

CONSTITUTION
and
BY-LAWS

of the

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

REVISED — 1954

ΑΦΑ

CONSTITUTION

and

BY-LAWS

of the

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

REVISED — 1954

ΑΦΑ

Herewith is transmitted the Constitution and By-Laws of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, as adopted at the 39th General Convention in session at Detroit, Michigan, December 27-31, 1953. This Constitution becomes the basic law of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, and supersedes all previous laws, rules and regulations.

January 1, 1954

John D. Buckner, Chairman,
Constitution Revision Committee.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the Constitution and By-Laws which follows is the action of the 39th General Convention of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, as recorded in its proceedings.

Additional copies may be purchased from the General Secretary.

James E. Huger,
General Secretary.
January 1, 1954

Attest:

A. Maceo Smith,
General President.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I—NAME AND SYMBOL

Section 1—

The name of this organization shall be Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Section 2—

The symbol shall be the Greek letters ALPHA PHI ALPHA.

ARTICLE II—ORGANIZATION

Section 1—

The Organization shall consist of Undergraduate, Intermediate and Graduate Chapters. The term "General Organization" shall refer to and mean all of the General Offices, the Executive Council, all constitutionally created Foundations, Commissions and Committees; all active chapters, all of which collectively constitute the organic structure of the National Organization known as Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated.

Section 2—

Undergraduate Chapters shall be named after the letters of the Greek Alphabet in the order of their establishment, viz.: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, etc., except that no Chapter shall be named Lambda or Omega. When the alphabet becomes exhausted, the first Greek letter, Alpha, becomes a prefix, viz.: Alpha Alpha, Alpha Beta, then each succeeding letter becomes a prefix in the same manner as Beta Alpha, Beta Beta, etc.

Section 3—

Intermediate chapters shall be named in the same manner as undergraduate chapters with the exception that Omicron Lambda shall be a prefix to the naming of the chapter, e.g., Omicron Lambda Alpha, Omicron Lambda Beta, etc.

PREAMBLE

We, the members of this organization, in order 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 chastity of woman; do enact and establish this Constitution for the government of its members.

Section 4—

Graduate Chapters shall be named in the same manner as Undergraduate Chapters with the exception that Lambda shall be a suffix to the name of the Chapter, as Alpha Lambda, Beta Lambda, etc.

ARTICLE III—UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTERS

Section 1—

An Undergraduate Chapter may be established at any school which has been accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency, the seat of the chapter to be determined by the fraternity.

Section 2—

The Jurisdiction of an Undergraduate Chapter shall be limited to Undergraduate members. However, Graduate Brothers may be members of an Undergraduate Chapter provided there is no Graduate Chapter at the institution designated in the Undergraduate Charter or the immediate vicinity, and provided further, that there is not a sufficient number of Undergraduate Brothers to keep an Undergraduate Chapter active.

Section 3—

A petition for the establishment of an Undergraduate Chapter may be made by seven or more male students enrolled in any institution which shall measure up to the standard of accreditation in Article III, Section 1, of this Constitution.

Section 4—

Inquiries concerning the establishment of an Undergraduate Chapter may come from any student of an accredited college, or from an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and shall be directed to the General Secretary. The General Secretary shall refer such petitions to the Committee on Standards and Extension whose findings shall be reported to the next General Convention. No Undergraduate Chapter shall be established except by vote of the General Convention.

Section 5—

The initiation of applicants and the installation of an Undergraduate Chapter shall be under the supervision of the officer designated for that particular purpose. The ceremony shall be in accordance with the official procedure and the Ritual.

Section 6—

The officers of an Undergraduate Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

Section 7—

An Undergraduate Chapter shall hold its annual election at the first regular meeting in April. The successful candidates, however, shall take office at the first regular meeting in September.

Section 8—

An Undergraduate Chapter shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its government, which shall be submitted to the regional Vice President for approval. It shall be resubmitted following each amendment or at the request of the Vice President or General Convention. It shall not conflict with this Constitution or any legislation which may be hereafter enacted.

ARTICLE IV—INTERMEDIATE CHAPTERS

Section 1—

An Intermediate Chapter may be established at any school or locality upon the petition of seven or more active, resident members of the fraternity who possess an earned degree but who are enrolled in any school which has been accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency. The seat of the chapter shall be determined by the fraternity.

Section 2—

Inquiries concerning the establishment of an Intermediate Chapter shall be directed to the Gen-

eral Secretary who shall refer such petition to the Committee on Standards and Extension, whose findings shall be reported to the General Convention or Executive Council. A majority vote of either body can authorize the establishment of such a chapter.

Section 3—

The jurisdiction of an Intermediate Chapter shall be limited to the vicinity of the school or locality as designated in its charter, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Standards and Extension.

Section 4—

The officers of an Intermediate Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

Section 5—

The Intermediate Chapter shall hold its annual election at the first regular meeting in April. The successful candidates, however, shall take office at the first meeting of the following September.

Section 6—

An Intermediate Chapter shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its government, which shall be submitted to the regional Vice President for approval. It shall be resubmitted following each amendment or at the request of the Vice President or General Convention. It shall not conflict with this Constitution or any legislation which may be hereafter enacted.

ARTICLE V—GRADUATE CHAPTERS

Section 1—

A Graduate Chapter may be established in any city or locality upon petition of seven or more active, resident, Graduate members of the Fraternity.

Section 2—

Petitions for the establishment of Graduate Chap-

ters shall be addressed to the General Secretary who shall refer such petitions to the Committee on Standards and Extension, whose findings shall be reported by the General Secretary to the General Convention or Executive Council. A majority vote of either body can authorize the establishment of such a chapter.

Section 3—

The Jurisdiction of a Graduate Chapter shall be limited to the vicinity of the city or cities designated in its charter; and only one Graduate Chapter may be established in this territory.

Section 4—

The officers of a Graduate Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary.

Section 5—

The Graduate Chapter shall hold its annual election at the first regular meeting in November. The successful candidates, however, shall take office at the first regular meeting in December.

Section 6—

A Graduate Chapter shall adopt a Constitution and By-Laws for its government, which shall be submitted to the regional Vice President for approval. It shall be resubmitted following each amendment or at the request of the Vice President or General Convention. It shall not conflict with this Constitution or any legislation which may be hereafter enacted.

ARTICLE VI—MEMBERSHIP

Section 1—

Membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., shall be of five Classes: Undergraduate, Intermediate, Graduate, Associate and Life. A member in good standing is one who has fulfilled all obligations of his chapter and the General Organization.

Section 2—

Any male student who has successfully completed one semester or two quarters of a regular year's program in an accredited college and who has maintained an average grade equal to or greater than the minimum grade which is required by that college for graduation with the Bachelor's Degree for the one semester or two quarters immediately preceding the consideration of his candidacy for membership, and who is honest, temperate in his habits, of undoubted ability as evidenced by his scholastic attainments, and who is of good character, may be presented by any member of the chapter in good standing. When the applicant has received the approval of all the active members in attendance at the meeting of the chapter designated for balloting, and has met all the requirements of the Ritual, General Constitution, By-Laws, and such other laws as the Fraternity may have enacted on the subject, and has undergone the prescribed initiation, he shall be deemed an Undergraduate member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. One negative vote cast shall prevent the admission of the applicant to the Fraternity. An applicant may be initiated in the second semester of the freshman year where the school permits.

Section 3—

An applicant for membership in an Intermediate Chapter shall be a male student enrolled in an accredited Graduate or Professional School (Art. 3, Sec. 1) who has successfully completed one semester or two quarters of a year's program. The applicant must be presented by a member in good standing. When the applicant has received the approval of all active members in attendance at the meeting of the chapter designated for balloting, and has met all of the requirements of the Ritual, General Constitution, By-Laws and other such laws as the Fraternity may have enacted and has undergone the prescribed initiation, he shall be deemed an Intermediate Member of that respective Intermediate Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. One negative vote cast

shall prevent the admission of the applicant to the Fraternity.

Section 4—

An applicant for membership in a Graduate Chapter shall be one who possesses an earned degree from an institution of standing as set forth in Article III, Section 1. The applicant must be presented by a member of the Chapter in good standing. When the applicant has received the approval of all of the active members in attendance at the meeting of the Chapter designated for balloting, and has met all of the requirements of the Ritual, General Constitution, By-Laws and such other laws as the Fraternity may have enacted on the subject and has undergone the prescribed initiation, he shall be deemed a Graduate member of that respective Graduate Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. One negative vote cast shall prevent the admission of the applicant to the Fraternity.

Section 5—

An Associate Member shall be a member who transfers to a chapter of a different status because there is no chapter of his status in the vicinity in which he resides. He shall be known as an associate member of the chapter until he becomes a member of a chapter in his status. He shall be entitled to the same privileges and subject to the same taxation as other members of the chapter with which he is affiliated. He shall remit, through the chapter Secretary, the correct annual Grand Tax for his membership category as prescribed in By-Law 10. Upon graduation a member is eligible for Intermediate or Graduate status without initiation.

Section 6—

A male student who is regularly matriculated in any accredited institution and/or resides in any locality that is specifically designated in the charter of any chapter, and who measures up to the standards prescribed in Article VI, Sections 2 and 3, may be presented by an active member of the chapter,

and when he has received the approval of all of the members of said chapter is a pledge of that chapter.

Section 7—

The payment of the Life Membership Fee as stipulated in the By-Laws shall entitle a member to full membership in the General Organization of the Fraternity for life, without further payment of Grand Tax. Life Membership shall confer no other privilege upon a member. Life Membership shall not release a member from financial and other obligations to his chapter. A member must be financial for at least five years to be eligible for payment of Life Membership Fee.

Section 8—

Founders of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity shall be known as Jewels. They shall be carried on the active roster of Alpha Chapter but shall have the full privilege of active members of the Chapters of their residence. The names of all seven Jewels shall appear upon all the official stationery of the Fraternity and the names of those Jewels who are deceased shall be followed by the capital Greek letter OMEGA.

ARTICLE VII—CONVENTIONS AND QUORUM

Section 1—

The General Convention shall be the Supreme Legislative Body and as such, shall have power to enact legislation for the regulation of all matters pertaining to the Organization as a whole, and not provided for in this constitution.

Section 2—

The General Convention shall consist of not more than two delegates from each chapter, the Executive Council, Jewels, and all Past General Presidents, sitting in regular session as hereinafter provided. Each member of the General Convention shall have a vote, the President voting only in case of a tie.

Section 3—

The General Convention shall choose the place and determine the dates of succeeding conventions. Such time and place may be determined at least two years in advance of any convention. The Executive Council shall be authorized to determine such dates and site should the General Convention fail to select at the preceding General Convention.

Section 4—

One-third of the members of the Convention present at any Convention shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 5—

The Regional Convention shall consist of representatives from each chapter in a Vice Presidential district, as determined by the Executive Council. The Regional Convention meets to discuss problems of regional interest and to make recommendations to the General Convention. The Regional Convention is not a legislative body. Nominations for officers of the region may be made at the Regional Convention. Each chapter in the region shall receive, from the Vice President, written notification sixty days prior to any Regional Convention.

ARTICLE VIII—OFFICERS AND DUTIES

Section 1—

The officers of the Fraternity shall be a General President, five regional Vice Presidents, General Secretary, General Treasurer, Director of Educational Activities, Editor-in-Chief of the Sphinx, General Counsel, Comptroller, and five undergraduate lay members, all of whom shall be members of the Executive Council. All officers shall serve a tenure not to exceed three consecutive terms of one year each with the exception of the General Secretary, General Treasurer, Editor and Comptroller.

Section 2—

A Candidate for election or selection at a General Convention shall be an active member in good standing for at least two consecutive years prior to the fraternity year which includes the convention at which he is a candidate, provided, however, that in the case of an undergraduate candidate the two year clause may be waived.

Section 3—

The duties of the General President shall be to preside over the General Convention, to execute all of the laws of the Fraternity, to appoint all commissions and committees, standing or special, except where objection is raised and sustained by a majority vote of the Executive Council. He shall interpret the Constitution. Appeal may be had from such interpretation of the Constitution upon objection being raised and sustained by a majority of the members of the Convention, and the decision shall be final. The General President shall be elected by ballot. Every financial member shall have one vote for election provided he follows such election procedure as may be appropriately prescribed.

Section 4—

The Vice Presidents shall supervise the activities of all chapters in their respective regions. They shall be residents of the regions. They shall be nominated at the regional convention or at the General Convention by a member from the region. They shall visit the chapters in their respective regions which are in need of official attention; shall supervise the chapters' activities concerning application for membership, re-establish inactive chapters in the region; shall investigate and correct all forms of delinquency both financial and moral in their chapters and shall settle all controversies and misunderstandings within the region. They shall perform such other duties as may be directed by the General President and shall act for him in case the chair becomes vacant.

Each Vice President shall have the power to appoint Regional Directors to assist him, and be responsible to him, in the performance of his duties. He may recommend members to serve as Counsel, Editor, or Director of Education in his region to assist the respective general officer.

The regions of the Vice Presidential districts shall be known as Eastern, Southern, Midwestern, Southwestern and Western Regions with the territorial jurisdictions to be determined by the Executive Council.

Section 5—

The General Treasurer shall have charge of all monies, funds, and other securities of the General Organization. He shall be required to deposit all funds of the General Organization within five days after their receipt. He shall disburse funds only upon written order signed by the General Secretary and the Comptroller. He shall give an approved bond. The amount and form of said bond shall be determined by the Executive Council, approved as to form by the General Counsel, and held by the General President. He shall prepare his convention report on the basis of the status of accounts as of November 15th. He shall consult with the Chairman of the Auditing Committee as to form of said report before publication.

Section 6—

The Director of Educational Activities shall plan and direct the operation of the Educational Campaign. He shall be chairman of the Scholarship Commission and shall also attend to the routine matters pertaining to scholarships which the Fraternity may create from time to time. He shall report his findings to the Convention; and shall perform such other duties with regard to educational activities as may be determined by the General Convention or the Executive Council.

Section 7—

The General Counsel shall represent the Frater-

nity in all legal matters affecting the Fraternity when such matters are referred to him by the General President, Executive Council, or General Convention. He shall serve as legal advisor to the officers and render written opinions when required; approve surety of officers and pass upon the legal nature of securities in which Fraternity funds may be invested. The office shall be allowed a reasonable budget and the General Counsel shall be allowed a compensation for extraordinary services when recommended by the Executive Council. He may recommend to the General President for appointment as assistants, Regional Counsel with the approval of the respective Vice Presidents.

Section 8—

The Editor-in-Chief of the Sphinx shall edit the official organ of the Fraternity. He may publish and distribute the same. He shall be responsible for any disclosures through the columns of the Sphinx of ritualistic work of the Fraternity, or any breach of Fraternity or Chapter ethics.

Section 9—

A Comptroller shall be appointed by the Executive Council upon the recommendation of the General President or a Special Committee. He shall be responsible to the Executive Council to carry out the financial mandates of the General Convention. He shall serve as Chairman of the Budget Committee. He shall maintain a continuous audit of budgeted financial operations. He shall determine quarterly allocations within the maximums established in the approved budget. He shall authorize orders on the treasury for all budgeted expenditures approved by the President. He shall not authorize any expenditures from reserves, special or contingent funds without prior written approval of the General President. His term of office shall run for one year from February 1 to January 31 of the following year.

Section 10—

The Undergraduate lay member of the Executive Council shall assist their respective regional Vice President in handling the undergraduate affairs in that region. A candidate, for this office, shall be an undergraduate member who under ordinary circumstances would be enrolled in a school at his chapter seat throughout the entire term of office. He shall reside in (including school residence) and be nominated by the region.

Section 11—

Unless otherwise provided, all officers listed herein shall be elected by ballot at the General Convention. The term of office in each case, except the General Secretary, shall be for one year. The candidates receiving the largest number of votes cast shall be declared elected to office.

Section 12—

All elected officers shall be installed at the General Convention and shall hold office until their successors are elected or selected and installed. They shall make annual reports to the General Convention.

Section 13—

All vacancies occurring in the offices of the General Organization during the year shall be filled by appointments made by the General President, subject to the approval of the Executive Council. In case of incapacity of the General President, the order of succession of Vice Presidents to the Presidency shall be determined by the active Past General Presidents and Jewels in Executive Session convened for such purpose by the General Secretary.

ARTICLE IX—GENERAL SECRETARY AND DUTIES

Section 1—

The General Secretary shall be an active member of the Fraternity. His term of office shall be for a

period not to exceed three years, and he shall be elected by the General Convention. He may be removed for cause by the Executive Council only in the interim between Conventions. The General Secretary may be a full-time officer in which case he shall not hold any other similar employment. He shall receive an annual salary as fixed by the General Convention within the limits as provided in the budget and approved by the General Convention; and such necessary expenses of office as are within the limits provided in the budget approved by the General Convention.

Section 2—

He shall keep correct and complete books of all accounts and minutes of the proceedings of the General Convention and of the Executive Council. Within sixty days after such conventions he shall cause the minutes of the said General Convention to be printed and three copies sent to the secretary of each chapter with such additional copies to be distributed to officers and the remainder available for purchase by interested individual members.

He shall use such books and observe such accounting principles and practices as the Fraternity shall designate. No member or other person who is not authorized in writing by the President or the Executive Council to act for the Fraternity shall have access to the books, papers and records of his office.

He shall have in his custody or under his control all records of the Fraternity unless it is otherwise provided herein that such record shall be in the custody or under the control of another office. He shall supervise and contract for all official printing of the Fraternity, unless otherwise provided. He shall receive and transmit all funds of the Fraternity to the General Treasurer within thirty days after receipt thereof.

Section 3—

Before entering upon the performance of his duties he shall execute a bond with corporate secu-

rity payable to the Fraternity as an indemnity for any pecuniary loss or loss of other property which the Fraternity may sustain by reason of any dishonest act or negligence by the said General Secretary. The amount and form of said bond shall be determined by the Executive Council, approved as to form, by the General Counsel, and held by the President.

Section 4—

He shall prepare his convention report on the basis of the status of accounts as of November 15 of each year and shall include indication of receipts up to that date which have been received and reserved for the ensuing fiscal year. He shall consult with the Chairman of the Auditing Committee as to the form of the financial part of said report before publication. The original of such report shall be certified by the General Secretary and sent to the General President. He shall make such other reports as the Fraternity may, from time to time, direct.

Section 5—

He shall keep a record of all members of the Fraternity, showing the date of initiation of each individual member, the Chapter in which said member was initiated, and a record of the payments into his office received toward the account of each member for any purpose. He shall in all respects seek to conserve and promote the membership of the Fraternity.

Section 6—

Ninety days' notice of the time and place of the meeting of any General Convention or Special General Convention shall be sent by the General Secretary to each chapter and to each member for whom Grand Tax has been received for the current year. The columns of the Sphinx may be used for the notice to members. The mailing or failure to mail such notice shall not affect the validity of such General Convention.

Section 7—

He shall prepare a list of the delegates entitled to vote at the General Convention for the use of the Commission on Elections.

Section 8—

He shall be the Custodian of the seal of the Fraternity and shall affix the Corporate Seal of the Fraternity to all documents requiring said seal.

Section 9—

He shall in general perform all duties and have all powers incident to the office of General Secretary and shall perform all other duties as the General Convention, the Executive Council or the General President shall assign him. The General Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Council but shall have no vote in said Council.

Section 10—

He shall deliver his books and records at least once each year to the person authorized by the Fraternity to audit said books and records.

Section 11—

In the event of the death, inability, or refusal to act, of the General Secretary, the President, with the approval of the Executive Council, shall have the power to select a person to fill the office until the next General Convention and until his successor shall have been selected and qualified.

ARTICLE X—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Section 1—

There shall be an Executive Council composed of all elected General Officers, five undergraduate members elected by the General Convention, one from each jurisdiction, and all Jewels of the Fraternity.

Section 2—

The Past General Presidents shall serve as an Advisory Committee to the Executive Council without power to vote.

Section 3—

The Executive Council shall be the governing body between the General Conventions except in matters which exceed the Fraternity budget.

Section 4—

The Executive Council shall make a general report of its activities during the interim to the next General Convention.

Section 5—

The Executive Council shall cause the financial books of the Fraternity to be audited by a certified public accountant when directed by the General President or the Executive Council at least once a year.

ARTICLE XI—COMMITTEES

Section 1—

There shall be the following Standing Committees:

- (a) Committee on Scholarships and Educational Activities.
- (b) Committee on Budget
- (c) Committee on Public Policy
- (d) Committee on General Secretary
- (e) Committee on Recommendations
- (f) Committee on Elections
- (g) Committee on Achievements and Awards
- (h) Committee on Audit
- (i) Committee on Rules and Credentials
- (j) Committee on Standards and Extension
- (k) Committee on Housing

The members of which shall be appointed by the General President.

Section 2—

The Committee on Scholarships and Educational Activities shall be composed of not less than five members including the Director of Educational Activities, who shall serve as Chairman. The members of this Committee shall also serve as members of the Educational Foundation. It shall, after proper investigation, determine the scholarship awards. The members shall be appointed by the President only upon recommendation of the Director of Educational Activities, who shall also serve as Chairman of the Committee.

Section 3—

The Committee on Budget shall be composed of from three to five members and shall study the expenditures of the several departments of the general organization and shall recommend budgets to the General Convention. The Chairman of the Budget Committee shall be an ex-officio member of the Recommendations Committee and of the Committee on Public Policy.

He shall perform the functions of Comptroller as provided in Article VIII, Section 9.

Section 4—

The Committee on Public Policy shall be composed of from three to five members. It shall represent the general organization in the interim between Conventions in relation to all social movements and public questions, taking care to see that the Fraternity espouses only those causes which are in alignment with the ideals of the Fraternity. The Chairman shall be ex-officio member of the Committee on Budget and Recommendations Committee.

Section 5—

The Committee on General Secretary shall consist of five members all of whom shall be appointed by the General President, not later than six months prior to the succeeding General Convention, the Chairman of said Committee, or a Secretary selected from the membership, shall send a notice to all

chapters advising that applications of all prospective candidates for the office of General Secretary will be received. The notice shall also be published in the Sphinx. The Committee shall receive the applications of all prospective candidates for the office of General Secretary and shall list the applicants according to their respective qualifications. The Committee shall present the names of not less than three or more than five of the highest ranking applicants to the General Convention, which shall elect one of them to the office of General Secretary.

Section 6—

The Committee on Recommendations shall consider recommendations presented to the General Convention. It shall also initiate recommendations to the General Convention and shall consider requests, motions and proposals involving the expenditure of funds not included in the functions of the Budget Committee. The Chairman shall be ex-officio member of the Committee on Budget and the Committee on Public Policy.

Section 7—

The Committee on Elections shall consist of not less than five members. It shall determine the method and supervise the election of all elected National Officers in accordance with rules promulgated by said Committee and approved by the General Convention. Nothing contained in said rules shall be contrary to the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 8—

The Committee on Achievements and Awards shall consist of three to five members. The duties and responsibilities of the Committee shall be to initiate methods for the stimulation of activity among the members, chapters, and regions; shall develop standards, and evaluate the achievements, and make appropriate awards for the same.

The applicants for achievement awards shall present to the Committee all data and materials

required by the Committee's basis for making the awards.

Section 9—

The Committee on Audit shall audit all expense accounts of all General Officers, Commissions, Committees, and persons having expense accounts or appropriations.

The records of the General Secretary, General Treasurer and Editor-in-Chief of the Sphinx shall be examined by an Auditor. The Auditing Committee shall examine the report of the Auditor and make such recommendations or comment as deemed necessary. The Committee shall audit such records and make such other recommendations as the President or the Executive Council shall direct. The Committee shall periodically review the accounting system of the Fraternity and especially its methods of internal control.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee shall be a member of the Budget Committee, and shall be available to such other committees as may require his services. The Chairman of the Auditing Committee shall consult with the General Secretary and the General Treasurer concerning the financial part of their annual report for the General Convention.

Section 10—

The duties of the Committee on Rules and Credentials are to recommend for adoption by the General Convention the rules governing the actual conduct of the General Convention: Questions of assembly, seating, delegate attendance, punctuality, responsibility of delegates for representation of their chapters, methods and qualification for admission into the Convention Assembly, official entrances and exits to the assembly room, the necessary officers to supervise the qualifications and identity of persons entering and leaving the assembly, any necessary deviations from the rules of debate as outlined in Robert's Rules of Order.

The Committee shall recommend for adoption by the General Convention the necessary rules governing the business leading to the election of officers.

The Committee shall in connection with the General Secretary validate the credentials of the delegates. It shall verify the authority and authenticity of the credentials and the person presenting the credentials. It shall organize the assembly, seat the delegates, seat the visitors and assist the President in the seating of the officers and visitors to the convention.

The Chairman of the Rules and Credentials Committee shall assist the President and the General Secretary in the preparation of the registration, the setting incidental to the Convention Assembly, and the location and assignment of Committee rooms. He shall be in constant touch with the General President and General Secretary for the efficient conduct of the Convention.

Section 11—

The Committee on Standards and Extension shall determine the standards pertaining to the establishment of undergraduate chapters. It shall investigate the academic standing of those institutions in which students are enrolled who file petitions with the General Secretary for the establishment of an undergraduate chapter. The Committee shall submit a report of its findings to the General Secretary, and shall also report, with recommendations, to the General Convention relative to such petitions for establishment of a chapter. When an academic institution is being investigated by the Committee, the Chairman shall advise the Vice President of the jurisdiction in which the institution is located.

The scholastic eligibility for membership in the Fraternity shall be an average grade equal to or greater than the minimum grade which is required by that particular school for graduation with the Bachelor's Degree.

Petitions for the establishment of Intermediate and Graduate Chapters shall be referred to the Committee for investigation. The Committee shall make its recommendation based on its findings, to the General Convention or Executive Council, through the General Secretary, for the decision concerning the establishment of the chapter.

Section 12—

The Committee on Housing shall consist of not more than five members. It shall study all phases of chapter housing within the Fraternity and shall initiate recommendations to the General Convention concerning the Fraternity's relations to housing problems. It shall act as liaison between the Fraternity and housing corporations or cooperatives and shall conduct a continuous review of the relations of the Fraternity with such bodies.

ARTICLE XII—DISCIPLINE

Section 1—

The General Convention, by majority vote, may declare a chapter inactive when its membership is less than seven, or for refusal to pay grand taxes, or for failure to be represented at four successive General Conventions, or for violation of the Constitution, By-Laws or Ritual of the Fraternity.

Section 2—

The chapter declared inactive may be reinstated upon application to the General President. The decision of the General President when adverse to the reinstatement of said chapter shall be reviewed by the Executive Council upon appeal by the chapter.

Section 3—

Each chapter shall have the power to discipline its members. The penalty shall be censure, fine or suspension.

Section 4—

A member away from the seat of his chapter may be reported to his chapter for conduct unbecoming a member of the Fraternity, provided the charge be written and signed by the member reporting the same.

Section 5—

A member of any chapter of this organization who is in school or residing at the seat of any

chapter, and who fails to affiliate himself with said chapter within a period of five months, after due notification of the existence thereof, shall be denied the right of participating in any function under the auspices of the chapter, until he has so affiliated himself.

Section 6—

When for any reason a member is suspended from his chapter, he must refrain from wearing the Alpha Phi Alpha Badge until the suspension has been lifted. Failing to do so after appropriate request, he may be referred for discipline to the General Convention.

Section 7—

Controversies and misunderstandings on a local level arising in chapters shall be referred to the Vice President of the Jurisdiction in which they arise for appropriate action. At his discretion such matters are to be referred to the General President. Chapters have the right to appeal to the General President.

Section 8—

The Executive Council shall have the power to suspend the charter of any chapter for good and sufficient reasons, but such suspension shall be reported to the next succeeding General Convention for appropriate action.

Section 9—

The power of expulsion of members is reserved to the General Convention. When the chapter deems that the offense deserves the extreme punishment (expulsion), the chapter has the right to indefinite suspension, and may refer the member to the General Convention for expulsion. In all cases where a chapter contemplates recommendations of expulsion to the General Convention, it shall serve upon each member subject to such action, written notice of the intended action, together with a specification of the charges against said member, at least thirty

days before the meeting of the next General Convention at which time such cases shall be heard. Copies of the notice and charges must also be sent to the General Secretary at the same time. The General Secretary shall also inform the disciplined member of the contemplated action. When the case is presented at the Convention, the member subject to such action shall have opportunity to appear in defense before the Convention Committee on Discipline. In event of his inability to appear, he may select, or request the General President to appoint a member in good standing to represent him at the hearing. The action of the General Convention upon the report of the Committee shall be final. However, a brother who has been expelled shall, after a lapse of three years, be permitted to make a personal application through the General Secretary's office, to the General Convention to have his case reopened and reheard for reinstatement. Upon receipt of said application, the General Secretary shall notify the chapter to which the expelled brother was a member. The application for reinstatement must set forth good and sufficient reasons, therefore, and upon approval of two-thirds of the members present at the particular session, the expelled applicant shall be considered reinstated to membership in the Fraternity.

Section 10—

In case of offense against the General Organization, the Executive Council shall have the power to suspend, and to recommend to the General Convention for expulsion the offending individual.

ARTICLE XIII—FEES AND DUES

Section 1—

The fees and dues for all classes of membership in the Fraternity or for the establishment of any chapter shall be those fixed by the By-Laws of the Fraternity.

ARTICLE XIV—INSIGNIA

Section 1—

The colors of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity shall be black and gold.

Section 2—

The Seal of the Fraternity shall bear the words "Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc." on the margin with the words "Founded 1906" in the center. The Seal of the Chapter shall bear the words "Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc." on the margin with the name of the local chapter and the year it was established in the center.

Section 3—

The insignia of the Fraternity shall be (1) the official "Badge," (2) the "Fraternity Shield," and (3) the "Fraternal Design."

The official "Badge" shall bear the three Greek letters, ALPHA PHI ALPHA, with the letter "Phi" superimposed on the letters "Alpha" and shall contain seven jewels. No guard shall be attached. The official "Badge" shall be worn by Fraternity members ONLY.

The "Fraternity Shield" is the official emblem of the Fraternity. A complete description of its design is contained in the Ritual.

The "Fraternal Design" is the official coat-of-arms design approved for use on rings, sweetheart pins and other small jewelry, sweaters, fraternity house equipment, etc. A description of its design is contained in the Ritual.

Section 4—

The Executive Council shall designate the official Jeweler, and he shall be instructed to make no Insignia of Alpha Phi Alpha without an order from the General Secretary. The Official Jeweler shall make no other Insignia of the Fraternity.

Section 5—

No chapter or member thereof shall order a Badge directly from the Jeweler.

Section 6—

The General Secretary shall see to it that all Badges are registered and serially numbered before delivered.

Section 7—

The title of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Badge shall be vested in the General Organization. Upon expulsion of a member, the General Secretary shall demand the return of the Badge. On return of the Badge, the General Secretary shall reimburse the expelled member. Due process of law may be taken to secure the Badge.

ARTICLE XV—OFFICIAL ORGAN

Section 1—

The Official Organ of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity shall be known as the "Sphinx" and shall be published at such times as shall be directed by the General Convention.

ARTICLE XVI—AFFILIATION

Section 1—

Each chapter of the Fraternity is authorized to maintain an organized group of aspirants to membership in the Fraternity to be known as a "Sphinx Club." The chapter is responsible for the activities and conduct of the club which it supervises.

Section 2—

The Fraternity shall hold membership and conform in all respects to the rules of such associations of fraternal organizations of like purpose as approved by majority vote of the General Convention.

ARTICLE XVII—AMENDMENTS

Section 1—

Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted to and passed by a three-fourths vote of the

General Convention. All adopted amendments to the General Constitution shall be submitted to the chapters for approval or disapproval. A negative vote within sixty days after submission by fifty-one per cent of the chapters shall be sufficient to veto the action of the General Convention.

Section 2—

(a) All proposed amendments shall be filed with the General Secretary sixty (60) days before the next succeeding General Convention.

Section 3—

The General Secretary shall send mimeographed copies of all proposed amendments to each chapter thirty (30) days prior to the next succeeding Convention. Only such proposed amendments shall be considered by the Convention, except where it can be shown that the General Secretary intentionally failed to comply with this provision or that his act of omission was caused by gross negligence.

BY-LAWS

1—Chapters shall use due diligence to determine that members are in good standing with their local Chapters before they may be admitted to meetings or to functions of their Chapter.

2—A member before he is admitted into a meeting of any chapter with which he is not affiliated shall be required to exhibit his current pass card.

3—No member may come into the sessions of any Convention or attend any of the functions without a Pass Card and, if a delegate, satisfactory credentials from his Chapter.

4—Each Chapter shall be required to send the name, address and current pass card number of each of its delegates and alternates to the General Secretary at least 30 days prior to any General Convention on forms provided for that purpose. In addition, similar information shall be sent to the appropriate Vice President at least 15 days prior to any Regional Convention.

5—Notice of action upon names of candidates for admission into the Fraternity shall be given at a meeting of the Chapter at least one week before such action is to occur. The Chapter Secretary shall give notice to all members absent from such meetings at least five days before such action. This notice shall be in writing. Absence from such meetings after notification by the Secretary shall be deemed assent in each particular case.

Before balloting on candidates, all Chapters shall be required to prepare and forward to the Vice President of the Jurisdiction a list of the candidates for certification. In addition to the names and addresses of the candidates, there must be a certified transcript of the current academic record of each candidate obtained from the Registrar of the College. The Vice President shall review the record to determine eligibility on the basis of scholarship and when decided upon he shall inform the Chapter of

his action. This shall not apply to applicants seeking graduate status membership.

Immediately after the balloting on candidates ALL CHAPTERS shall be required to forward the "Notice of Initiation" forms in quadruplicate, listing the names and addresses of the successful candidates together with the proposed date of initiation, along with the health certificates, other initiation forms and all fees for initiates to the office of the General Secretary. The General Secretary shall certify receipt of proper fees, then forward the forms to the regional Vice President for approval and official notification to the Chapter to proceed with the initiation.

6—No member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity shall be a member of any other College or Intercollegiate Fraternity, except a purely Honorary or Professional Fraternity.

7—No person, a member of any other College or Intercollegiate Fraternity, except an Honorary or Professional Fraternity, shall be admitted into Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

8—When a transfer of Chapters is desired, a member or a Chapter Secretary shall communicate this information to the General Secretary who will give proper recognition to the transfer after adequate investigation.

9—No member, Undergraduate or Graduate, shall receive a transfer from his Chapter while he is a student in the institution, designated in the charter or a resident in the Chapter's jurisdiction.

10—Each member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity shall pay through his Chapter Secretary an annual Grand Tax, said tax to be paid on or before November 15, for the ensuing year. After November 15 through August 31 of the following calendar year, there shall be added a penalty of ten per cent. The delinquency shall be determined by the post-mark date shown on the communication received by the

General Secretary. After August 31, the reinstatement fee shall be required in all instances where members have not paid by that date. The Chapter shall forward immediately to the General Secretary all Grand Taxes collected.

The Life Membership Fee shall be \$150.00 provided the total amount is received by the General Secretary within any given Fraternity fiscal year. There shall be a differential in annual Grand Tax payments for members as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------|---------|
| Graduate Grand Tax..... | \$10.00 |
| Intermediate Grand Tax..... | 8.50 |
| Undergraduate Grand Tax..... | 7.50 |

For this purpose, an undergraduate shall be defined as a member who is regularly enrolled and taking courses leading to his first academic degree in an accredited college or university as provided in Article III, Section 1, Article VI, Sections 2 and 5. (Effective beginning with 1954 Annual Grand Tax payments.)

11—Every member who pays Grand Tax shall receive the Sphinx and a Pass Card.

12—Members residing where there is no active Chapter may pay their Grand Tax direct to the General Secretary.

13—Any member who has become inactive, but was financial with his Chapter upon leaving, may become reinstated upon payment to the General Organization of a reinstatement fee plus the current Grand Tax. Beginning January 1, 1949, the reinstatement fee shall be \$1.00 if the member is not more than the preceding year in arrears, but the reinstatement fee shall be \$2.00 for all such brothers who have been unfinancial for two or more years.

14—The General Secretary and the General Treasurer of the General Organization shall each be required to give approved bonds; the amount in each instance to be determined by the financial

responsibility of the aforementioned officers, but the bond for each shall not be less than \$50,000.00. The cost of the bonds is to be borne by the General Organization.

15—The funds of the General Organization shall be deposited in the name of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., in two or more banks to be approved by the Executive Council.

16—The bonds of the General Secretary and the General Treasurer shall be deposited with the General President. These bonds are to be kept in a safety deposit box, the expense to be borne by the General Organization.

17—The Director of Education shall issue annually a bulletin setting the date for the Education for Citizenship Campaign.

18—General Elections shall be by ballot. Votes shall be recorded on ballots prepared for this purpose. Those qualified to vote for the election of officers shall be issued ballots according to rules promulgated by the Election Committee. Candidates receiving the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected to office. There shall be two tellers and one tally man appointed by the General President. The Chaplain of the Convention shall serve as the observer.

19—The Charter Fees for the establishment of a Chapter shall be \$30.00 which shall entitle the Chapter to the following: Charter, Seal Ritual, Constitution and History.

20—The method of amending these By-Laws shall be by a two-thirds majority vote of the members of the General Convention. All adopted amendments to the General Constitution shall be submitted to the Chapters for approval or disapproval. A negative vote within sixty days after submission by fifty-one per cent of the Chapters shall be sufficient to veto the action of the General Convention.