

CONSTITUTION OF THE SIGMA PI FRATERNITY, INTERNATIONAL

PREAMBLE

*TO THE END that
school fellowship might be cultivated,
the general knowledge of its brothers extended,
the cause of education advanced,
literary culture promoted,
and a high degree of school excellence maintained,
The Sigma Pi Fraternity, International was founded by
James Thompson Kingsbury, William Raper Kennedy,
George Martin Patterson, and Rolin Roscoe James, at
Vincennes University, Vincennes, Indiana
on the twenty-sixth day of February, A.D. 1897.*

Table of Contents

ARTICLE I - Name	1
ARTICLE II - Objects	1
ARTICLE III - Membership.....	1
ARTICLE IV - Subordinate Bodies.....	2
ARTICLE V – Board of Directors.....	2
ARTICLE VI - Government.....	3
ARTICLE VII - Charters.....	4
ARTICLE VIII - Emblems	4
ARTICLE IX - Subordination	5
ARTICLE X - Bylaws	5
ARTICLE XI - Amendments.....	5

ARTICLE I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the Sigma Pi Fraternity, International Inc., an Indiana not-for-profit corporation. It may be referred to in this Constitution and in the Bylaws of the Fraternity as The Sigma Pi Fraternity, Sigma Pi, the Fraternity, or this Fraternity.

ARTICLE II - Objects

The objects of the Fraternity shall be specifically:

- (a) To establish a brotherhood among students, and men of learning, who are connected with the institutions of higher education.
- (b) To establish and maintain an aristocracy of learning, consisting of the ablest men in all fields of study.
- (c) To raise the standards of morality and develop the character of men.
- (d) To diffuse culture and encourage chivalry among men.
- (e) To promote the spirit of civic righteousness and quicken the national conscience to the end that only men of character, integrity, and efficiency shall be elected or appointed to positions of honor and responsibility.

ARTICLE III - Membership

Section 1. Only men who are at least sixteen (16) years of age and whose personality, intellect, and character are worthy of emulation shall be eligible for membership in this Fraternity and no man shall be admitted to membership who belongs to any organization or group which is known to be detrimental to the representative nations of the Fraternity.

Section 2. No man shall be admitted to membership who is not now or has not been previously a student in attendance at, or an administrative officer, faculty, or professional staff member of, a college or other institution of higher learning. This section shall not prohibit the initiation by the several Chapters, of Alumni members of the local organization from which such Chapters were formed. The Grand Council may be appealed to directly for special dispensation for the approval to initiate men who are excluded by the provision in this section as not having attended an institution of higher education.

Section 3. In accordance with the Creed of the Fraternity, no Chapter shall deny membership to a man meeting the criteria outlined in this article and the academic standards of both the Fraternity and the Chapter's host institution based on race, color, ethnicity, country of origin, sexual orientation, religion, or disability, socioeconomic class, citizenship status, military status, marital or familial status, or illness.

Section 4. In order for an individual to become a Pledge of Sigma Pi, the individual, who must be otherwise eligible as a candidate for membership in the Fraternity according to its bylaws, must receive the favorable vote of the brothers of the Chapter or Colony he intends to join present and voting, under the requirements of said Chapter or Colony, or be selected for initial colonization at the discretion of the Chief Executive Officer.

Section 5. Men who have assented to become brothers and who have been elected to membership, but who have not been initiated into the Fraternity, shall be known as Pledges.

Section 6. In order for an individual to become a Brother of Sigma Pi, the individual must be otherwise eligible as a candidate for membership in the Fraternity according to its bylaws. The individual must receive the favorable vote of the brothers of his Chapter present and voting, under the requirements of said Chapter, or be a Colony Member or an Alumnus of a Colony at the time of the Colony's Chartering.

Section 7. Every Brother will be considered an Active or Alumnus of the chapter by which he was initiated unless officially transferred according to the provisions of the Bylaws.

(a) Active brothers shall be all those who have been duly initiated and are undergraduates in attendance at their respective colleges or universities. Graduate students participating in the social and other activities of their respective Chapters may be granted Active status by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Chapter.

(b) Alumni brothers shall be those whose attendance in college has been discontinued by reason of graduation or otherwise, or who are undergraduate brothers of a chapter of which the Charter has been revoked. Additionally, a brother who transfers to another institution without a chapter, chooses not to affiliate with the chapter at the new host institution, or is not approved by the chapter at the new institution for transfer of membership, will also be classified as an alumnus.

ARTICLE IV - Subordinate Bodies

Section 1. The subordinate bodies of this Fraternity shall consist of Chapters, Alumni Clubs and Colonies.

(a) Chapters shall be those undergraduate organizations of the Fraternity which are located at recognized institutions of higher learning deriving their membership therefrom, and which are duly chartered by the Fraternity.

(b) Alumni Clubs shall be composed of Alumni brothers which are duly chartered by the Fraternity.

(c) Colonies shall be those undergraduate organizations of the Fraternity which are located at a recognized institution of higher learning deriving their membership therefrom, and which are not chartered by the Fraternity.

Section 2. Chapters shall be designated by letters of the Greek alphabet and Alumni Clubs shall be designated by geographic name, by the name of a distinguished alumnus of the Fraternity, or by such other name as may be approved by

the Fraternity. Colonies shall be designated by the name of their respective institution of higher learning. Re-colonized chapters will assume their Greek-letter designation with the suffix "colony" substituted for "chapter".

Section 3. Subordinate bodies may adopt such constitutions, bylaws, and other regulations as they may deem necessary for the conduct of their affairs, provided that these do not conflict with this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Fraternity.

Section 4. The officers of each Chapter, listed in order of rank, shall consist of a Sage, a Second Counselor, a Third Counselor, a Fourth Counselor, a First Counselor, and a Herald. The Bylaws of each Chapter may provide for additional Chapter officers.

Section 5. The officers of each Alumni Club shall be a President and a Secretary/Treasurer. Each Alumni Club may provide for additional officers.

ARTICLE V – Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors of this Fraternity shall be known as the Grand Council, who, for the purposes of Fraternity Ritual, shall consist of a Grand Sage, a Grand Second Counselor, a Grand Third Counselor, a Grand Fourth Counselor, a Grand First Counselor, a Grand Herald and a Past Grand Sage. The Grand Sage shall serve as the President and Chief Governance Officer of the Fraternity. The Bylaws of the Fraternity may provide for other titles, however, these are not to be considered to be officers or directors of the corporation.

Section 2. Any Grand Council Member of this Fraternity may be suspended or removed by the Grand Council for insubordination, malfeasance, or neglect of duty. Vacancies occurring on the Grand Council shall be filled by a majority vote of the entire Grand Council.

Section 3. The Grand Council Members shall be elected to a term of two (2) years or appointed to the remainder of an unexpired term. All officers or directors of the Fraternity and its Subordinate Bodies shall serve until their successors are elected, or appointed, and installed.

Section 4. Upon completing a full term of office, a Grand Council Officer shall be entitled with the prefix "Past" applied to the title of the office most recently held, or such office he has previously held, and he shall be addressed by such title in all formal matters.

ARTICLE VI - Government

Section 1. The supreme governing body of this Fraternity shall be known as the Grand Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity, International, and when such Grand Chapter is not in session, the supreme authority shall be vested in the Grand Council, subject to the provisions of this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Fraternity.

Section 2. The Grand Chapter shall consist of delegates elected by each of the Fraternity's Chapters and Alumni Clubs, all current and past Grand Council Members, and others entitled to vote who are in attendance at the Convocation of the Grand Chapter as defined by the Bylaws of the Fraternity.

Section 3. Convocation of the Grand Chapter shall be held biennially, and shall be convened by order of the Grand Council in accordance with the Bylaws of the Fraternity.

Section 4. The Grand Chapter, in Convocation assembled, shall have general jurisdiction of the Fraternity, shall elect the Grand Council Members and other elective officers of the Fraternity, and shall possess and exercise all powers incident to a deliberative assembly.

Section 5. The Grand Council shall act by specific written order, denominated Grand Council Order No...., or in group assembled, by concurrence of a majority of its members. Copies of Grand Council Orders and minutes of meetings shall be furnished to all delegates at the Convocation following their adoption and permanently filed with the records of the Fraternity. Copies of Grand Council Orders and minutes of meetings shall be made available, upon request, to any member of the Fraternity in good standing.

Section 6. The Grand Council shall be empowered to establish and maintain an Executive Office, and to employ a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), whose title shall be determined by the Grand Council, to have charge of and to administer said Executive Office. He shall serve at the pleasure of the Grand Council. Such additional persons as may be necessary to assist the Chief Executive Officer and/or otherwise to serve the Grand Chapter may be employed by the Chief Executive Officer and be provided for in the Grand Chapter budget.

Section 7. Unless expressly provided otherwise in the Constitution or Bylaws of the Fraternity, The Grand Council shall be the final court of appeal for the settlement of all disputes arising among brothers, Chapters, Alumni Clubs, and Officers of the Fraternity. It shall have full power to discipline any brother, Officer, Chapter, Alumnus, or Alumni Club for any violation of the Constitution, Bylaws, or other rules or regulations of the Fraternity or of a host institution, as applicable.

Section 8. The Officers of each Chapter shall be held personally responsible should any person be initiated into membership in violation of any of the requirements of this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Fraternity, and also the regulations of the college or university and the local Interfraternity Council relative to pledging and initiating. Any Chapter Officer who conducts or permits the initiation of a person in violation of this Constitution and the Bylaws of the Fraternity may be subject to immediate expulsion from the Fraternity.

ARTICLE VII - Charters

Section 1. An organization wishing to become a new chapter of the Fraternity, whether an existing local unaffiliated fraternity or a newly organized group, if approved, must undergo a probationary, evaluation period during which they will be known as a Colony of the Fraternity. No Colony shall be established until approved by the Chief Executive Officer, as defined by and in compliance with the Bylaws of the Fraternity. A Colony shall cease to exist upon the granting of a charter as a chapter of the Fraternity or upon dissolution as provided in the Bylaws of the Fraternity.

Section 2. Subject to the provisions of the Bylaws of the Fraternity, a Colony shall submit a formal petition for chartering, which shall not be granted until it has been approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the Grand Council.

Section 3. In the event of a merger with any other fraternity having more than one established chapter, the Grand Council shall perform due diligence as may be required by applicable corporate law, generally accepted accounting principles, and its fiduciary obligation to Sigma Pi Chapters and general membership of Sigma Pi. If the merger is an acquisition of a small fraternity or of its chapters, then the approval required is the same as defined in Section 2 above. If the merger partner is a fraternity of more than one-half (1/2) the size of Sigma Pi by any common measure or there is a potential for loss of corporate control by the current Grand Council or the merger results in a successor corporation, then the merger may not be finalized until approved by the Grand Chapter in Convocation assembled. In either type of merger, the Grand Council may waive the requirements of Section 1 above where the acquired chapters are deemed well functioning.

Section 4. Charters for Alumni Clubs shall be granted by a majority vote of the Grand Chapter in Convocation or by a majority vote of the Grand Council.

Section 5. In the event any Chapter or Alumni Club takes action which is in violation of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity, or detrimental to the best interests of the Fraternity, the Grand Council shall take such action as authorized by the Bylaws of the Fraternity, including suspension of the Chapter, revocation of the Charter, or the

establishment of a trusteeship for the Charter. Any action taken under the provisions of this section shall be explicitly ratified or rejected by the Grand Chapter at the next Convocation.

Section 6. In the event of any action on the part of any institutional authority or any other exoteric authority to interfere with or infringe upon the freedom and right of the brothers of a fraternity chapter to select its own brothers, the Grand Council, upon finding proof thereof, may take such action as it deems appropriate including suspension of the Chapter, revocation of the Charter, or establishment of a trusteeship for the Charter. The Grand Council may also continue to recognize any chapter despite any action taken on the part of any institutional authority or any other exoteric authority. Any action taken under the provisions of this section shall be explicitly ratified or rejected by the Grand Chapter at the next Convocation.

ARTICLE VIII - Emblems

Section 1. The Fraternity badge to be worn by all duly initiated brothers, shall be a Greek or St. George's Cross of gold, bearing a raised oval of blue enamel, directly in the center of which shall be an emerald and on either side of the emerald shall be the Greek letters of Sigma and Pi. The emblems on the four arms of the cross shall be in conformity with the Ritual of the Fraternity. The badge may be jeweled around the edges according to individual taste, or Chapter custom, provided, however, that emeralds not be used for this purpose.

Section 2. The Coat of Arms of the Fraternity is described as follows:

The escutcheon is a shield backed nebuly with a bordure argent; the field is purpure charged with a bend argent between femur or bendwise in sinister chief and a Scops Giu Cephalic, affronte tenne in dexter base. The field at fess point is debruised by the Fraternity badge proper.

The crest is a radiant triangle of ten stars; rays terminating in azure; the scroll or mantling is argent tinctured a purpure and represents the ancient Greek mantle.

The motto, "Sebaste Pistis", is in Greek, on a scroll argent, on either side of four Greek letters of Delta.

Section 3. The pledge button of the Fraternity shall be in the shape of the shield of the coat of arms of the Fraternity, with the bend reversed to indicate uninitiated status; the field to be of purple enamel, the cross in the center to be of white enamel, and the bend and border to be of gold. (Heraldic description: A field purpure a bend sinister or, debruised at

fess point by a Greek cross argent, and a border of the second.)

Section 4. The Great Seal of the Fraternity shall consist of the coat of arms of the Fraternity, surrounded by a circle of gold bearing the words, The Sigma Pi Fraternity, International.

Section 5. The Chapter seal shall consist of the Fraternity badge with the date of installation beneath, the whole surrounded by a circle of silver bearing the words [chapter name] of The Sigma Pi Fraternity, International.

Section 6. The insignia for Past Grand Sage shall be the Fraternity Coat of Arms upon a complete gold wreath. The insignia for Honorary Grand Sage shall be the Fraternity Coat of Arms upon a complete silver wreath.

Section 7. The colors of the Fraternity shall be lavender and white, with gold as an auxiliary.

Section 8. The flower of the Fraternity shall be the orchid; with the lilac and white rose together as alternate. The goldenrod may be used as auxiliary.

Section 9. The official flag of the Fraternity shall be a lavender field measuring five by seven (5 x 7) feet, notched the full width and one (1) foot deep from edge to apex, in the end opposite the staff; the Greek letters, Sigma and Pi, each fifteen by eighteen (15 x 18) inches shall be white and occupy the center of the field, and in the upper corner nearest the staff shall be a fifteen by eighteen (15 x 18) inch reproduction of the coat of arms of the Fraternity in white. As an alternate flag, primarily for outside use, an equilateral triangle of ten (10) gold stars on fifteen (15) inch centers may be used in place of the full Coat of Arms on the flag.

Section 10. The emblems and insignia of the Fraternity described in this Article are the property of the Sigma Pi Fraternity, International and are reserved for the Fraternity's sole and exclusive use. No emblem or insignia, or any part thereof, may be reproduced for any purpose without the express written authorization of the Grand Council or the Chief Executive Officer.

ARTICLE IX - Subordination

The provisions of this Constitution and any Bylaws adopted shall be subordinate to the laws and regulations of any governmental authority having jurisdiction, and to the rules, regulations and published policies of each institution wherein this Fraternity has a Chapter, Colony, or brothers provided that this Article shall not operate to change or amend any portion of this Constitution, or any Bylaw adopted unless and until a certificate shall have been furnished to the Grand Sage, by a responsible official of said governmental authority or institution to the effect that a specific portion of this Constitution, or a specific Bylaw, contravenes a specified law or regulation of a governmental authority having jurisdiction, or contravenes a specific rule, regulation or published policy of the institution wherein the Chapter or Colony is located, and that such pertinent law, rule, regulation or policy is applicable to each and every comparable social fraternity having a Chapter or Colony at the institution involved.

ARTICLE X - Bylaws

Section 1. Bylaws that do not conflict with this Constitution, may be adopted by the Grand Chapter at a Convocation, or by order of the Grand Council in extraordinary circumstances, by a majority vote of those present and voting in either case, and Bylaws may be amended or repealed in the same manner but any such action so taken by the Grand Council shall remain in force only until the next Convocation, unless the action is then ratified by the Grand Chapter.

Section 2. Any reference to fees and/or charges in the Bylaws shall be made payable in United States currency with the exception that Chapters or Colonies of nations other than the United States, shall pay pledge and initiate fees, in addition to chapter charter and undergraduate dues in their respective currency at face value.

ARTICLE XI - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Grand Chapter present and voting at a Convocation. Published announcement, at least 90 days prior, in the *Emerald* or on the official public website of the Fraternity, of the date and location of the Convocation shall satisfy any notice requirements for any proposal made at the Convocation seeking to amend this Constitution or its subordinate Bylaws.