### **By-Law I - Membership Conditions**

**Section 1.** Regular and graduate members become members of Delta Nu Alpha through a chapter and thus have both national and chapter membership. Once initiated, they are:

a) national members for life unless removed for cause in accordance with Article IV, Section 11 of the national constitution and

b) chapter members so long as they remain matriculated students in the chapter's home institution and meet their obligations to the chapter as specified by its by-laws.

**Section 2.** Associate members terminate both national and chapter or club membership when they graduate or otherwise terminate their matriculation in the chapter's home institution, unless:

- a) they have previously been elected to regular membership, or
- b) they are absent on approved leave-of-absence which permits their return.

**Note:** Fee credit for prior associate membership will apply toward national dues upon elevation to regular membership, regardless of where the associate membership was granted.

## **By-Law II - Initiation Fees**

**Section 1.** Effective September 1, 2006, members shall pay prior to initiation, through the chapter or club, the following national initiation fees:

- a) regular member: \$60.00
- b) graduate member: \$60.00
- c) associate member: \$50.00
- d) associate member becoming a regular member \$10.00
- e) chapter or club honorary member: \$60.00
- f) national honorary member: none
- g) alumna/us member: \$60.00
- h) corporate member: \$300.00 or more annually

**Section 1a.** A portion of the stated dues (\$15.00) will be submitted to the chapter treasurer for general funds.

**Section 2.** Upon receipt of the initiation fee, the national Secretary-Treasurer will forward appropriate membership certificates to the chapter or club.

**Section 3.** For each regular, graduate and honorary member registered at the National Office, the chapter shall receive a two year subscription to BIOS. For each associate member registered, the chapter shall receive a one year subscription to BIOS. Each member shall have the option of receiving personally the subscription associated with his/her membership upon the payment of \$1 .00 for each subscription year in addition to the initiation fee.

**Section 4.** Associate members who subsequently become regular members shall receive a reduction of the fee for regular membership as detailed in By-Law 1. The chapter shall receive a one year subscription to BIOS for each such member, subject to the option listed in Section 3.

### **By-Law III - Application Fee**

Effective June 2002, a fee of \$300 shall accompany each application for a new chapter or club.

### **By-Law IV - Fiscal Year and Audit**

The fiscal year for the Society shall be from October 1 to September 30. The financial accounts shall be audited by a certified public accountant beginning for the fiscal years 1981 and 1982 and biennially thereafter. The complete audit/report shall be made available to the national officers prior to the annual meeting of the National Executive Committee, and an audit report summary shall be published biennially in the journal of the Society.

### **By-Law V - Regions**

**Section 1.** The geographical regions required by Article V of the National Constitution shall be as follows:

- a) The Northeastern Region shall consist of the states north of the northern boundaries of Virginia and Kentucky and east of the eastern boundary of Illinois and of Lake Michigan.
- b) The Southeastern Region shall consist of all states and parts of states south of the northern boundaries of Virginia and Kentucky and east of the Mississippi River.
- c) The Northcentral Region shall consist of the group of states that are bounded on the east by the eastern border of Illinois and by Lake Michigan; on the south by the southern boundaries of Illinois, Missouri, Kansas and Wyoming; on the west by the western borders of Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and North Dakota; and on the north by the Dominion of Canada.
- d) The Southcentral Region Shall consist of the group of states and parts of states that are bounded on the east by the Mississippi River; on the north by the northern boundaries of Arkansas and Oklahoma, on the west by the western boundary of Texas; and on the south by the Gulf of Mexico and Mexico.
- e) The Western Region shall consist of those states lying west of the eastern boundaries of Montana, Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico.
- f) The Caribbean Region shall consist of countries and U.S. territories in and bordering the Caribbean Sea.

**Section 2.** When the needs or convenience of an individual chapter will be better served by so doing, the National Executive Committee may transfer that chapter from the geographic region or district in which it is actually located to any contiguous district.

## **By-Law VI - Jeweler**

The National Executive Committee, upon recommendation of the National Secretary-Treasurer, shall select a jeweler for the Society. Insignia shall be ordered from the jeweler only through the National Office.

## **By-Law VII - Amendments**

**Section 1.** These by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the Chapter Executive Committee at least 60 days prior to the meeting at which an amendment is to be acted upon, the exact wording must be circulated to all chapter officers.

**Section 2.** Proposed amendments may be submitted for consideration by any member.