

Gamma Sigma Epsilon, Delta Beta Chapter

Constitution and Bylaws

Ratified, November 8th, 2007

Article I. Name

The organization shall be known as the Delta Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, National Chemistry Honor Society, at The University of Alabama, hereafter known as the Chapter.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of this organization shall be to recognize outstanding students demonstrating exceptional ability and interest in the field of chemistry. It aims to promote professionalism and scholarship in chemistry and the general welfare of its members, school, and community.

Article III. Membership

- A. It is hereby acknowledged that Delta Beta chapter of Gamma Sigma Epsilon, National Chemistry Honor Society insures that the policies and practices pertaining to the membership of our organization do not discriminate based on sex, race, religion, color, ancestry, national origin, marital status, handicap, age and lifestyle.
- B. The following criteria shall be used as guideline requirements for membership
 - 1. Candidates for membership in the Chapter will have met the following requirements:
 - a. have completed at least 14 hours of chemistry courses at UA, normally to consist of CH 101/102 (or CH 117/118), CH 231, and CH 232 or CH 223. Students taking CH 232 during the semester they apply for induction shall also be eligible. AP credit for CH 101/102 can be used as part of the 14 hours of chemistry courses.
 - b. have a minimum grade point average of 3.3 in all chemistry courses and an overall GPA of at least 3.3.
 - 2. Transfer students shall be eligible for membership after one semester at The University of Alabama in which they have taken at least one chemistry course, if they also meet the requirements for membership in Article 3, section B.1.
 - 3. Transfer students who were members of a GSE chapter at another school will immediately become members of the Chapter upon their request and payment of the \$10 Chapter initiation fee.
 - 4. A rising senior whose academic record in chemistry is satisfactory for the preceding year and who has made a significant contribution to the department, but whose overall scholastic average is slightly below that required for membership, may also be elected to membership by a majority vote of the Chapter members.
 - 5. Outstanding alumni and faculty who have made a positive impact on the Chapter, department, or the field of chemistry may be elected to membership as Honorary Members.
- C. Election of Inducted Members:
 - 1. Candidates nominated for membership shall be chosen at least once a year, normally during the spring semester.

2. Candidates shall apply for membership early in the spring semester by filling out the membership form and returning it to the Chapter Faculty Advisor by the deadline provided on the application sheet.
3. The Faculty Advisor will confirm the eligibility of all applicants and forward the list of eligible candidates to the Keeper of the Formulae.
4. Prior to the election of new members, the Keeper of the Formulae shall present a list of all candidates who have been nominated and who meet the requirement of Article 3, Section B. This list will be provided to the active membership prior to the meeting at which new members are elected.
5. A Candidate must receive a majority vote (50%+1 of those voting) of a quorum (Article V.B) of the current active members. An active member may vote by absentee ballot. It is the responsibility of the absent member to submit an absentee ballot to the Keeper of the Formulae or Faculty Advisor prior to the vote in question.
6. Candidates elected to membership shall return the filled out the National Member History form and the initiation fee (Article VI.1) to the Faculty Advisor by deadline announced by the Executive Board.

D. Election of Honorary Members

1. At the time that new member applications are being accepted, the Keeper of the Formulae shall ask active members of the Chapter to nominate candidates for Honorary membership in Gamma Sigma Epsilon.
2. Those eligible for nomination include current, full-time faculty and staff of the Chemistry Department, Department of Chemistry alumni who were not inducted into the Chapter as students and have gone on to have a positive impact on The University or their profession. Other individuals not falling into these groups can also be considered if their positive impact on the UA Department of Chemistry has been extraordinary.
3. Nominations should be accompanied by a brief statement outlining the reasons for the nomination.
4. Prior to the election of new members, the Keeper of the Formulae shall present a list of all candidates for honorary membership who have been nominated along with the statements provided by their nominator. This list will be provided to the active membership prior to the meeting at which new members are elected.
5. A Candidate must receive a majority vote of a quorum of 50% of the current active members present at the meeting called for the purpose of electing new members. An active member may vote by absentee ballot. It is the responsibility of the absent member to submit an absentee ballot to the Keeper of the Formulae prior to the vote in question.
6. Candidates elected to membership shall return the filled out the National Member History form and the initiation fee (Article VI.1) to the Faculty Advisor by deadline announced by the Executive Board.

E. Continuation of Membership

1. Continued membership is contingent upon favorable academic performance. To remain in active status, a member must maintain a 3.3 GPA in chemistry and a 3.3 overall GPA.
2. To retain active status, members must attend at least two meetings and one activity each semester. Members may be excused from this requirement by appealing to the Executive Board. An inactive member will regain active status upon attending three consecutive meetings.

3. Inducted members of the local Chapter who are found guilty of conduct unworthy of the high standards of the Society by majority action of the local Chapter members may be recommended to the National Executive Council for expulsion.

Article IV. Officers

- A. The officers of the society and their duties shall be the following:
 1. The Grand Alchemist (or President) shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint all committees, and act as an ex-officio member of these committees.
 2. The Apprentice Alchemist (or Vice-President) shall preside over meetings in the absence of the Grand Alchemist, and shall plan programs in conjunction with Faculty Advisor and other officers.
 3. The Keeper of Formulae (or Secretary) shall keep all records and papers pertinent to the Chapter including minutes of meetings, roll of members, list of eligible perspective members, all correspondences, and annual historical account of the Chapter's activities.
 4. The Keeper of Solvents (or Treasurer) shall be responsible for the funds and finances of the Chapter
 5. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for maintaining order during meetings and Chapter functions.
- B. Positions stated in Article IV, Section A shall constitute the Executive Board.
- C. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot at end of the academic year, which shall take place after the induction of new members. The Faculty Advisor will oversee the election process.
- D. Prior to the officer election meeting, the Faculty Advisor shall seek nominations for the offices. Nominations of others who have agreed to run and self-nominations shall be accepted. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor prior to the election.
- E. All active members are able to vote in the officer elections. Only those members who will remain students for the entire term in office may run for offices, however.
- F. An active member may vote by absentee ballot. It is the responsibility of the absent member to submit an absentee ballot to the Keeper of the Formulae or Faculty Advisor prior to the vote in question.
- G. In case of a tie vote, the following tie-breaking procedures will be used:
 1. If more than two candidates were running for a position, a new election will be carried out with only the candidates who tied for the top vote count. Ideally this second ballot will take place at the same meeting as the initial vote.
 2. If there were only two candidates, the winner will be chosen by drawing slips of paper.
 3. Alternatively, the two candidates can, by mutual agreement of the candidate and Faculty Advisor, agree to share the office.
- H. Term of office shall be one year, starting upon the election of new officers until the next election is held. However, if an officer is placed in a position sometime during the year, the term of office is only until the next election.

- I. If the office of Grand Alchemist should become vacant, the duties of that office shall be assumed by the Alchemist's Apprentice. Special elections shall be held to fill all other unexpired terms of officers, which become vacant for any reason. The Keeper of the Formulae shall advise all members of the intended special election at least one week in advance of the date set for the election.
- J. If an Executive Board member is found by the Active Membership and/or the remainder of the Executive Board not fulfilling their duties, the Executive Board can remove that individual by a 2/3 vote of the members at a meeting of the Executive Board. Elections shall be held to fill the position. The same procedure shall be upheld if an Executive Board member resigns.

Article V. Meetings

- A. Meetings shall be held at the call of the officers, members, or Faculty Advisor whenever necessary for the purpose of conducting business, for election of new members, or for special programs, but not less than once per semester.
- B. A quorum consisting of 50% of the active membership shall be required to conduct business.
- C. The Executive Board is comprised of those members stated in Article IV, Section A. They will meet at the discretion of the Grand Alchemist.

Article VI. Finances

- A. Each new member, at time of pledging, shall pay the initiation fee required by the National Office (\$40) plus a local Chapter fee of initiation fee of \$10. These fees shall fund the induction ceremony and other events designed specifically for the inducted members. Other special assessments may be made by a majority vote of the inducted members.
- B. In the event that the National Office raises the initiation fee, the Chapter's initiation fee shall increase to \$10 more than the national initiation fee. This increase will take effect immediately. It should be ratified into the Chapter constitution as soon as is practical.
- C. Active members will pay yearly dues of \$10. The dues will be payable in the spring semester and will be due no later than the induction of new members. Members who fail to pay the yearly dues will be considered inactive, until their dues are paid.
- D. The Keeper of the Solvent, along with the Faculty Advisor, shall be responsible for the management of the Chapter finances. The Keeper of the Solvent shall track all income and expenses. At the final meeting of the year, the Keeper of the Solvents shall present the state of the Chapter finances to the membership.

Article VII. Amendments

- A. Amendments to these Bylaws must be presented at a regular meeting of the Chapter and shall be voted on at the next regular meeting. Amendments must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the active members of the Chapter. It is the duty of the Keeper of the Formulae to see that all members are acquainted with the proposed amendments well in advance of the date scheduled for the voting.

- B. No Chapter may pass a local bylaw that conflicts with the National Constitution and Bylaws of the Society.

Article VIII. Jurisprudence

This Chapter shall be under the direction of the Executive Council of the Gamma Delta Epsilon National Chemistry Honorary. Chapter members shall uphold the high academic standards, rules and regulations of The University of Alabama. It shall be the duty of each member to participate in the activities of the local Chapter and to promote among non-members the high scholastic standards necessary for membership.

Article IX. Faculty Advisor

- A. The Faculty Advisor shall serve as an *ex-officio* member of the Executive Board and any sub-committees established by the Grand Alchemist, oversee the election of officers, call meetings as necessary, and provide assistance to the officers in the activities of the Chapter.
- B. Advisors shall be selected from any full-time faculty member of The University of Alabama Department of Chemistry.
- C. In the event a new Advisor must be selected, the Executive Board shall meet to determine a list of candidates. The Board shall then ask the candidates if they would be willing to serve as Advisor.
- D. The Executive Board shall then decide which candidate, or candidates, it would like to present to the membership.
- E. The Executive Board shall then call a meeting of the active membership in order to vote on the candidate(s) for the Advisor position. The Advisor must be elected by a simple majority (50% + 1) vote of a quorum of the active membership. The Keeper of the Formulae shall oversee the election process and record the vote.
- F. The Advisor may be terminated by a simple majority vote of active members (50% + 1). At which point, selection of a new Advisor should occur as soon as possible under the guidelines stated above.

Approved by a vote of the members, November 8th, 2007.