

# **NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL, INC.**

## **CONSTITUTION**

### **PREAMBLE**

We, the representatives of historically established community service fraternities and sororities, similar in structure and background with both graduate and undergraduate chapters, recognizing the need for coordination and cooperation in activities of intercollegiate Greek letter fraternities and sororities, and recognizing that there are certain areas of action and programming that can best be realized by formal organization, do hereby establish such an organization and bind ourselves to abide by the provisions of the following Constitution.

### **ARTICLE I - NAME**

**Section 1.** The name of this organization shall be the NATIONAL PAN-HELLENIC COUNCIL, INC. hereinafter referred to as "NPHC."

### **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of the NPHC shall be to foster cooperative actions of its members in dealing with matters of mutual concern. To this end, the NPHC promotes the well-being of its affiliate fraternities and sororities, facilitates the establishment and development of local councils of the NPHC and provides leadership training for its constituents.

### **ARTICLE III - STRUCTURE**

**Section 1.** There shall be a Council of Presidents (COP), which shall have supreme authority on all matters related to the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

**Section 2.** There shall be a National Conference which will be held biennially and which shall provide leadership development opportunities, set collaboration direction on issues of concern to the member organizations or for the betterment of the community at large.

**Section 3.** There shall be a National Executive Board of Directors (NEBD), subject in all respects to the COP of the NPHC.

**Section 4.** NPHC shall establish collegiate and alumni councils from affiliate chapters at a college/university or in a given area respectively.

## ARTICLE IV - MEMBERSHIP

### Section 1. Membership Organizations:

- a. Membership in NPHC shall include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and any other member organization of the NPHC as may, from time to time, be granted membership.
- b. No other organization shall have the right to sit on, or have a voice in, a local undergraduate or alumni council of NPHC, and may not be considered for membership on the local level. However every Member Organization shall have the right to sit on and have a voice in local undergraduate and alumni councils if the Member Organization is in good standing with the NPHC nationally.
- c. Local councils, collegiate or alumni, shall not in any manner prohibit the participation of any Member Organization from participating at local NPHC meetings at collegiate councils or local communities, subject to applicable university regulations and the local Member Organization meeting the requirements of being active and in good standing locally.
- d. Membership shall also include local collegiate and alumni councils chartered by the NPHC.

**Section 2.** Active Members. Active members shall be the members who have paid all required dues and assessments.

**Section 3.** Any organization seeking membership in the NPHC shall be approved by the COP. The procedures to petition for membership shall be provided in the bylaws.

## ARTICLE V - COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS

**Section 1.** Authority. The supreme governing authority of the NPHC shall be

vested in the COP.

**Section 2.** Composition. The COP shall be composed of the elected president of each member fraternity or sorority or the authorized representative thereof, who shall be designated by the president of the respective fraternity or sorority and shall represent the fraternity or sorority in the absence of the president.

**Section 3.** Responsibilities. The COP shall be responsible for the broad general policies of the NPHC and for instructing the NEBD regarding activities to be executed on behalf of the NPHC.

**Section 4.** Officers. The Council of Presidents shall have two (2) elected offices, Chairman and Vice-Chairman. The Chairman of the Council of Presidents shall preside over the meetings of the Council of Presidents and shall be the highest ranking member of the Council of Presidents. The Vice-Chairman shall serve in the event the Chairman is unable to do so. Upon the expiration of the term of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall succeed to the Chairmanship and the Council shall then elect a Vice-Chairman. The Chairman of the Council of Presidents shall be an elected position and priority for election shall be given to the Presidents of the affiliate organizations who have not served as Chairman in the three (3) years prior to the election.

**Section 5.** Term of Office. The term of office for the Chairman shall be one (1) year and said period shall begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and end June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **ARTICLE VI – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF NPHC**

**Section 1.** Scope of Authority. The National Executive Board of Directors (NEBD) of NPHC shall serve in an advisory role to the COP. The NEBD shall have the authority to establish local chapters and provide direction to chapters on matters pertinent to NPHC as directed by the COP.

**Section 2.** Composition. The officers of the NEBD shall be appointed by the COP. The officers of the NEBD are the following: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Program Chair, Alumni Council Chair, Collegiate Council Chair and Conference Planning Chair. The National Executive Director, Parliamentarian, and any other appointed members as deemed appropriate by the COP shall serve as ex-officio members of the NEBD and they shall serve

without a vote.

- Section 3.** Qualification Term. No appointed Director shall serve more than two full terms, except as herein provided. A full term shall be two years.
- Section 4.** Term of Office. The term of office for the NEBD shall begin January 1.
- Section 5.** Eligibility. No person shall be appointed as a Director unless he/she is a member of a fraternity or sorority, which is a member of the NPHC and in good standing with their organization. For this purpose, a fraternity or sorority which has been granted an extension by the NEBD as provided in the bylaws for the payment of dues, shall not be deemed a member in good standing.
- Section 6.** Vacancies. In the event of the death or resignation of a Director, the NEBD shall nominate a replacement to the COP who shall have final authority on approving such nomination or selecting someone else to fill the vacancy. The person thus chosen shall serve only until the end of the unexpired term, at which time a successor to the deceased or resigned Director shall be appointed. The resignation of a Director shall be submitted to the National President who shall forward the resignation to the COP. A Director appointed to fill an unexpired term may be appointed to a full term, following the completion of the unexpired term.
- Section 7.** Ex-Officio Members. The National Executive Director, Parliamentarian, and any other appointed members as deemed appropriate by the Council of Presidents shall serve as ex-officio members of the NEBD and they shall serve without vote.
- Section 8.** Meetings. The NEBD shall, at a minimum, meet three times a year, and at a minimum shall meet just prior to the National Conference and immediately following the National Conference. Other meetings shall take place at such time and place as determined by a majority of the NEBD.
- Section 9.** Electronic Meetings.
- a. The NEBD can, at its discretion, meet electronically. Notice for electronic meetings shall be sent to all members of the NEBD at least one week in advance. At a minimum, everyone must have simultaneous aural

- communication. Other rules governing electronic meetings will be in the Standing Rules of the Bylaws.
- b. If the NEBD is meeting in-person and a member of the NEBD wants to attend such meeting via an electronic platform, permission to do so must be granted by the National President of NPHC.

## **ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS**

**Section 1.** The National Conference shall convene biennially in October or November. The dates and place of the National Conference shall be determined by the NEBD. The purpose of the National Conference is to provide leadership development opportunities, set collaboration direction on issues of concern to the member organizations or for the betterment of the community at large.

- a. Notices. Notices of the biennial conference shall be issued not less than one hundred-eighty (180) days preceding the biennial conference, and ninety (90) days preceding special meetings.
- b. Registration. Registration for the biennial conference shall be limited to representatives of members of the NPHC as defined in Article IV and guests specifically invited by the NPHC. A person who is not registered shall not be admitted to any official function of the biennial meeting.
- c. Penalty. A penalty shall be assessed on councils not in attendance at the National Conference without prior approval from the NPHC National Executive Director. The minimal penalty shall be the cost of one registration.

**Section 2.** Established collegiate and alumni councils shall meet on a regular basis but no less than three times a year.

## **ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES**

**Section 1.** Standing Committees. The Standing Committees of the NPHC shall be: Budget & Finance Committee, Program Committee, Conference Planning Committee, Collegiate Council Committee, Alumni Council Committee, and Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

**Section 2.** Appointments. The chairman and members of all standing committees shall be appointed by the National President, subject to the approval of the COP.

**Section 3.** Special Committees. The NEBD may form such other committees as it deems necessary to carry out the duties of the NPHC. The President shall appoint the chairperson and members of ad hoc committees. Such appointments are subject to the approval of the COP.

#### **ARTICLE IX – FINANCE**

**Section 1.** Membership Dues and Assessments. Membership dues and assessments shall be determined by the NEBD, subject to the approval of the COP.

**Section 2.** Budget. The annual budget for the NPHC shall be prepared by the Budget and Finance Committee and presented for approval to the NEBD. The NEBD will forward the budget to the COP for final approval. The annual budget shall be submitted to the COP by December 1.

**Section 3.** The fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

#### **ARTICLE X - PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

**Section 1.** The current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall govern in all matters not provided for in this Constitution or the Bylaws and other documentation of the NPHC.

#### **ARTICLE XI - LIABILITY**

**Section 1.** The Council of Presidents and the National Executive Board of Directors of the NPHC expressly disavows responsibility for the actions of local councils or individual members who are in violation of either the letter or the spirit of this Constitution and Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XII - AMENDMENTS**

- Section 1.** This Constitution may be amended by the Council of Presidents by 2/3 vote.
- Section 2.** All proposed amendments shall be submitted by June 1 to the National Constitution and Bylaws Committee (CBLC). The CBLC will make its recommendations to the NEBD.
- Section 3.** The NEBD shall forward each proposed amendment with its recommendations to the Council of Presidents.

