

**CONSTITUTION
of the ALPHA ALPHA UPSILON Chapter
of SIGMA TAU DELTA**

ARTICLE I – *Name of organization:*

The name of this organization is the Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Tau Delta, the International English Honor Society. Sigma Tau Delta shall hereinafter be referred to in this constitution as “the Society,” and Alpha Alpha Upsilon shall be referred to as “the Chapter.”

ARTICLE II – *Affiliation:*

The Society is affiliated with the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS).

ARTICLE III – *Purpose:*

The purposes of the Society are literary, educational, and charitable. The Society shall strive to:

- *confer distinction for high achievement in English language and literature in undergraduate, graduate, and professional studies;*
- *provide, through its local Chapter, cultural stimulation on the campus, and to promote interest in literature and the English Language in the surrounding communities;*
- *foster the discipline of English in all its aspects, including creative and critical writing;*
- *promote good fellowship among its members; and*
- *exhibit high standards of academic excellence*

ARTICLE IV – *Adherence:*

This organization will adhere to all University rules, regulations, and policies, as well as to all local, state, and Federal laws.

ARTICLE V – *Membership:*

I. Membership shall be open to candidates who have a minimum of two college courses in English language or literature beyond the usual requirements for Basic Studies credit. The candidate shall have a minimum of a B average in English, shall rank in at least the highest thirty-five percent of his / her class in general scholarship, and shall have completed at least three semesters of college course work.

II. This organization does not discriminate against any student, faculty, or staff member based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, handicap, or sexual orientation.

III. There shall be two categories of Chapter membership, *active* and *associate*:

A – Active Membership:

1. PREREQUISITES: Active membership shall be limited to:
 - a. currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate students who have the requisite academic background (as described in Section I of this article), and who are majoring or minoring in English; and
 - b. the faculty advisor of this Chapter of the Society. An advisor shall be a full time faculty member in the sponsoring institution.
2. PRIVILEGES: Active members may vote and hold office in the Society, and may contribute to *The Rectangle*.

B – Associate Membership:

1. PREREQUISITES: Associate membership is open to:
 - a. currently enrolled graduate or undergraduate students who have the requisite academic background (Section I, this article) but who are *not* majoring or minoring in English;
 - b. non-sponsoring faculty members who have a degree in English; and
 - c. alumni who have the requisite academic background (Section I, this article).
2. PRIVILEGES AND RESTRICTIONS: Associate members may vote, but may not hold local or international office. Associate members may contribute to *The Rectangle*.

IV: The Executive Director shall, upon receipt of international initiation fees and a completed membership form, issue to the newly-inducted members a certificate attesting to membership in the Society, a membership card, and a jewelry order form.

V: Chapter fees:

- a. *International Initiation Fee:* The one-time International Initiation Fee entitles each Chapter member to receive *The Rectangle* for one year, and to purchase and wear the official insignia of the Society. The fee must be paid prior to initiation, and confers life membership in the Society. The amount of the International Initiation Fee shall be set by a majority vote of the members at an International Convention, and may be changed as need arises.
- b. *Chapter Dues:* The Alpha Alpha Upsilon Chapter of the Society will establish and adjust its own local fees. Any local fee shall be paid prior to initiation and once per year thereafter. The amount of the local fee may be changed by a three-fourths vote of the Chapter membership participating in the election. Each member shall pay chapter dues of \$10 per year in order to maintain good standing with the Chapter.¹

VI: To remain in good standing within the Chapter, all Active members shall attend a minimum of three meetings per semester, two of which must be business meetings, and one of which may be a community activity, social event, conference, or business meeting. To insure that this stipulation is followed, attendance shall be taken by the Secretary at all business meetings and an attendance roster shall be signed by members present at all other functions. Failure to meet attendance guidelines, or to pay annual dues to the Chapter in a timely manner, shall result in that member being placed on probation for one semester. A member shall be notified in writing prior to being placed on probation.

Probationary status may jeopardize eligibility for scholarships, internships, or participation in any other honors, activities, or benefits of the Society that require the recommendation of this Chapter. Upon completion of the probationary period, said member will be required to pay a \$10 fine to the Chapter before probationary status is lifted.²

ARTICLE VI – Meetings:

- I. Regular business meetings shall be held once per week during the academic year, excluding holidays when the University is closed, to discuss and plan the activities of the Chapter.
- II. A quorum, which consists of three-fourths of the Chapter membership participating, is necessary to conduct official business and to vote. In matters of voting, a simple majority of fifty percent plus one rules except where stated in this Constitution or the Chapter by-laws.
- III. Meetings of the Chapter shall follow parliamentary procedure under *Robert's Rules Of Order, Newly Revised*.

¹ Originally presented as Amendment II to the former constitution, ratified 29 March 1996.

² Originally presented as Amendment I to the former constitution, ratified 29 March 1996.

ARTICLE VII – Advisor:

The advisor of this organization will be one full-time faculty member of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. The advisor will be selected by a three-fourths vote of the chapter membership participating in the election. The advisor's obligations shall include, but not be limited to:

- Serving as liaison with the International office and the Chapter
- Providing information for the Chapter newsletter
- Representing student members, and their attitudes and opinions, to the International Office Board
- Encouraging attendance at conventions; and
- Serving on appropriate committees

ARTICLE VIII – Officers:

I. The officers of this Chapter of the Society shall include a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. All officers shall be active members in good standing, as outlined under Article V, Section 3a and in the Chapter by-laws.

II. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

- The President shall preside at meetings and call them to order; initiate activities of the Chapter and see that they are carried out; create committees and appoint members to them as required, and insure that those committees function as intended; to bring continuity to the Chapter; and see that positions of responsibility are delegated among as many of the members as possible.
- The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President; confers with the President and the Sponsor often and assists in planning and carrying out activities; and if necessary may assume the role of Program Chair for the Chapter.
- The Secretary keeps the minutes of Chapter meetings, including business meetings and Chapter functions and activities; is responsible for keeping and presenting to the Chapter accurate records of the business transacted; corresponds with the International Office by handling membership applications, sending in the names of new members, reporting on activities of the Chapter, and so forth; is responsible for working with the Sponsor to invite speakers; keeps records of attendance at meetings and functions; provides announcements of meetings, and sends invitations to prospective new members.

The Treasurer is responsible for the collection of fees and dues, and the accurate recording and responsible handling of monies allocated to the Chapter. The Treasurer shall issue receipts for money taken in, pay for expenses with Chapter funds, and maintain a checking account in a federally-insured financial institution with a capital surplus and undivided profits of not less than \$100,000,000. The amount in any one account shall not exceed the federally guaranteed limit of insurance. All checks shall be signed by both the Treasurer and the faculty sponsor.

III. Elections for the next year's officers shall take place prior to the close of the academic year. Eligible members in good standing who wish to become officers should state that intention to the faculty sponsor no less than one week prior to the determined election date. Officers shall then be elected from among the candidates for each position by a simple majority vote of chapter members participating in the election.

IV: Officers may be removed from office by a three-fourths vote of chapter membership participating in the election.

ARTICLE IX – Election of members:

With the exception of charter members, Chapter members shall be elected by a three-fourths vote of the chapter membership participating in the election.

ARTICLE X – Committees:

The President shall have the power to create committees to handle tasks or plan activities as the need arises. Members may volunteer and be selected to fill those committees, or the President may appoint committee members. The President shall have the power to dissolve committees when such time arrives that they are no longer necessary to the Chapter.

ARTICLE XI – Ratification:

This document shall be ratified by a three-fourths vote of the chapter members participating in the election.

ARTICLE XII – Amendments:

This document may be amended by a three-fourths vote of the chapter members participating in the election. Members may present proposed amendments to this Constitution, provided that the Chapter membership is notified no later than two weeks prior to a call for a vote on the amendment.

ARTICLE XIII – Non-Profit Clause:

This organization is organized exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, or scientific purposes, including, for such purposes, the making of distribution to organizations that qualify as exempt organizations under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

No part of the net earnings of the organization shall inure to the benefit of its owners, directors, officers, or other persons except that the organization shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the exempt purposes of the organization.

In the event of dissolution, the residual assets of the organization will be turned over to one or more organizations with similar purposes or to one or more organizations described in 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

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RATIFIED THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER, 2000

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*L. DAWSON JACKSON, CHAPTER PRESIDENT*