

By-Laws

Of

GAMMA PHI DELTA SORORITY

Article I **Name, Aim, and Official Symbols**

- Section 1:** This organization shall be known as Gamma Phi Delta Sorority
- Section 2:** The aim of Gam Phi Delta shall be to establish among its members a perpetual bond of friendship, to develop a strong and womanly character, to broaden the moral an intellectual life, and to assist its members in every possible way.
- Section 3:** The official colors of Gamma Phi Delta shall be gold and green and the official flower shall be the yellow Chrysanthemum.
- Section 4:** The luxuries of Gamma Phi Delta shall be a lavalier, paddle, T-shirt, coat sweatshirt, toad, green out-fit, and anything else designated by the chapter.

Article II **Badges**

- Section 1:** The badge of the Gamma Phi Delta actives shall be a gold sword bearing a pearl in its hilt and a seven link chain suspended there and on its blade the raised Greek letters "Gamma Phi Delta."
- Section 2:** The official pledge pin shall be so designated by the active chapter with the stipulation that the Greek letters "Gamma Phi Delta" shall appear on the pin. This is to be worn until such time as inter-sorority rules will permit initiation. At such time, the pledge pin shall be given to the pledge and placed on a chain by their big sister. Thereby becoming the lavalier of the new active.

Article III **Membership**

- Section 1:** Only those women who are students of the University of Dubuque, Iowa shall be eligible for membership in Gamma Phi Delta and who:
- A:** are carrying twelve or more semester hours of classes
 - B:** maintaining a cumulative average of 2.0 or better
 - C:** have not completed more than two weeks of pledge period in another social sorority on this campus.
 - D:** have not depledged after starting Initiation Week when pledging the Gamma Phi Delta Sorority.
- Section 2:** There shall be three types of membership in Gamma Phi Delta:

A: Active Membership:

- (1) Those women meeting the requirements of Article III, Section 1 of these by-laws and having been initiated according to the customs of this chapter shall be known as active members.
- (2) A student having been a full-time student at the time of pledging activities and afterwards becoming a part-time student, shall upon her request, be permitted to remain active in the sorority.

C: Alumnae Membership:

- (1) Active members, having received their degree or having quit school, or having transferred and having paid all monies owed to the sorority, shall be known as alumnae.

D: Inactive Membership:

- (1) Financial difficulties shall be sufficient reason for going inactive. The executive board shall be petitioned by the member wishing to be financially inactive, and evidence of financial difficulties will be presented.
 - a. A financially inactive member shall remain inactive on a semester basis, no exceptions. Dues shall not be paid for the semester of inactivity. Executive board will review each case if additional semesters of financial inactivity are requested.
 - b. Any member considered financially inactive due to debts owed the sorority shall make arrangements immediately for payment of said debts. Debts shall be paid prior to reinstatement.
 - c. Financial inactivation will not be used as an excuse to become temporarily inactive due to personal problems with others in group or as a way to escape sorority responsibilities. Financial difficulties will be the only reason excepted.
- (2) Anyone not maintaining a cumulative C (2.0) average shall automatically become temporarily inactive.
- (3) Any inactivation letter will not be accepted until active has met with president and vice president to clear any misunderstandings. A decision period of 72 hours during which active needs to meet with president and vice president. No more than one inactive letter per person during the year with the exception of financially inactive.

- a. If a second letter within a school year is submitted the active will be considered permanently inactive.
 - b. Any person that went inactive prior to the amendment (section 2, D, (3)) on February 8, 1995, can be considered once for reactivation following the initiative (written letter) of the active.
- (4) Any member who holds an office and goes inactive shall vacate her office
 - (5) An inactive member cannot wear any luxuries. However they can display their paddles, toads, and other mementos of Gamma Phi Delta in the privacy of their rooms.
 - (6) An inactive member due to financial difficulties or not maintaining a cumulative C average shall be allowed to attend only business meetings, and shall not vote. She may also receive, from the chapter, a formal invitation to observe pledging activities. At the discretion of the chapter, said member may receive an invitation to other sorority functions, if no pink slips are received at the mid-term.
 - (7) The chapter may request that a financially inactive member participate in some or all sorority activities such as a car wash or preparing for a rush party. They would be assigned responsibilities just like other active members. If said responsibilities are not accepted, they would be considered permanently inactive.
 - (8) Although a financially inactive member may be required to participate in the planning and preparation of rush parties, the homecoming tea, or pledging activities, they cannot be required to attend the actual function, If they do attend they may only observe these activities when they take place.

Section 3: Women shall be elected to Gamma Phi Delta in the following way:

- A.** Any women eligible for rushing shall be asked to participate in the activities.
- B.** Rushing activities shall be set by the Pan-Hellenic council.
- C.** Any women eligible for membership, who have received 85% of the votes of the active membership (with a minimum of 2 votes when there are 5 or more members) and who has pledged the sorority shall receive a bid.
- D.** Blackball guidelines shall be read during the business meeting one week prior to the blackball session, and also immediately before the blackball session.
- E.** Blackball sessions are mandatory. Any active member missing a blackball session will receive a double fine. Absence due to an emergency should be submitted to the executive board for a decision on the legitimacy.

Article IV **Officers**

- Section 1:** The officers of Gamma Phi Delta shall be President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, Chaplain, Marshall, Pledge Mistress, Pan-Hellenic Representative, Public Relations Director, and Music Director.
- Section 2:** A nominating committee of graduating seniors shall present a slate of officers at the first general meeting in April.
- Section 3:** The officers shall be elected at a general meeting in April by the majority of the active membership present and shall be installed by the end of the spring semester. Graduating seniors may take part in discussions, but may not vote. Alumni will not participate in discussion unless asked a direct question from an active member. The term of office shall be one calendar year from the date of installation.
- Section 4:** No woman shall succeed herself in any one office.
- Section 5:** In the event the office of the president is vacated at any time after installation, the vice president shall become acting president. All other offices vacated during the course of the year shall be filled by election; those previously nominated for a vacated office are automatically re-nominated, plus those from the floor.
- Section 6:** Duties of the officers:
- A.** It shall be the duty of the **President** to preside at all meetings of the chapter, to call special meetings, to have general supervision of the chapter, to represent the chapter as a member of the Pan-Hellenic and Greek Council, and to the present an annual report of her work to the chapter.
 - B.** The **Vice President** shall assist the president in the duties of their office and in case of absence of the president she shall preside. She shall, in addition, represent the chapter as a member of the Pan-Hellenic and Greek Council, be the social chairperson of the chapter, editor of the alumnae bulletin and in charge of alumnae relations.
 - C.** The **Recording Secretary** shall keep an attendance record, and true, clear and intelligent minutes of all meetings.
 - D.** The **Corresponding Secretary** shall conduct all correspondence of the chapter including all reminders of activities to the active members, and the correspondence to honoraries and advisors.
 - E.** The **Treasurer** shall collect all dues, pay all bills directed by the chapter, retain a proper receipt for all money paid out, keep an accurate account of all expenditures and receipts, report on the financial condition of the

chapter at the first and last regular meetings of each term of office. This report is to be filed in the President's records.

- F.** The **Historian** shall keep a detailed account of all chapter events including newspaper articles, photographs, correspondence with alumnae, bid acceptances, and so forth and shall have an interesting his for reading and viewing.
- G.** The **Chaplain** shall be responsible for opening each meeting with a verse. Her special work shall be done at initiation.
- H.** The **Marshall** shall assist in pledging activities, initiation, installation services, and shall have a general supervision over the order of the meetings.
- I.** The **Pan-Hellenic Representative** shall be responsible for attending all council meetings and for reporting council business to the sorority.
- J.** The **Publicity Chairperson** shall use the school and city newspapers, the city radio station, display, posters, and bulletin boards to make known chapter events.
- K.** The **Music Director** shall direct singing at meetings both business and social. She shall also be a member of the pledge committee and direct pledges in learning songs.

Section 7: Special Positions

- A.** The pledge mistress shall be in charge of all pledging activities. She shall be elected with the other officers. However, no one outside of the sorority is to be informed of who the pledge mistress is until the first Sunday night meeting of pledging.
- B.** Those nominated for the pledge mistress shall automatically be asked to serve on pledge committee.
- C.** Pledge committee shall have a maximum of eight members. Ideas from all members are encouraged.
- D.** A special meeting shall be held by pledge committee to discuss pledging activities with the whole chapter and the advisors.
- E.** The pledge mistress shall emphasize the importance of secrecy to the sorority and also to the pledge class. Violation of this code should result in expulsion from the rest of the pledging activities. Complaints shall be reviewed by the executive board.
- F.** Permanently inactive members should not be allowed to talk with pledges during pledging time.

Article V Meetings

Section 1: The active members of Gamma Phi Delta shall hold a weekly business meeting if possible. A meeting may be called by the president or by request of three active members at any time.

Section 2: A quorum shall consist of two-thirds of the active membership of Gamma Phi Delta.

Section 3: All actives shall be present at every meeting, both business and social, unless a valid excuse is given. Pledges may be invited by the chapter to meetings, both business and social.

Article VI Discipline

Section 1: The executive board shall receive all complaints, shall investigate conditions thoroughly and arrange for a trial when necessary. Women who miss a majority of the meetings and social functions are to be referred to the executive committee to discuss possible problems and solutions. The chapter may, by a unanimous vote (except for the member in question), temporarily suspend a member from chapter privileges and shall decide when and if the member shall be reinstated. The member in question can be made permanently inactive.

Section 2: Fines will be levied for unexcused absences and unexcused tardiness, the amount to be determined at the first meeting of each year.

A. Fines will be levied for not attending the following sorority activities: rush parties, homecoming Tea, all initiation sessions, all money making projects, regular meetings, all blackball and voting sessions. Excuses for missing should be submitted in writing to the president prior to the event. Executive board shall meet when necessary to determine the legitimacy.

B. Failure to pay the fines or make the necessary arrangements within one month of said unexcused absence shall result in the action of the executive board. This action could lead to temporarily suspending a member from chapter privileges until the fine is paid.

Article VII Fees, Dues, and Special Assessments

Section 1: Initial due shall be determined by the chapter, payable one month after formal initiation service.

Section 2: Dues shall be paid by each active member, the amount to be determined by the active chapter at the beginning of the school year.

Sections 3: Each woman is required to pay at least half of her dues or make arrangements to pay within one month after the first semester commences. Failure to do so will result in action of the executive board. If full amount of dues is not paid first semester, then the remaining amount must be paid within, one month after the second commences.

Section 4: The sorority shall pay Pan-Hellenic dues annually.

Section 5: Special assessments may be made from time to time when necessary to meet the expenses of Gamma Phi Delta. These must be paid promptly in order to facilitate the payment of sorority obligations.

Article VIII **Honoraries**

Section 1: Honoraries shall be chosen by the chapter at the beginning of each school year.

Section 2: A new honorary will be recognized at a social event of the chapter.

Section 3: An honorary shall not be required to pay dues.

Section 4: An honorary may become inactive upon her request to the chapter.

Section 5: A list of honoraries shall be kept in the president's book.

Article IX **Becoming an Active Member**

Section 1: All women accepting a bid from Gamma Phi Delta sorority must participate in the following activities in order to become an active member:

- (1)** Pledge Service
- (2)** Spring Initiation
- (3)** Formal Initiation

Article X **Parliamentary Authority**

Section 1: The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order shall govern Gamma Phi Delta in all cases which are applicable and in which they are consistent with the by-laws.

Section 2: The by-laws of Gamma Phi Delta shall be consistent with the Pan-Hellenic constitution.

Article XI **Amendments**

Section 1: A two-thirds vote of the active members quorum present at the time of decision shall be necessary to amend or appeal these by-laws or adopt new ones. An amendment shall be presented at a regular meeting of the chapter and voted on at the next meeting.