

# The Parchment



Sigma **Phi** Rho Fraternity  
Inc.

Constitution, Bylaws & Code of Conduct

**SIGMA PHI RHO FRATERNITY, INC.**

**CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS**

ALSO

**THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES**

2016 Edition

Adopted at the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation  
Lehman College  
Bronx, New York  
Saturday, July 30, 2016

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**SIGMA PHI RHO FRATERNITY, Inc.**  
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NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10116-8527  
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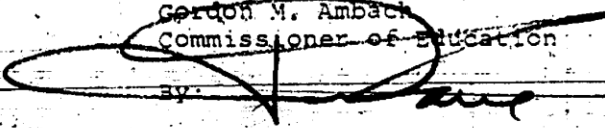
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IN WITNESS WHEREOF this instrument is  
executed and the seal of the State  
Education Department is affixed this  
13th day of May, 1982.

Gordon M. Ambach  
Commissioner of Education

By:   
Robert D. Stone  
Counsel and Deputy Commissioner  
for Legal Affairs

This consent to filing is granted with the understanding that nothing contained in the annexed certificate of incorporation shall be construed as authorizing the corporation to engage in the practice of law, except as provided by subdivision 7 of section 495 of the Judiciary Law, or of any of the professions designated in Title VIII of the Education Law, or to use any title restricted by such law, or to conduct a school for any such profession, or to hold itself out to the public as offering professional services.

This consent to filing is granted with the further understanding that nothing contained in the certificate of incorporation shall be construed as authorizing the corporation to operate a nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, secondary school, institution of higher education, cable television facility, educational television station pursuant to section 236 of the Education Law, Library, museum, or historical society, or to maintain an historic site.

This consent to filing shall not be deemed to be or to take the place of registration for the operation of a private business school in accordance with the provisions of section 5002 of the Education Law, nor shall it be deemed to be, or to take the place of, a license granted by the Board of Regents pursuant to the provisions of section 5001 of the Education Law, a license granted by the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles pursuant to the provisions of section 394 of the Vehicle and Traffic Law, a license as an employment agency granted pursuant to section 172 of the General Business Law, or any other license, certificates, registrations, or approval required by law.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION OF  
SIGMA PHI RHO FRATERNITY, INC.  
Under Section 402 of the Not-for-Profit  
Corporation Law

The undersigned, a natural person of the age of eighteen or over, desiring to form a corporation pursuant to the provisions of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, does hereby certify:

(1) The name of the corporation is Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

(2) The Corporation is a corporation as defined in subparagraph of Section 102 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law and shall be a Type B corporation under section 201 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

(3) The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is formed are as follows:

To conduct activities which are exclusively charitable, literary and educational within the meaning of Section 401(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as the same may be amended from time to time, including

- To convene a membership body comprised of undergraduate, graduate students and honorary members;
- To provide assistance to their respective schools and communities;
- To foster a mutual bond of brotherhood among the members;
- To provide tutorial services to high school student;
- To provide cultural activities to the community including but not limited to plays, poetry, readings, and concerts;
- To provide social activities for the membership and their guests;

and the conduct of any and all other activities as shall from time to time be found appropriate in connection with the foregoing and as are lawful for not-for-profit corporations.

(4) In furtherance of the foregoing purposes, the Corporation shall have all of the general powers enumerated in Section 202 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law together with the power to solicit grants and contributions for any

corporate purpose and the power to maintain a fund or funds of real or personal property for any corporate purposes. The Corporation shall have the right to exercise such other powers as now are, or hereafter may be, conferred by law upon a corporation organized for the purposes hereinabove set forth or necessary or incidental to the powers so conferred, or conducive to the furtherance thereof.

(5) Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the Corporation is organized exclusively for one or more of the following purposes: charitable or educational purposes, or as specified in Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and shall not carry on any activities not permitted to be carried on by a corporation exempt from Federal Income tax under 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

(6) The Corporation shall be empowered to solicit funds from the public.

(7) The Corporation is not formed for pecuniary profit or for financial gain and no part of its assets, income or profit shall be distributed to or inure to the benefit of any private individual. Reasonable compensation, however, may be paid for services rendered to or for the Corporation in furtherance of one or more of its purposes.

(8) Nothing herein shall authorize the Corporation, directly or indirectly, to engage in or include among its purposes any of the activities mentioned in Section 404 (b) through (t) of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

(9) No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be devoted to carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, (except to the extent authorized by Internal Revenue Code 501 (i) as amended, or the corresponding provision of any future United States internal revenue law, during any fiscal year or years in which the corporation has chosen to utilize the benefits authorized by that statutory provision) and the corporation shall not participate in or intervene (including the publishing or distributing of statements) in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

(10) The office of the Corporation shall be located in the City of New York, County of New York, and State of New York.

(11) The corporation's activities will be conducted principally within the City and State of New York, but the activities of the Corporation shall not be limited to such territory and may be conducted throughout the United States, its territories and possessions, and the rest of the world.

(12) Nothing herein shall authorize the Corporation to operate or maintain a nursery school, elementary school or secondary school. Nothing herein shall authorize the corporation to operate or maintain an institution of higher learning or to grant degrees.

(13) The names and address of the initial directors of the Corporation are as follows:

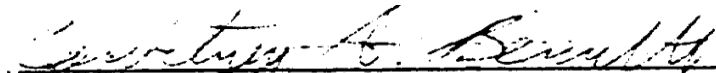
Courtney A. Bennett  
50 West 152<sup>nd</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10037  
John T. Sims  
2949 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10039  
Gregory Brown  
1320 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10037


(14) The Secretary of State pursuant to Chapter 564 of the NYS Laws of 1981 Section 402 (a) (7), is hereby designated as agent of the corporation upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the Secretary shall mail a copy of any process against the corporation served upon him is: P.O. Box 535 Colonial Park Station, New York, NY 10030.

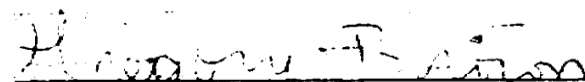
(15) In the event of dissolution, the assets and property of the corporation remaining after payment of expenses and the satisfaction of all liabilities shall be distributed as determined by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court for the nonprofit purposes of the corporation and/or to such charitable, literary and educational organizations as shall qualify under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

(16) Prior to delivery to the Department of State for filing, all approvals or consents required by law will be endorsed upon or annexed to this Certificate.


IN WITNESS WHEREOF this Certificate has been signed and the statements made herein are affirmed as true under the penalties of perjury this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1982.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Courtney Bennett  
50 West 132 Street  
New York, NY 10037

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Sims  
2949 Eighth Avenue  
New York, NY 10039

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory Brown  
1320 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10037

Sworn to before  
me this 30<sup>th</sup> day  
of March, 1982.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLARA BENNETT  
Notary Public, State of New York  
No. 41-043353  
Qualified in Queens County  
Com. Exp. March 30, 1984







Motion of Approval and Waiver  
Of Notice of Application

The undersigned has no objection to  
the granting of judicial approval  
hereon and waives statutory notice.

Dated: June 9, 1982  
Robert Abrams  
Attorney General  
State of New York

By: Julia C. [Signature]  
Assistant Attorney General

I, THOMAS J. HUGHES, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, of the First Judicial District, in which the office of the Corporation is to be located, approve of the foregoing Certificate of Incorporation of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

Dated: NEW YORK, N.Y.

Thomas J. Hughes  
Justice of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New York,  
First Judicial District.

JUL 13 1982

THOMAS J. HUGHES

# CORE VALUES

## ***Scholarship***

Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity Incorporated is dedicated to the value of **SCHOLARSHIP**. This fraternity's primary goal is that each undergraduate brother attains a college degree.

## ***Leadership***

Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity Incorporated is dedicated to the value of **LEADERSHIP**. Our Fraternity develops responsible leaders that will shape the direction of this fraternity and their community.

## ***Brotherhood***

Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity Incorporated is dedicated to the value of **BROTHERHOOD**. Our fraternity is unified by the strong bonds of fraternal fellowship, which we extend to our campuses and communities.

## ***Service***

Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity Incorporated is dedicated to the value of **SERVICE**. This fraternity is committed to sharing its time and talent with the communities we serve.

## ***Empowerment***

Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity Incorporated is dedicated to the value of **EMPOWERMENT**. The Fraternity empowers those affected by critical social challenges (AIDS, Poverty, etc.) in the world. As the principal agents of change in the communities we service, this Fraternity will invest its time and resources to address these and other social challenges.

## ***THE GOAL***

The goal of this Fraternity is to transition men into greater manhood - academically, socially, spiritually and professionally - through the development of solid structures and mentors to help guide the mature, spiritual and professional phases of our lives.

## Mission of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

Building on the purposes, rituals and values established by our founding fathers, the mission of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity is to provide positive fraternal experiences that support the development and growth of its members, and to contribute to our communities through service. Since its founding, Sigma Phi Rho has valued brotherhood, ethical behavior, character development, academic achievement, service, loyalty, and multiculturalism.

Sigma Phi Rho members recognize their potential to truly become agents of change in their community--be it their campus, nation, or abroad. In order to ensure our members are world-ready, we seek to enhance the potential of collegiate men through leadership experiences, civic engagement and professional development. Additionally, an emphasis is placed on understanding the traditions and mastering the rituals that ensure our existence. Imbued with the core values of Scholarship, Leadership, Brotherhood, Service, and Empowerment, the men of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity march forever forward, ready to change their world and lend a hand to a fellow man in need.

# CONSTITUTION

## **PREAMBLE**

The young men of the nation are the bulwark of the future. We believe that the development of strong character and good moral judgment is essential in the type of bulwark democracy needs to march ever forward. Toward this goal this organization is dedicated.

## **ARTICLE I**

### **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be: Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

## **ARTICLE II**

### **STRUCTURE**

**SECTION 1.** Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc. shall consist of the National Governing Council, Alumni Chapters and Undergraduate Chapters.

**SECTION 2.** The National Governing Council shall consist of the National Executive Committee and the Body of Representatives.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **PURPOSE**

**SECTION 1.** The purpose of the National Governing Council shall be:

- (a) to govern all chapters of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.;
- (b) to make decisions that will aid in the growth and betterment of the Fraternity; and
- (c) to transact business on the national level.

**SECTION 2.** The purpose of the Alumni Chapters shall be:

- (a) to keep a lasting brotherhood among the men of this Fraternity; and
- (b) to serve the brothers of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity and aid in its development and growth.

**SECTION 3.** The purpose of the Undergraduate Chapters shall be:

- (a) to develop strong character in the men of this Fraternity;
- (b) to develop good moral judgment in the men of this Fraternity;
- (c) to develop a lasting brotherhood among the men of this Fraternity; and
- (d) to serve our school and to aid in its development and growth.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The National Executive Committee of the National Governing Council shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Director of Chapters, Secretary, Business Manager, Public Relations Officer, Treasurer and the Advisor to the President.

**SECTION 2.** Alumni Chapters shall have the following officers: a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chairman and the Chaplain.

**SECTION 3.** The officers of Undergraduate chapters shall be: President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Fraternal Education Organizer, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, On-Campus Social Chairman, Off-Campus Social Chairman, Warden and Chaplain.

**SECTION 4.** The National Governing Council and each chapter shall have an Executive Committee comprised of all of its officers.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **PRIVILEGE OF BELONGING**

**SECTION 1.** The privilege of belonging to the National Executive Committee is open to all Alumni brothers, who are in good standing socially and financially.

**SECTION 2.** The Body of Representatives shall consist of one representative for every five active brothers in the chapter.

**SECTION 3.** The privilege of belonging to an Alumni Chapter shall be open to all distinguished professional men who have graduated with a degree from a school of higher education, or are no longer full time students at a college or university.

**SECTION 4.** The privilege of belonging to an Undergraduate Chapter shall be open to all matriculated men attending an accredited school of higher education, college or university and has completed at least one (1) semester of undergraduate work with a minimum GPA of 2.5

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **NATIONAL CONVOCATION**

**SECTION 1.** The National Convocation shall meet annually in the summer.

**SECTION 2.** The National Convocation shall be open to active members.

**SECTION 3.** The National Convocation shall have the power to organize, constitute and charter chapters, both Alumni and undergraduate, and have general supervision over the same; to form new regions whenever warranted by the growth of the Fraternity; to make, write, compile, and promulgate the ritualistic work; to hear and make decisions on all questions that are referred to it, on appeal or otherwise, for final adjudication; and in general, to do and perform every lawful act or thing necessary or expedient for efficiently conducting said Fraternity and its branches, as authorized under the laws of Congress.



**SECTION 4.** The following are entitled to voting privileges: Designated Delegates, 13 original Founders, and National Executive Committee of the National Governing Council.

**SECTION 5.** The quorum for the National Convocation shall be four members of the National Executive Committee and delegates from three-fourths of the active chapters. The presence of the chapters is required for the opening of the National Convocation.

**SECTION 6.** All Undergraduate Chapters and Alumni Chapters are required to send a minimum of two (2) delegates (active) to the National Convocation. If all respective chapters don't meet the minimum requirement, the National Governing Council will imposed a fine, twice the amount of Chapter tax dues (\$100). All colonies are required to send at least one (1) active brother to the National Convocation. Failure to do so, the National Governing Council will imposed a fine twice the amount of Colony tax dues (\$50)

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

**SECTION 1.** Those new members pledged to a chapter shall remain so for a minimum of six weeks, before being eligible for initiation into an undergraduate or Alumni chapter.

**SECTION 2.** The pledging and initiation of new members shall be administered by the entire active body under the guidance of the Fraternity's Fraternal Education Organizer.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be four (4) classes of membership: Active, Inactive, Alumni and Honorary.

- **Active** ~ shall be those members who have not been absent for more than three consecutive meetings and are in good standing both socially and financially.
- **Inactive** ~ shall be those members who have sent written notification to the National Governing Council and have received ratification by the National Governing Council on their written proposal. To be reinstated, the member must pay all financial obligations for the period of inactive status. Inactive membership shall be no longer than one semester. Notification must be received by November 1st for the fall semester and March 1st for the spring semester.
- **Alumni** ~ a member who continues to be in good standing, who is no longer a full time student at a college or university, or an initiated member that graduated from an accredited college or university.
- **Honorary** ~ is the highest honor which Sigma Phi Rho can give. No one eligible for fraternal education will be considered for honorary membership.

**SECTION 2.** Reinstatement of inactive membership to active status and relegation of active members to inactive status shall be at the discretion and recommendation of the Executive Committee of the chapter and by a majority vote of the members at a meeting called for that purpose, upon paying a fee to the National Governing Council.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **FOUNDING, MOTTO AND COLORS**

**SECTION 1.** Founder's Day is on the 26th day of April in the year of our Lord, Nineteen-Hundred and Seventy-nine.

**SECTION 2.** The motto of this Fraternity is: Strong Character and Good Moral Judgment is the essence of dignity.

**SECTION 3.** The colors of this Fraternity are chestnut brown, bone white and a touch of lustrous gold.

**SECTION 4.** The 13 Founders are: Courtney A. Bennett, John T. Sims, Gregory F.J. Brown, Ronald Adams, Marvin L. Raye, James E. Chambers, Harvey Greenidge, Alton A. James, Clarence R. Bishop, Edmund O. Folkes, Anthony Locasio, Francisco Pena and Leroy Reynolds.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE AND HOLD OFFICE**

**SECTION 1.** Those persons eligible for Office shall be active members.

**SECTION 2.** Eligibility to vote shall be confined to active members.

**SECTION 3.** Voting shall be restricted to matters of importance.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **POWER TO REVISE**

**SECTION 1.** The Constitution may be amended, repealed or altered in whole or in part by a 2/3rd vote of the National Convocation, provided that the proposed legislation has been circulated and read at a scheduled meeting proceeding the National Convocation at which the proposed change is to be voted upon.

# BY-LAWS

## ARTICLE I

### NATIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL OFFICERS

**SECTION 1.** President. The President shall preside at all meetings and the National Convocation; appoint all committees of which he shall be an ex-officio member, sign new laws into the Parchment , and perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to his office. The National President shall have the power to execute Executive orders on all matters that affect the integrity of the fraternity. The National President shall introduce these executive decisions to the advisory board consisting of Regional Directors and Chapter Presidents. At the end of his term he will become the advisor to the succeeding President.

**SECTION 2.** Vice-President. In the absence of the President or his inability to act for any cause, the Vice-President shall perform his (the President's) duties. In the event of resignation or removal of the President, the Vice-President shall act until the next general election.

**SECTION 3.** Director of Chapters. It shall be the duty of the Director of Chapters to coordinate inter-chapter activities, supervise the Regional Directors; also to see that all chapters' reports are up to date and on time.

**SECTION 4.** Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the minutes and to handle correspondence. Also to keep records on all members of the chapters and to up-date the files on the chapters.

**SECTION 5.** Business Manager. The Business Manager shall be responsible for all business affairs. Contracts, purchases, loans, agreements, investments need the Business Manager's signature upon approval of the President.

**SECTION 6.** Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and keep account of all monies received and expended for the use of the organization. All money is to be kept in a bank or trust company that is selected by The National Governing Committee. Two signatures are needed to withdraw money; the President's, or the Business Manager's with the President's approval, along with the Treasurer's signature. The books are open to all members of the National Organization.

**SECTION 7.** Public Relations Officer. It shall be the duty of the Public Relations Officer to maintain a good public image and to see that we get the necessary exposure for survival.

**SECTION 8.** Advisor to the President. The Advisor shall provide, to the President, sound advice that deals with pertinent items of Sigma Phi Rho. The Advisor will be the immediate past President of The National Executive Committee who will serve a one-year term. A new Advisor may be appointed after this one-year term. The Advisor must have at least held one term as a National Executive Committee member. This office carries no vote in the NGC.

**SECTION 9.** All vacancies in any National Office, other than the President, shall be appointed by the President until the next general election without undue delay.

## ARTICLE II

### ALUMNI CHAPTERS

**SECTION 1.** President. The President shall preside at all meetings; appoint all committees of which he shall be an ex-officio member and perform other such duties as are necessarily incident to his office.

**SECTION 2.** Vice-President. In the absence of the President or his inability to act for any cause, the Vice-President shall perform his (the President's) duties. In the event of resignation or removal of the President, the Vice-President shall act until the next spring election.

**SECTION 3.** Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and keep account of all money received and expended for the use of the chapter. All money is to be kept in a bank or trust company.

**SECTION 4.** Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to record the minutes of the meetings and to handle correspondence.

**SECTION 5.** Social Chairman. It shall be the duty of the Chairman to coordinate social activities of the chapter.

**SECTION 6.** Chaplain. It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to open and close all meetings with a prayer and to handle all religious affairs.

**SECTION 7.** All vacancies in any Alumni Chapter office other than the President shall be filled by a majority vote without undue delay.

## **ARTICLE III**

### **UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTERS**

**SECTION 1.** President. The President shall preside at all meetings; appoint all committees of which he shall be an ex-officio member and perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to his office.

**SECTION 2.** Vice-President. In the absence of the President or his inability to act for any cause, the Vice-President shall perform his (the President's) duties. In the event of resignation or removal of the President, the Vice-President shall act until the next spring election.

**SECTION 3.** 2nd Vice-President. It shall be the duty of the 2nd Vice-President to be the ex-officio member of all committees in the fraternity, to preside at meetings when the President and Vice-President are absent and perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to his office.

**SECTION 4.** Fraternal Education Organizer. It shall be the duty of the F.E.O. to organize a minimum of a six-week probationary period for the F.E.T.'s, coordinate all activities between brothers and F.E.T.'s. Organize rushes and to prevent undue harassment to the Fraternal Education Trainees.

**SECTION 5.** Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to collect and keep account of the money of the chapter. All money is to be kept in a bank or trust company, which is selected by the executive committee. Two signatures are needed to take money out; the President or Vice-President and Treasurer signatures are needed. The Treasurer will also perform such other duties as are necessarily incident to his office.

**SECTION 6.** Recording Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to record the minutes of the meetings.

**SECTION 7.** Corresponding Secretary. It shall be the duty of the corresponding secretary to write letters.

**SECTION 8.** Social Chairmen. It shall be the duty of the two social chairmen, one for on-campus affairs and one for off-campus affairs to coordinate social activities of the fraternity.

**SECTION 9.** Warden. The warden shall guard the door during all meetings and be the custodian of the ballot box.

**SECTION 10.** Chaplain. It shall be the duty of the chaplain to close all meetings with a prayer and to handle all religious affairs of the fraternity. This office is filled by an appointment by the President.

**SECTION 11.** All vacancies in any undergraduate chapter office other than President shall be immediately filled by a majority vote.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### **REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES**

**SECTION 1.** Regional Director. It shall be the duty of the Regional Director to preside at all regional meetings, appoint all committees on a regional level of which he shall be an ex-officio member, and sign new laws for that region. It will also be his duty to keep The Director of Chapters informed on all regional activities.

**SECTION 2.** Regional Secretary/Treasurer. It shall be the duty of the Regional Secretary to take all minutes at regional meetings and record all regional events. The Regional Secretary will also keep an account of all expenditures of the region and handle all correspondence.

**SECTION 3.** Chapter Advisor. It shall be the duty of the Chapter Advisor to provide the chapter with sound advice pertinent to Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc. and keep the Regional Director well informed on that chapter.

**SECTION 4.** Speaker of the Body of Representatives. It shall be the duty of the speaker to preside at the December and Convocational meeting of the representatives.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **ELECTIONS**

**SECTION 1.** The officers of the Alumni and undergraduate chapters shall be elected at the last April meeting by a majority vote of the members present. These officers shall stay for a term of one year.

**SECTION 2.** Induction of Alumni and Undergraduate officers shall be the first of May.

**SECTION 3.** The General Election shall be held during the Fall Regional in the month of October.

**SECTION 4.** If more than two brothers are running for an office, a primary election will be held at the convocation. The two winners will run in the General Election in October.

**SECTION 5.** Primary and general elections are open to all active brothers of Sigma Phi Rho.

**SECTION 6.** The elections shall be by secret ballot governed by an election committee made up of members of the Body of Representatives.

**SECTION 7.** The Advisor to the President shall be the chairman of the election committee.

**SECTION 8.** The privilege of voting will be given to all representatives and the National Executive Committee at an election meeting in December for general elections, and at the convocation for primary elections. It is the vote of the National Executive Committee and the body of representatives that elect national officers.

**SECTION 9.** Officers are elected by a majority vote of the representatives and the National Governing Committee.

**SECTION 10.** The term of office for a National Executive Committee member of National Governing Council is three years.

**SECTION 11.** The term for a member of the Body of Representatives is one year.

**SECTION 12.** Regional Directors are appointed by the National Executive Committee for a term of two years at the Convocation.

**SECTION 13.** Chapter Advisors are appointed by the Regional Director for a term of two years; chapter advisor must be an Alumni Brother.

**SECTION 14.** In primary and general elections, one vote shall consist for every three colonies.

**SECTION 15.** Induction of National Executive Committee Officers shall be the 13th of January.

**SECTION 16.** National Governing Council representatives shall be appointed by the chapter president in the month of September.

**SECTION 17.** February 1st is the first day a candidate may announce his candidacy for a National Office; Campaigning will commence on March 1st.

**SECTION 18.** Speaker of the Body. Shall be a senior member of The Body of Representatives, elected by the body at the National Convocation. The term of office shall be one year.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MEETINGS**

**SECTION 1.** The National Convocation shall convene during the month of July.

**SECTION 2.** Regional meetings will be held in all regions during the months of October and March.

**SECTION 3.** The proposed dates of the regional meetings shall be set by the Regional Director in cooperation with the host chapter or chapters.

**SECTION 4.** The proposed dates of the convocation shall be set by the President of the National Executive Committee. This date must be approved by the National Executive Committee.

**SECTION 5.** The National Executive Committee of the National Governing Council shall meet bi-weekly.

**SECTION 6.** Special meetings of the National Governing Council may be called at the discretion of the National President.

**SECTION 7.** The National Executive Committee shall conduct the business of the business of the organization on the National level between convocation.

**SECTION 8.** The National President may at any time appoint special sub-committees as needed; chairmen shall come from the National Executive Committee. Committee and sub-committee members will come from the Body of Representatives.

**SECTION 9.** The standing committees on the National level will be the Fraternal Traditions, the Standards and The Capita Improvement Committees.

**SECTION 10.** The standing committees on the regional level will be:

The Regional Planning Committee  
-and-  
The Regional Expansion Committee

**SECTION 11.** Alumni and undergraduate chapter meetings shall be held at the discretion of the individual chapters.

**SECTION 12.** Special meetings and all meetings of the Executive Committee of the chapters may be called at the discretion of the chapter President.

**SECTION 13.** The Executive Committee of the chapter shall conduct the business of chapter between meetings.

**SECTION 14.** The National President and Chapter President may, at times, appoint committees or special officers as needed.

**SECTION 15.** The National President shall appoint the following standing committee:

(a) ***Fraternal Traditions*** - This committee shall review ceremonies and rituals of the fraternity, also to plan post fraternal training for brothers.

(b) ***Standards*** - This committee shall review and propose the standards of the brothers and the fraternal education trainees of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

(c) ***Capital Improvement*** - The committee shall make plans to raise funds and to expand the financial well being of the organization; under the guidance of the Business Manager who chairs this committee.

**SECTION 16.** The Regional Directors shall appoint two standing committees:

(a) ***Regional Planning*** - This committee will pick sites and plan activities for the regional.

(b) ***Regional Expansion*** - This committee will target schools to expand the region.

**SECTION 17.** The chapter President shall appoint the following standing committees:

(a) ***Membership*** - This committee shall present to the chapter applicants for pledging, plan a schedule for pledging under the guidance of the Fraternal Education Organizer, who chairs this committee.



(b) **Finance** - This committee shall make plans to raise funds and to expand the financial well being of the chapter; under the guidance of the treasurer who chairs this committee.

(c) **Public Relations** - This committee shall have the duty of stimulating public interest in Sigma Phi Rho. This committee will act under the guidance of the Social Chairman who chairs this committee.

**SECTION 18.** Representative Meetings. The Body of Representatives shall meet with the Speaker of the body during the month of December and at the National Convocation.

**SECTION 19.** The order of business at all meetings of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc., shall be as follows:

- (a) Calling the roll by the Secretary;
- (b) Reading of the Minutes;
- (c) Receiving of communication;
- (d) Report of the Treasurer;
- (e) Report of the President;
- (f) Report of committees;
- (g) Unfinished business;
- (h) New business;
- (i) Good and welfare.

**SECTION 20.** Any questions as to priority of business shall be decided by the chair without debate. This order of business may be altered or suspended at any meeting by the majority of members present.

**SECTION 21.** **ROBERT'S RULE OF ORDER.** Shall govern the proceedings at all meetings at all times.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **FEES AND FINES**

**SECTION 1.** The chapter dues for Undergraduates and Alumni shall be decided by the membership of the chapter.

**SECTION 2.** All chapters will pay an annual Chapter Tax. The Chapter tax due to the National Governing Council is \$100.00 annually for all chapters, which must be paid by Founders Day April 26.

**SECTION 3.** The bank limit for an Undergraduate Chapter is \$10,000.00. Monies over \$10,000.00 will be transferred to the NGC and invested towards capital improvement.

**SECTION 4.** The Undergraduate new membership fee shall not exceed \$500.00. \$250.00 of the undergraduate new membership fee will be paid to the National Governing Council. The undergraduate new membership fee includes limited liability insurance coverage for each new member, new membership gifts from the NGC, and a contribution to the NGC emergency fund.

**SECTION 5.** The professional new membership fee shall not exceed \$1,500.00. \$500 of the professional new membership fee will be paid to the National Governing Council. The Professional New Membership fee includes a contribution to the Sigma Phi Rho Foundation, limited liability insurance coverage, professional new membership gifts, and a contribution to the NGC emergency fund.

**SECTION 6.** The Undergraduate and Alumni chapter charter fee shall be \$250.00. The chapter charter fee includes all chapter books and charter certificates. Should the charter not be given, the fees will be refunded.

**SECTION 7.** Any Alumni brother of any chapter, who becomes financially inactive for one year or more, may reactivate by paying a \$25.00 reinstatement fee. The fee is paid to the National Governing Council. Payment of the reinstatement fee will cancel all past indebtedness to both the former chapter and the National Governing Council. Current dues and assessments will begin at the time of reactivation.

**SECTION 8.** The National President, Director of Chapters and the Regional Director have the power to impose fines on a chapter not to exceed \$500.00 per year.

**SECTION 9.** The Director of Chapters, along with the Regional Director, Chapter Advisor and Chapter President have the power to impose fines on brothers not to exceed \$200.00 per year on any one brother.

**SECTION 10.** The National President has the power to impose fines on any member of the National Executive Committee, as he sees fit; not to exceed more than \$200.00 per year on any one brother.

**SECTION 11.** Any fines imposed by the National President and Director of Chapters are paid to the National Governing Council.

**SECTION 12.** Fines imposed by the Regional Director are paid to the Region to be used for regional expenses.

**SECTION 13.** Fines imposed by the Chapter's Advisor and Chapter President are paid to that chapter.

**SECTION 14.** Each Region shall have a Regional Treasury. The treasury shall be used to supplement regional activity and meeting costs.

**SECTION 15.** The National Membership dues for all Alumni brothers are \$156.00 annually.

**SECTION 16.** The Lifetime Membership fee is \$7,800. The total contribution will go towards the Sigma Phi Rho Foundation.

**SECTION 17.** The National Membership dues for Undergraduate Chapters are \$88 annually, to be paid by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in September.

**SECTION 18.** The fiscal year of the fraternity shall begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December.

**SECTION 19.** All Undergraduate Chapters, Alumni Chapters, Colonies and active Members will receive a bill for all fines accumulated during the fiscal year. (Brother Dues, Chapter/Colony Tax, etc).

**SECTION 20.** 2/3 of all Undergraduate Chapters, Alumni Chapters and Colonies Membership, must be financially active to have a membership intake process.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** All undergraduate chapters shall have a Prophets Club. The Prophets Club shall be the official interest group of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc. The Prophets Club has an official relationship to Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc. and is transferable from one chapter to another.

**SECTION 2.** The Prophets Club is open to all matriculated (active) men, attending a school of higher education.

**SECTION 3.** The Rhoman's Court is an interest group for high school students. It is the only official interest group for Sigma Phi Rho at the high school level.

**SECTION 4.** The Sons of the Chariot is the name of our official mentoring program.

**SECTION 5.** All undergraduate chapters may have a Rhose Sweetheart Club. The Rhose Sweetheart Club shall be the official and only sweetheart club of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc. No chapter shall have Rhoses prior to approval by the Regional Director.

**SECTION 6.** Hatsutsep's Order - Hat, a woman, ruled Egypt as a King.

(a) The honor of belonging to this order shall be bestowed upon those women who have exemplified all characteristics of a Sigma Phi Rho Brother, and who, over a period of time, have given service to this fraternity (as a whole) which has been above and beyond the expectations of the brothers of this fraternity.

(b) This order is purely honorary and holds no financial obligation on the part of the Honoree.

(c) Names of Candidates for this honor shall be chosen by the National Governing Council Awards Committee. All candidates must receive ratification by the National Governing Council.

(d) All approved candidates (Honorees) will be honored at an awards dinner and pinning ceremony.

(e) Members of this Honorary order will receive an official certificate and pin from Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity.

**SECTION 7.** Membership. Candidates may be proposed by active brothers only. After the membership committee has investigated the candidate's qualifications and after free discussion, voting by secret ballot will follow. A candidate shall be admitted to the new membership class by the affirmative vote of the majority of active brothers.

**SECTION 8.** All brothers from undergraduate chapters, who graduate in good standing, become members of the Alumni Chapter in their respective regions.

**SECTION 9.** Upon completion of the new membership class, candidates will be initiated in accordance with official rituals and ceremonies of the fraternity.

**SECTION 10.** The new membership class shall not exceed six weeks.

**SECTION 11.** There may be more than one new membership class during the year.

**SECTION 12.** There may be more than one initiation during the year.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **TRAINING**

**SECTION 1.** No chapter or colony shall acquiesce passively or actively in the operation of a Prophet Club prior to the approval of the Regional Director.

**SECTION 2.** No chapter or colony may have a Prophets Club if their chapter or colony has 60% or more Neophytes in it.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **HONORARY AND TRANSFER OF MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1. *Honorary Membership.*** May be conferred through election and initiation in accordance with the provisions of the chapter regulations. No more than one honorary membership may be conferred in any one year without permission of the National Governing Council. All nominations for honorary membership must be approved by the National Governing Council. Honorary candidates shall not be required to participate in pledging ceremonies or take a national examination. The initiating chapter shall pay an initiation fee of \$25.00 to the National Governing Council. No one eligible for fraternal education will be considered for honorary membership.

**SECTION 2. *Transfer of Membership.*** Any member in good standing who moves to another locality where there is an undergraduate or Alumni chapter may become an active member of the chapter by presenting proof through the National Office of his membership and financial status. He shall thereafter, share all rights, privileges and responsibilities of that chapter, except that his chapter of initiation will remain the same.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **PENALTIES AND RESTORATION OF PRIVILEGES**

**SECTION 1.** Any chapter determined to be in violation of the constitution, by-laws or other rules, regulations or directives of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc., shall be subject to the imposition of penalties including withdrawal of chapter privileges, probation suspension and lifting (revocation) of chapter charter.

**SECTION 2. *Probation of Chapters.*** Violations by a chapter may warrant a period of probation by the Regional Director; the duration of which is to be decided by the Regional Director, subject to approval by the Director of Chapters. A chapter which has been on probation three times within a period of three years shall have its chapter suspended.

**SECTION 3. *Suspension of Chapters.*** Serious, intentional, aggravated, or continuing violations by a chapter may warrant imposition of the penalty of suspension by the Regional Director with approval of the National Executive Committee. After investigation, the National Executive Committee may suspend the chapter. The suspension and the duration of the same shall be determined by the National Executive Committee. A chapter which has been suspended three times within a period of six years shall be dissolved by the National Convocation.

**SECTION 4. *Revocation of Chapter Charter.*** Sole authority for the revocation of a chapter charter, also known as the lifting of the chapter charter or dissolution of the chapter, is vested in the National Convocation. Recommendations for revocation of the chapter charter must be forwarded to the National Convocation through the Director of Chapters.

**SECTION 5.** A chapter on probation shall not have the privilege of hosting regional meetings; hold no vote at regionals and no vote at convocation, but holds privilege of the floor.

**SECTION 6.** A suspended chapter will not function at all, for any reason. A representative must attend all regionals and the convocation but hold no vote nor privilege of the floor.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DE-BROTHERIZING**

**SECTION 1.** Expulsion and Suspension. Any brother who consistently acts in a manner which does not lend respect to this organization or whose actions serve to be a discredit to the integrity of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc., may be considered for suspension or expulsion from this fraternity.

**SECTION 2. *Suspension.*** For conduct which is detrimental to the well being or integrity of a chapter, but deed not warrant expulsion; a member may be suspended by at least a three-fourths vote of the active brothers present at a meeting called for this purpose, provided the chapter advisor is in concurrence with the recommendation. If the chapter advisor is in disagreement with the recommendation, a member shall be suspended by three-fourths of the entire active body of the chapter.

**SECTION 3.** Reason for suspension may be: delinquency in financial obligations (dues & fines); a grade point average lower than that required for membership, persistent unexcused absences from chapter meetings, disregard for chapter welfare and other causes deemed adequate and reasonable.

**SECTION 4.** At least one week before action is taken, the member shall receive official written notification which shall explain the reasons for the proposed suspension, and the possible means for re-instatement. He shall be entitled to personal interviews with the chapter Executive Board and the chapter advisor.

**SECTION 5.** If suspended for failure to meet financial obligations, such a member may be re-instated automatically upon fulfillment of such obligations. If obligations are not fulfilled within sixty days, the member may be considered for expulsion. He may ask for an extension in case of an emergency.

**SECTION 6.** If suspended for other reasons, such a member may be re-instated upon the satisfaction of the brothers in the chapter that he has lived up to the ideals and standards of this fraternity. Re-instatement must be approved by a majority vote of the active body.

**SECTION 7.** If a member is delinquent in financial obligations at the last meeting preceding his scheduled graduation of his departure from the sheltering institution, he shall be placed on suspension at that meeting.

**SECTION 8.** If a member is not re-instated before the date of his graduation or departure from the sheltering institution, he shall be considered expelled from the fraternity and the expulsion shall be reported to the National Office on the next scheduled chapter report.

**SECTION 9.** The names of such suspended members shall be reported to the National Governing Council at the time of his suspension and again at the time of his re-instatement. Per capita tax of a suspended member shall not be paid by the chapter during this period of suspension. However, before re-instatement, the tax for the period of suspension must be paid in full, by the member, to the chapter and forwarded to the National Governing Council along with notification of re-instatement.

**SECTION 10.** Any brother who remains on suspension for more than one year from the date of his suspension shall be considered expelled from the fraternity and proper action will be effected by the National Governing Council.

## ARTICLE XIII

### EXPULSIONS

**SECTION 1.** For conduct which is harmful to the integrity, best interests, growth or production of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc., a member by three-fourths vote of the entire active body of his chapter may be expelled from the fraternity pending ratification by the chapter advisors & regional directors (Director of Chapter).

**SECTION 2.** The member involved shall first receive an official written notification, and have the right to meet with the chapter executive board, chapter advisor and regional director. Such meetings may be waived by the member involved. The written notification shall include the time and place of these meetings. The reason for action and the right to appeal to the National Governing Council, should expulsion be affected.

**SECTION 3.** The name of any person who has been expelled shall be reported immediately to the National Governing Council and his name shall be published in a national publication as soon as possible. He shall return to his chapter all emblems and insignia of membership.

**SECTION 4.** Any person expelled from membership may appeal his expulsion to the National Governing Committee, which shall have final jurisdiction.

## ARTICLE XIV

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

**SECTION 1.** The name of the official publication shall be known as *The Scales*.

**SECTION 2.** *Keep the Scales Balance* - is designed to serve as the communication medium about proposed constitutional and by-law changes to be voted upon at the convocation.

**SECTION 3.** *Rhoman Today* - a publication designed to serve as a guide for new brothers of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

## ARTICLE XV

### DOCUMENT OF STANDARDS

**SECTION 1.** Sigma Phi Rho Document of Standards shall serve as the instructions, which will govern the moral and ethical responsibilities of all brothers of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** Any brother found breaking a law of the Document of Standards will stand on trial by judicial processes of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

**SECTION 3.** All judicial proceedings are stated in the Document of Standards.

**SECTION 4.** A brother of this fraternity may not join, train or pledge any other social-service fraternity or fellowship.

**SECTION 5.** A brother may join professional and service fraternities with approval of the standards committee.

## ARTICLE XVI

### CHARTERING OF NEW CHAPTERS

**SECTION 1.** Requirements - there must be a minimum petitioning group of six brothers in good standing, which has functioned as a colony for at least one year.

**SECTION 2.** Once these requirements are met, notify the national office. The national office will send a representative to see if the atmosphere is such that a chapter will be able to prosper there. If the chapter is chartered, the national office representative will become the chapter's advisor.

**SECTION 3.** If the national office representative recommends the petitioning group for a charter, the national office will then vote on the matter of chartering the new chapter.

**SECTION 4.** Charter fees - for an active chapter, charter will be \$100.00 plus a \$15.00 per capita tax. These fees shall be paid prior to the fraternal education program's beginning. Should the charter not be given or should any petitioner refuse membership for any reason, the fees will be refunded respectively.

**SECTION 5.** The newly chartered chapter will then be on a one-year probationary period and will be under close scrutiny by the national office.

**SECTION 6.** During the one year probationary period the newly chartered chapter shall accomplish the following:

- (a) all financial obligations with the N.G.C. will be met;
- (b) be financially stable;
- (c) show good overall chapter operations;
- (d) show interaction with other chapters.

If these requirements are not met, the N.G.C. reserves the right to revoke the charter of the new chapter.

**SECTION 7.** Officers for the newly chartered chapter will be selected in accordance with the constitutional by-laws. Any active member may run for any office.

**SECTION 8.** All necessary materials for chapter operations may be obtained through the director of chapters.

## ARTICLE XVII

### COLONIES

**SECTION 1.** At any accredited four-year college or university where there are three or more active brothers, these brothers shall have the right to form a colony of Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

**SECTION 2.** Colonies will pay no charter fee; however, all brothers must be financially active to keep the group's colony status.

**SECTION 3.** Brothers in colonies will have to pay colony dues, which will be no less than \$25.00 per semester.

**SECTION 4.** Colonies shall be allowed to function in the same capacity as active chapters and may receive a charter from their campus' administration or governing student body.

**SECTION 5.** Colonies shall have a colony advisor appointed by the National Executive Committee. Because colonies will be formed and chapter status granted at the recommendation of this chapter advisor, this advisor shall be charged with developing it into an active chapter.

**SECTION 6.** Until a colony has enough officers to fill all of the offices as indicated in Article 3 Section 1-10 of the By-laws, they shall fill their offices in the following order: President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, Fraternal Education Organizer, Vice-President, On-campus Social Chairman, Corresponding Secretary, Warden, Off-campus Social Chairman and Chaplain.

**SECTION 7.** Colonies must have a representative at all regional meetings. This representative will have the privilege of the floor and every three colonies in that region will make up one vote.

**SECTION 8.** Colony members shall be present at the meetings of the National Convocation, they have power of the floor through their Regional Director, every three colonies in one region make up one vote.

**SECTION 9.** Colonies shall not have the privilege of hosting regional meetings.

**SECTION 10.** Once a colony has been functioning for at least one year, have six or more active brothers and they have accomplished the following:

- (a) all financial obligations with the N.G.C. will be met;
- (b) be financially stable;
- (c) cover all colony operations; and
- (d) Proven interactions with other chapters and colonies. Chapter status may

be granted.

**SECTION 11.** Chapter status shall be bestowed upon a colony during a The National Convocation. A majority vote of the National Executive Committee, including a unanimous vote of the region in which the proposed colony is to become a member, is needed for chapter status to be granted.

**SECTION 12.** All by-laws in this constitution and all rules and directives handed out by the National Executive Committee shall be applicable to colonies, with the exception of those which conflict with this article.

**SECTION 13.** After one year of functioning, a colony may apply for active chapter status.

**SECTION 14.** Any colony which does not act in accordance with these by-laws and rules and regulations shall be considered for is handed out by the National Executive Committee shall be applicable to colonies, with the exception of those which conflict with this article.

**SECTION 15.** Any colony which does not act in accordance with these by-laws and rules and regulations shall be considered for removal from office and disqualification to hold any other office in Sigma Phi Rho Fraternity, Inc.

**SECTION 16.** Impeachment hearings will follow the preceding as stated in the Document of Standards.



## **ARTICLE XVIII**

### **NAMING**

**SECTION 1.** All undergraduate chapters will be named by in accordance with the Greek alphabet, with the first chapter being Alpha, second Beta and so on. The name of the next chapter after Omega will be Alpha Alpha, Alpha Beta, etc.

**SECTION 2.** All graduate chapters will end with the letter Rho. With the first chapter being Alpha Rho, then Beta Rho, etc.

**SECTION 3.** Colonies are named in accordance with the University/College school name.

## **ARTICLE XIX**

### **AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS**

These By-laws may be amended, altered or repealed in whole or in part by a 2/3 vote of the convocation provided that the proposed legislation is circulated and read at a scheduled meeting proceeding the National Convocation.