

# **Committee C-- Ethics Recommendations from 2004 Congress**

## **Review of Disciplinary Procedures used by other Honor Societies**

Last year (Fall 2005), I briefly reviewed the disciplinary procedures used by other ACHS member societies, by some local chapters, and by some non-ACHS member societies. I initially concentrated on societies in the scientific and technical fields, and my research was necessarily limited to those societies that had constitutions on-line. I will give the ACHS member societies (or local chapters) in section 1, then in section 2 will give non-ACHS societies.

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### ***Section 1. ACHS Member Societies and their Local Chapters***

#### **Sigma Gamma Tau (Aerospace Engineering)**

Suspension or expulsion of a member from the Society may be initiated, at the request of a chapter, or approval of the Executive Council and the regional coordinators, but may occur only with the vote of two-thirds of the Executive Council and regional coordinators. If the ballot is not returned within thirty days, the vote will be considered against expulsion.

#### **Phi Alpha Theta (History)**

##### Section 4. EXPULSION

By formal request from a chapter under regulations presented in the By-Laws, any member of the Society may be expelled by formal action of the Council, after opportunity for due process, presented in the By-Laws. Grounds for such expulsion might be plagiarism, malfeasance, etc.

#### **Phi Alpha Theta (History) [Chapter at Wright State U.]**

##### Section 5: EXPULSION

Grounds for removal of members include: Violation of University Policy or a violation of the Wright State University Code of Conduct.

A member may be removed by the following process:

- A petition submitted to the President or Advisor. Such a petition must contain the signatures of at least 50% of the members. When such a petition is received, the President shall call a special meeting of the organization to decide upon removal
- The grounds for removal are to be presented by the president at a regular or special meeting of the organization
- The member in question shall be provided an opportunity to present a defense either in writing or in person
- At least a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority of the members present shall decide upon removal, with voting no sooner than one week after the grounds and the defense have been presented.

Records of compliance with chapter membership requirements will be maintained by the Executive Committee. Any member failing to meet these requirements will be formally notified by either the Executive Committee or the Faculty Advisor. Appropriate measures for correction will be given, as well as prescribed time frame in which corrections are expected. Failure to comply with these membership requirements can also result in the termination of membership, as decided by a majority vote of the Executive Committee with the approval of the Faculty Advisor, adhering to the same process of removal prescribed above.

#### Section 6: APPEAL OF EXPULSION

Members may appeal their removal within two weeks of the vote for removal by requesting the President or Advisor to call for a special meeting of the Organization. The President shall notify all members of this meeting, which is to occur at least one week and not more than one month after the President receives the appeal request. The decision to uphold the vote for removal shall require a simple majority vote of the members present at the special meeting.

### **Pi Tau Sigma (Mechanical Engineering)**

#### Article IX. Discipline

1. Any member of the honor society may be discipline by suspension or expulsion. In order to be considered viable by the offices and members of the honor society, petitions to suspend or expel a member shall only be initiated by a member or a group of members and shall be forwarded to the honor society's secretary-treasurer. Such petitions shall contain the following:

1. A detailed list of the reasons for presenting the petition.
2. Signatures of a majority of the active members of a chapter (or sponsoring chapter in the case of a member-at-large).
3. A statement that the petition has been reviewed in its entirety and that all actions taken in developing the petition have been carried out in accordance with the pertinent rules of the institution within which the chapter resides. This statement shall be signed by an appropriate officer of that institution with the administrative, academic rank of department chair or higher.

2. Following a review of the petition by the National Council the petition shall be presented at the next annual convention. If accepted by a three-fourths vote of the delegates, the petition shall be enforced. Otherwise, the petition shall become void.

3. A chapter may be declared inactive. (See VI-2).

## **Upsilon Pi Epsilon (Computer Science)**

### SECTION 4.

(a) For continued and inexcusable absence from the meetings of the Chapter, for nonattendance to his/her assigned or elected duties to the Chapter, for moral delinquency, for inexcusable failure to meet his/her financial obligations to the Chapter, or for other just cause, after a fair trial and upon the recommendations of a majority of the active members of the Chapter, the Chapter may suspend a member.

(b) A member shall be suspended for a specified time, not to exceed one year. At the end of the time specified, the Chapter shall make recommendations to the Executive Council either to reinstate the member, or to expel him. The Executive Council shall then either reinstate or expel the member.

(c) A member may appeal his/her case from the decision of the Executive Council to the next regular Convention of the Association and the member shall have the right to be heard by the Convention and to plead his/her own cause. The action of the Convention shall be final.

(d) Suspension shall entail the following: (1) Loss of voting privileges. (2) Provision by the Chapter of opportunity for the individual to demonstrate his/her desire to be reinstated.

## **Alpha Epsilon Delta (pre-med)**

Expulsion of members from the individual chapters shall be determined by the chapter. Notification of such expulsion must be forwarded immediately to the National Secretary.

## **Alpha Sigma Mu (Metallurgy & Materials Engineering)**

### Expulsion of Members

Section 8. (a) Any member shall be subject to expulsion if his behavior is not in keeping with the principles and ideals upon which the society is based.

(b) Expulsion shall be only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Board of Trustees of the society after due notice and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense before the Board of Trustees shall have been given to the member.

## **Section 2. Non-ACHS Member Societies**

### **Pi Alpha Xi (Horticulture, not a member of ACHS)**

#### SECTION VIII

#### Expulsion of Members

(a) Active and Associate Members. The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any active or associate member by the action of the chapter granting the membership. When such action is contemplated, the member in question must be given an opportunity to make a defense either in person or in writing. The member shall be notified in writing (registered mail, return receipt required) of such proceedings ten days before any action may be taken. Following such defense, or if no defense is offered, proceedings may continue. A vote of two thirds of a chapter's active and associate members is required to legalize an action for expulsion. The action of the chapter is final. Following such action, the chapter must notify the National Secretary-Treasurer, who shall strike the name of such expelled member from the National Records. Expelled members shall be required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the chapter. In return, the Honor Society shall pay to such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

(b) Alumni and Honorary Members. The privileges of the Honor Society may be denied to any alumnus/alumna or honorary member by the following procedure: Preliminary action shall be instigated by the chapter or body responsible for such membership. The unanimous vote of the official body is necessary to continue the action. The results of such action, together with all evidence, shall then be transmitted to the National Secretary-Treasurer, who in turn shall notify the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall then proceed to evaluate the case and their decisions shall be final. Expelled alumni and honorary members shall be required to return both their lapel pin and certificate to the National Honor Society. In return, the National Secretary-Treasurer shall pay to such former member a sum of money equal to the entire cost of the lapel pin.

### **Sigma Gamma Epsilon (Earth Sciences, not ACHS)**

Sec. 2. Any member may be expelled from membership in the chapter or in the general Society upon charges being filed with the secretary of the chapter to which the member belongs, the charges to be signed by three members of that chapter. These charges shall be read at the next chapter meeting and the members of that chapter shall be notified by registered mail before the next meeting that the charges are to be acted upon at said meeting. At said meeting the member in question shall be given an opportunity to defend himself before the chapter. A four-fifths vote by secret ballot shall be required to expel an active, alumnus, or associate member; a supplementary vote of three-fourths of the National Council shall be necessary to expel an honorary member.

### **Phi Lambda Upsilon (Chemistry, not ACHS)**

Section 6. Any member desiring to resign membership in the Society shall do so in writing to the National Executive Committee, through the local chapter secretary, at the same time surrendering the Membership Certificate and key. The National Executive Committee shall have the power to act upon such resignation.

Section 7. If any member of the Society, of whatever classification, shall use membership in an unethical way, the National Executive Committee shall have the power to take such action as it may see fit. A unanimous vote of the National Executive Committee shall be required for action in such cases.

### **Tau Alpha Pi (Engineering Technology, not a ACHS member) [UNC Chapter]**

Section 4. Resignation and Expulsion of Members

a. Since the Society is an Honor Society, membership, upon graduation, is retained for life. Should a member wish to have his or her name removed from the rolls of the Society, a written notification of resignation must be submitted to the current officers of the local chapter. Upon receipt and acceptance of the resignation notification, the member's name will be permanently removed from the membership roll of the Society.

b. Should a member engage in conduct which reflects discredit upon the program, department, college, university, or this Society, a motion for expulsion may be made by any member, faculty advisor or sponsor of the chapter. Permanent expulsion from the Society requires a unanimous vote of the active membership and notification in writing to the member of the expulsion.

3. To maintain active status, a member shall retain a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0.