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# Constitution and By-Laws

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Alpha Chapter

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Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

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### Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity

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#### ARTICLE I.

##### NAME.

The name of this organization shall be the Alpha Chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Chapter signifying first or mother chapter.

#### ARTICLE II.

##### OBJECT.

The object of this organization is, to promote a more perfect union among college men; to aid in and insist upon the personal progress of its members; to further brotherly love and a fraternal spirit within the organization; to discountenance evil; to destroy all prejudices; to preserve the sanctity of the home, the personification of virtue and the chastity of woman.

## ARTICLE III.

### OFFICERS.

SECTION 1. The officers of this organization who must be active members, shall be President, Secretary and Treasurer, and shall rank in the order named. In the election of the President *preference* shall be given to upper-classmen.

§ 2. The duty of the President shall be to preside over all meetings, to see to the execution of the laws of the organization, and to interpret the constitution. Appeal may be had from such interpretation if objection is raised and sustained by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the house. Such appeal shall be to the Judiciary Committee, whose decision shall be final.

§ 3. The duty of the Secretary shall be to keep the minutes of each meeting, the documents and seal of the chapter, to carry on all the official correspondence of the chapter, to issue orders on the Treasurer and keep a record of the same. In compensation thereof he shall be exempt from payment of monthly dues only.

§ 4. The duty of the Treasurer shall be to receive, hold, and distribute upon order from the Secretary, all the moneys of the chapter.

## ARTICLE IV.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Officers of the chapter whose term of office shall be for one year, shall be elected and installed at

the annual meeting which shall be held on the last Saturday in May of each year.

## ARTICLE V.

### MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1. Any male student of Cornell whose application filed by one of the members, shall have received the approval of all the members of the Chapter, and who shall have undergone the prescribed initiation is an active member.

§ 2. An honorary member shall be a member who is not registered as a student in any college or university having a chapter.

## ARTICLE VI.

### COMMITTEES.

SECTION 1. The President shall appoint all committees not otherwise provided for except in case an objection is raised and sustained by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote of the house.

§ 2. There shall be a standing committee known as the Judiciary Committee composed of three upper-classmen.

## ARTICLE VII.

### MEETINGS.

SECTION 1. The regular meetings of this chapter shall occur once each week on a day voted most convenient to the members.

§ 2. A special meeting may be called at the discretion of the President.

## ARTICLE VIII.

### QUORUM.

A majority of resident members shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE IX.

### AMENDMENTS.

This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of all the resident members, provided the proposed amendment signed by five members, shall have been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting and all members shall have been duly notified.

## ARTICLE X.

SECTION 1. Nothing in this constitution shall be construed to be in conflict with the constitution of the General Organization, nor shall any act of this chapter conflict with the same.

§ 2. All powers not delegated to the organization by this constitution nor prohibited by the same, shall be vested in the chapter.

§ 3. Roberts' "*Rules of Order*" shall be authority in all cases that shall arise from the power vested in the chapter by Article X, Section 2.

## BY-LAWS.

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1. Personal progress (Article II of the Constitution,) shall be interpreted to mean in the case of undergraduates, scholarship, activity in undergraduate affairs, conduct and general bearing; in the case of graduates and ex-students, achievement in their chosen vocation or in such fields as shall be in keeping with their advantages.

2. The presentation by any member of the name of a student, with such student's consent, in accordance with Article V, Section 1, of the Constitution, shall be deemed an application.

3. Notice of action upon names shall be given at a meeting at least one week before such action is to occur. The Secretary shall give notice to resident members absent from such meeting, at least five days before the date of action. Absence from such meeting after notification shall be deemed assent in each particular case.

4. Before the vote is taken, the members present shall affirm that their ballots are cast upon the merits of the applicants and not upon any technicality involved in the procedure. If an application shall be opposed by one member upon issues in a controversy rather than upon the merits of the applicant, such opposition shall not be considered a negative vote against the applicant.

5. The prescribed initiation shall be such as is handed down according to the customs of the chapter.

6. The prescribed initiation shall not be abridged in the case of any individual candidate.

7. No initiation shall be held within the first thirty days after the beginning of the academic year.

8. The initiation fee shall be one dollar payable on or before the first regular meeting after initiation.

9. The monthly dues shall be twenty-five cents payable at the first regular meeting of each month.

10. If a member becomes three months' dues in arrears he shall forfeit his vote until payment of back dues to date, except in cases otherwise provided for by the action of the organization.

11. Any member absent from three consecutive regular meetings without an excuse accepted by a majority vote, shall be fined twenty-five cents for each absence.

12. The chapter may levy such assessments upon its members as are necessary for the execution of its business.

13. Misdemeanors in meetings or failure to perform such duties as are lawfully imposed, shall be subject to a maximum fine of fifty cents. Fines shall be imposed by the presiding officer. An appeal from such imposition sustained by a two-

thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, shall be sent to the Judiciary Committee for final decision.

14. Misdemeanor shall be construed to mean, disturbance in meeting, refusal to submit to authority by word or action, any sign of disrespect to the chapter or individual members, and such other actions as the chapter by a two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote, may decide.

15. No charges are to be brought in meeting against an individual member for misconduct outside of meeting unless the prosecutor has previously spoken to the accused and the same has failed to mend his ways. When a charge is brought, the chapter shall decide upon such action as is to be taken.

16. With consent of the aggrieved party, any grievance between members arising from any cause whatsoever, shall be settled in chapter meetings.

17. A trustee to serve for a term of five years shall be elected at each annual meeting.

18. The President shall appoint a committee of three upon student affairs.

19. The chapter shall see to the enforcement among its members of all rules relating to students in the University.

20. The constitution and by-laws of the chapter and general organization shall be read at three regular meetings each term, at least.