

Constitution and Bylaws of

Alpha Iota Sigma, Inc.

The Interdisciplinary Studies Honor Society

Preamble

The founders of **Alpha Iota Sigma** in 2012 included representatives from the following institutions: Michigan State University, Oakland University, University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee, Holy Cross, SUNY Potsdam, Baylor University, University of Texas Arlington, and Franklin University. That same year, the Association of Interdisciplinary Studies (AIS) Board of Directors confirmed the establishment of **Alpha Iota Sigma** as the first honor society for superior students of interdisciplinary studies.

Article 1 Purpose

The mission of **Alpha Iota Sigma** is to recognize and advance the academic scholarship and achievements of interdisciplinary students. As an honor society, Alpha Iota Sigma

- promotes the benefits of interdisciplinary work;
- provides a forum to encourage interdisciplinary collaboration among students, faculty, and community members;
- investigates and encourages methods of interdisciplinary learning;
- enhances understanding and application of interdisciplinary knowledge among the general public;
- creates a sense of community among interdisciplinary students and graduates of interdisciplinary programs.

Student members of **Alpha Iota Sigma** advance this mission by

- motivating their peers to excel in interdisciplinary scholarship;
- fostering connections between their academic coursework and the larger community through civic engagement projects;
- encouraging honors graduates to be leaders in addressing the complex problems of contemporary society with the highest intellectual, ethical, and moral standards.

Article 2 The Executive Council

Section 1. The Executive Council may be comprised of an Executive Director, Chair and/or Co-

Chair, and at least one, but no more than two, student representatives from each active chapter. The Secretary/Treasurer of each chapter shall automatically be a member of the Executive Council. A chapter may nominate one additional officer to be on the Executive Council.

Section 2. The board of the Association for Interdisciplinary Studies shall appoint an Executive Director and shall have the power to remove the Executive Director. The Executive Director shall:

- Perform any and all duties imposed on them collectively or individually by law, by the Articles of Incorporation, or by these Bylaws;
- Appoint and remove, employ and discharge, and, except otherwise provided in these Bylaws, prescribe the duties and fix the compensation, if any, of all officers, agents and employees of the organization;
- Supervise all officers, agents and employees of the organization to assure that their duties are performed properly;
- Meet at such times and places as required by these Bylaws;
- Register their addresses with the Secretary of the organization, and notices of meetings communicated to them at such addresses shall be valid notices thereof.
- The Executive Director shall serve as the Chair of all official meetings of the Council and Honor Society or appoint a member of the Council to serve in absentee.
- The Executive Director shall serve as an ex-officio member of the AIS board and provide timely reports to the AIS board as appropriate.

Section 3. The Executive Council may appoint one or two faculty chair and co-chairs with one nominated by the Executive Director and another by the Executive Council. Both will be responsible for coordinating the yearly national meeting held in conjunction with the AIS Conference. The term of office of each shall be four years, and chairs are eligible to succeed themselves for two additional terms.

Section 4. Members of the Executive Council shall serve without compensation.

Section 5. The members of the Executive Council shall not be personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or other obligations of the organization.

Section 6. The members of the Executive Council shall be indemnified by the organization to the fullest extent permissible under the laws of this state.

Section 7. Except as may be otherwise provided under the provision of law, the Executive

Council may adopt a resolution authorizing the purchase and maintenance of insurance on behalf of any agent of the organization (including a director, officer, employee or other agent of the organization) against liabilities asserted against or incurred by the agent in such capacity or arising out of the agent's status as such, whether or not the organization would have the power to indemnify the agent against such liability under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws or provision of law.

Section 8. Special meetings of the Executive Council may be called by the Executive Director of the council. Unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provision of law, the following provisions shall govern the giving of notice for meetings of the Executive Council:

- Special Meetings: At least one week prior notice shall be made to each member of the Executive Council.

Section 9. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the Executive Council. Except as otherwise provided under the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provision of law, no business shall be considered by the Executive Council at any meeting at which the required quorum is not present, and the only motion which the chair shall entertain at such a meeting is the motion to adjourn.

Article 3 New Chapters

Section 1. To be eligible for consideration for a chapter of Alpha Iota Sigma, an applicant shall be an institution of higher education and must be a member in good standing of the accrediting association of the region in which it is located.

Section 2. The loss of an institution's membership in a regional accrediting association shall automatically suspend the chapter until such time as accreditation is regained.

Section 3. Each chapter shall be coordinated by a Faculty Sponsor from the chapter's institution. In order for a chapter to be considered for the membership, the faculty sponsor must submit in writing to the Executive Council, details of the program(s) seeking chapter membership

including interdisciplinary courses, programs, and faculty.

Section 4. Chapters may be granted only to institutions or divisions of institutions whose work is primarily academic in nature and for which baccalaureate and/or graduate degrees are conferred.

Section 5. A charter may be granted to an applying institution by the Executive Director of the council.

Section 6. Chapters must adhere to the Alpha Iota Sigma Constitution and Bylaws, and maintain institutional membership in AIS.

Section 7. Each chapter will keep an accurate record of each member and his/her accomplishments in the field of the interdisciplinary studies up until graduation from the program at that institution.

Article 4 Annual Meeting of Honor Society

Section 1. Chapters must have at least one student representative participate in the annual meeting of the Honor Society. Participation in the annual meeting may occur in person at the annual conference for the Association of Interdisciplinary Studies or through electronic means.

Section 2. Special meetings of the Honor Society may be called by the Executive Director or by majority vote of the Executive Council.

Section 3. Unless otherwise provided by the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws, or provision of law, the following provisions shall govern the giving of notice for meetings of the Honor Society:

- Annual Meetings: No notice need be given of any regular meeting of the Honor Society.
- Special Meetings: At least one week prior notice shall be made.

Section 4. All issues to be ratified or voted on shall be decided by a simple majority of those present at the meeting in which the ratification or vote takes place.

Article 5 Individual Student Membership

Section 1. To be eligible for membership in **Alpha Iota Sigma** the student must

- be currently enrolled in an **Alpha Iota Sigma** member college or university,
- be majoring in an interdisciplinary program as noted in the chapter application,
- hold a GPA of 3.3 (local chapters may establish higher GPA standards).

Article 6 Chapter Officers and Duties

Section 1. The chapter officers will be the President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer.

Section 2. The President will call meetings, preside at meetings, appoint committees, and provide general supervision of the affairs of the society in consultation with the Faculty Sponsor.

Section 3. The Vice-President will assist the President and assume the responsibilities of the President in case of his/her absence.

Section 4. It will be the duty of the Secretary/Treasurer to collect all dues and assessments of members; to pay bills sanctioned by the society; to keep an account of all receipts and expenditures (with the assistance of the Vice-President); to keep and read minutes of meetings; and to report on the activities and financial status of the chapter at each regular meeting and at the yearly meeting of the Executive Council (Additional duties may be assigned as necessary).

Article 7 Election of Chapter Officers

Section 1. Officers for the following year will be elected at a regular spring meeting and formally installed by the incumbent officers.

Section 2. Officers will be elected by a majority vote of the chapter.

Section 3. If officers do not return to school, new officers will be elected to fill the vacancies at the next meeting.

Article 8 Chapter Meetings

Section 1. Chapters should hold at least one regular meeting each academic term.

Section 2. Special meetings may be called at any time by the President or at the request of the Faculty Sponsor.

Section 3. A quorum will consist of a majority of the chapter's active membership.

Article 9 Induction, Fees, and Assessments

Section 1. Each new chapter shall pay to the Executive Council a one-time installation fee within two weeks of the induction.

Section 2. In addition to the required national dues, the chapter may require any local dues as deemed necessary or appropriate.

Article 10 Induction and Installation of New Members and Officers

Section 1. Dignified and worthy rituals for induction of members and for installation of officers shall be used by each chapter.

Article 11 Fees

Section 1. The installation fee for a new chapter shall be fixed by the Executive Council.

Section 2. The induction fee for each new member shall be fixed by the Executive Council.

Article 12 Tax Exemption Provision

Section 1. No part of the net earnings of the corporation shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, trustees, officers, or other private persons, except that the corporation shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article Third hereof. No substantial part of the activities of the corporation shall be the carrying on of propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distribution of statements) any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any

other provision of these articles, the corporation shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (a) by a corporation exempt from federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or (b) by a corporation, contributions to which are deductible under section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code.

Section 2. Upon the dissolution of the corporation, assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, or shall be distributed to the federal government, or to a state or local government, for a public purpose. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be disposed of by a Court of Competent Jurisdiction of the county in which the principal office of the corporation is then located, exclusively for such purposes or to such organization or organizations, as said Court shall determine, which are organized and operated exclusively for such purposes.

Article 13 Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended, revised, or altered in whole or in part at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members of the Executive Council, provided such a proposal and a notice of the proposed vote are given to each member in writing at least one month prior to the vote. Meetings may occur electronically. Members of the Executive Council may vote on amendments by electronic proxy.

Section 2. Amendments to these Bylaws may be ratified at the annual meeting of the Honor Society.