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Sigma Iota Rho, Gamma Omega Chapter Constitution

Sigma Iota Rho Gamma Omega
American Public University System

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Sigma Iota Rho

The Honor Society for International Relations
American Public University System Chapter

CONSTITUTION

SIGMA IOTA RHO
THE HONOR SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1. Name.

The Society shall be known as the Gamma Omega Chapter of Sigma Iota Rho, Honor Society for International Studies at the American Public University System (American Public University and American Military University).

Section 2. Symbol.

The letters SIR stand for the following Greek words:

SIGMA (Σ) for “synesi,” meaning Prudence;
IOTA (Ι) for “ideodoi,” meaning Ideals; and
RHO (Ρ) for “rhomi,” meaning Power.

These three words signify some of the most important values studied by those in the field.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this organization shall be to promote and reward scholarship and service among students and practitioners of international studies, international affairs, and global studies and to foster

integrity and creative performance in the conduct of world affairs.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes.

Sigma Iota Rho is an interdisciplinary honor society specializing in the interdisciplinary field of international affairs. There shall be three classes of membership: student, faculty, or honorary.

Section 2. Undergraduate Membership

Election to undergraduate membership shall be by a local chapter from among such juniors and seniors of the institution who meet or exceed the following qualifications.

- (a) Have completed a majority of course work in international studies including courses in relevant subject areas of anthropology, world religion, intelligence studies, military history, national security studies, Middle Eastern studies, economics, foreign languages, geography, history, political science, and other related disciplines;
- (b) Have attained a junior standing and completed at least twenty-one (21) hours of course work toward the international relations-related major or minor (see Section 2, para. a), including at least two courses at the 300 or 400 level.
- (c) Have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher in all courses, and a grade point average of at least 3.3 in international relations courses.
- (d) Must maintain full-time student status of at least twelve (12) hours per year to be a voting member or hold an office.
- (e) Students who meet the basic academic criteria but are not in a full-time status will be granted the full benefits of membership, but will not be able to run for office or vote.

Section 3. Graduate Student Membership

With their experience and undergraduate work completed, graduate student members are a much added benefit to Sigma Iota Rho Chapters. In order to qualify for graduate membership, students must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Are in a graduate program which focuses on international studies including courses in relevant subject areas of anthropology, world religion, intelligence studies, military history, national security studies, Middle Eastern studies, economics, foreign languages, geography, history, political science, and other related disciplines;

- (b) Have completed one semester (3 courses) of graduate level work in the aforementioned area.
- (c) Have attained a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher in all courses, and a grade point average of at least 3.3 in international relations courses.
- (d) Must maintain full-time student status of at least 12 hours a year (to be a voting member or hold an office).
- (e) Students who meet the basic academic criteria but are not in a full-time status will be granted the full benefits of membership, but will not be able to run for office or vote.

Section 4. Faculty Membership.

Any interested member of the faculty involved in the teaching of courses giving credit in International Relations may be elected to faculty membership. Faculty members shall possess all the privileges of membership except for voting and holding office in local chapter.

Section 5. Honorary Membership.

Any person of recognized ability and achievement in the field of international relations may be elected to be an honorary member. No more than two such members may be elected in any one academic year. Honorary members shall possess all the privileges of active membership except that of being an officer or council member of the corporation.

Section 6. Adjunct Membership

Adjunct membership is proposed in response to the need to recognize the outstanding contribution and interest of some sophomore students in our chapters. Unlike other types of memberships that are lifetime, adjunct membership is limited to sophomore students only. Adjunct members do not qualify to run for an office or vote. In order to be considered for adjunct membership, students must meet the following criteria:

- (a) Have completed course work in international studies including courses in international studies including courses in relevant subject areas of anthropology, world religion, intelligence studies, military history, national security studies, Middle Eastern studies, economics, foreign languages, geography, history, political science, and other related disciplines;
- (b) Have attained a sophomore standing and completed at least twelve (12) hours of course work towards International Relations-related major or minor.
- (c) Have demonstrated interest in Sigma Iota Rho through active participation in the Chapter activities.

(d) Plan to attain full membership upon qualification.

Section 7. Subsequent Service.

All persons duly elected to membership (other than honorary) by the local Chapter who are subsequently enrolled as students or are serving as faculty members in a different institution at which a chapter is located shall be deemed members of the chapter.

Section 8. Selection.

Selection to membership shall be by procedures determined by the local chapter, in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution. Membership will not be restricted on the basis of sex, race, national origin, sexual orientation, or handicap.

- (a) Membership will be open to qualified individuals and considered upon application for consideration through the APUS SIR Gamma Omega website (currently on Facebook).
- (b) Membership selection will be determined by the chapter Executive Committee upon reviewing a letter of interest, character reference, and any other requirement.

Section 9. Initiation Fee and Dues.

Each member shall pay such initiation fees and annual dues as may be prescribed by the local chapter, which includes any national fees applying at that time.

- (a) An initiation fee of \$40 will be collected per member. For those qualified for full membership, this one-time fee will grant lifetime membership and recognition at the national level.
- (b) Local chapter dues are \$20. Chapter fees cover website setup and maintenance, certificate issue, membership card, and miscellaneous costs.

Section 10. Pins and Keys.

The members shall receive certificates of membership and may purchase pins, keys, and other symbols of membership as may be available from the National Director of Sigma Iota Rho on such terms and under such conditions as the National Council may determine. Delivery of items will take 4-8 weeks once dues have been collected, unless otherwise determined.

Section 11. Member Requirements.

APUS SIR Chapter members will be required to contribute to the development of the International Relations student community as well as their local community. Adjunct, Undergraduate, and Graduate students will be required to:

- (a) Participate in at least one public service project per year in accordance with APUS regulations governing honor societies. The Executive Council, led by the Vice President, will publish a list of approved volunteer activities. Regular members will have to complete at least three hours of public

service per year. Members of the Executive Council must complete six hours per year.

(b) Submit at least one research paper for publication consideration in either the national Chapter journal or the APUS Chapter website per year.

(c) Actively recruit potential Chapter members who may be suitable for membership.

Section 12. Member Drives.

Gamma Omega will conduct biannual membership drives. The Vice President, in consultation with the Executive Council, will be responsible for presenting a strategic plan on the conduct of the membership drive and coordinate with APUS administrators for support, which may include attaining the e-mail addresses of International Relations majors, asking for promotion consideration in APUS newsletters and websites, and mobilizing members to discuss SIR with their peers. Membership drives will be conducted with approval of APUS during the month of September and February.

ARTICLE IV - GOVERNMENT

The chapter shall have full control of its individual affairs, subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Society.

Section 1. Officers.

The student officers of the chapter shall be elected by the student membership in the spring for the next academic year from the active members of the chapter. Officers of the chapter may be removed from office, and membership of a member may be revoked by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all members on the membership list and at least one half of the other officers. An officer may be removed from office or a member's membership may be revoked if he/she loses full-time status or is unable to adequately fulfill his/her duties. Removal of an officer will require a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote by the Executive Council.

(a) President - An elected President will preside at all meetings of the Chapter. He or she will maintain the power to appoint all committee chairpersons and shall present all motions to the Chapter.

(b) Vice President - A Vice President shall be elected whose duties shall be to preside at all meetings and functions that the President cannot attend and assist the President in directing the affairs of the Chapter. Will also be responsible for public relations.

(c) Secretary - Responsible for answering membership requests, submitting required update forms to APUS, and maintaining documents and web presence.

(d) Treasurer - Responsible for monitoring funds, handling dues, submitting financial statements each quarter, and making budget recommendations. Shall counter-sign all financial transactions with the President or Faculty Adviser.

(e) Executive Committee - The four officers shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Chapter, which will direct the affairs of the Chapter with the assistance of the Faculty Adviser. The Executive Committee shall have the power to make decisions for the organizations between regular meetings. All

actions taken shall be reported promptly to the members of the organization.

(f) Replacement - In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Executive Committee shall elect a replacement, to serve until a new officer is elected by the general membership at the next regular business meeting.

Section 2. Nominations and Elections.

(a) Nominating Committee - The President shall appoint a Nominating Committee not less than sixty (60) days prior to each biennial meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of the three most recent past Presidents able and willing to serve thereon and more than two additional members designated by the President. If there are not three past Presidents available, the President may appoint a sufficient number of other members to complete the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall present nominations for officers and at the biennial meeting of members.

(b) Nominations by Members - Additional nominations may be made from the floor by any member at the time the Nominating Committee makes its report.

(c) Voting - All nominations shall be voted on by separate vote for each office. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes of each office shall be declared elected and shall thereupon take office.

ARTICLE V - ADVISER

The Chapter Adviser shall be the Director of Undergraduates Studies of the International Relations Program, or a faculty member teaching courses in the major. The adviser will assume those responsibilities as outlined in this constitution. The adviser may be removed from his/her position by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of all members on the membership list and at least one half of the other officers. The adviser may be removed if it has been determined that he/she is unable to adequately fulfill the position.

ARTICLE VI - AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this constitution must be submitted in writing at a regular or special meeting of the organization. Said amendments will be voted on at the subsequent meeting. Amendments may be adopted by a $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of the active members or by a $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the active members and a majority vote of the Chapter Executive Committee.

The same amendment may not be proposed more than once during any academic year.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 1. Member Meetings.

General meetings shall be held at a prescribed day and hour as decided upon by this chapter in its first special meeting (date to be announced). Due to the special, international nature of the student body, meetings will be held virtually through the internet using the chapter's hub website.

(a) Members will be required to post to the Chapter website and respond to measures requiring a vote in order to maintain their voting status. All measures requiring a vote will be posted for one week (7 days) in order to give all members ample time to vote.

(b) Graduate, undergraduate, and adjunct members will be considered inactive if they have not communicated with the Chapter after 60 days. Exceptions to policy may be granted for extenuating circumstances such as military deployments, relocation, maternity leave, and acts of God.

A quorum consists of a simple majority of the membership plus at least one officer.

ARTICLE VIII - RECALL

Members may be expelled for not attending meetings, falling below the required GPA, not contributing to Chapter activities, and impropriety. Exact parameters will be discussed in future meetings.

ARTICLE IX - FINANCES

The Chapter shall develop and maintain a fully transparent and accountable financial structure in order to meet its obligations to vendors providing services to the Chapter (internet hosting, printing fees, etc.).

The treasurer will:

(a) Provide a quarterly income and expenses report to the general membership assembly and make this ledger public on the members-only section of the website.

(b) Coordinate with APUS and SIR to ensure that all fund raising and financial activities comply with regulations.

(c) Review purchase requests and recommend action to the Executive Council, which will determine if the request requires Chapter vote.

ARTICLE X - RATIFICATION

The Constitution shall become effective upon approval by the membership, the Commission on Student Services, and the President/National Director of Sigma Iota Rho International

Signed by the Executive Council on May 19, 2009

Ronald Daniel Thompson, President

Lindsay Johnson, Vice President

Robert Hones, Secretary

Prof. Michelle Watts, Faculty Advisor

Prof. Kimberly Dannels-Ruff

Ratified on October 20, 2009

Amendments to the Constitution

Amendment I

Cumulative grade point average for undergraduate and graduate level applicants shall be 3.75.

(Modifies Article III, Section 2c and Section 3c)

Amendment II

Membership will be open to qualified individuals receiving invitations from the APUS Student Affairs Department.

(Article III, Modifies Section 8a)

Amendment III

Membership selection will be determined by the APUS Student Affairs Department and chapter Executive Committee upon reviewing a letter of interest, character reference, prior participation, and any other requirement determined by the executive council.

(Modifies Article III, Section 8b)

Amendment IV

Regular members are required to complete at least five hours of public service per year during the first two years of membership, and strongly encouraged to continue this commitment thereafter.

(Modifies Article III, Section 11a)

Amendment V

Alumni members may hold elected office.

(Modifies Article IV, Section I)

Amendment VI

The student officers of the chapter shall be elected by the student membership in the fall, or as determined by the executive council, for a period of one year from the active members of the chapter.

(Modifies Article IV, Section I)

Amendment VII

The role formerly known as Secretary shall be replaced by a Chief of Staff. Responsibilities remain unaltered.

(Modifies Article IV, Section 1c)

Signed by the Executive Council on March 7, 2011

Abdul Abid, President

Jamie Montgomery, Vice President

Scott Freitas, Chief of Staff

Prof. Michelle Watts, Faculty Advisor

Prof. Kimberly Dannels-Ruff, Faculty Advisor

Ratified on March 19, 2011

Amendment VIII

Amendment I of this Constitution is hereby repealed and replaced with the following text: "Cumulative grade point average for undergraduate and graduate level applicants shall be 3.6".

(Modifies Article III, Section 2c and Section 3c)

Signed by the Executive Council on June 18, 2015

Joseph Phippen, President

Holly Myers-Sherrock, Vice President

Shaun Thomas, Chief of Staff

Vanessa Gilyard, Treasurer

Prof. Michelle Watts, Faculty Advisor

Prof. Kimberly Dannels-Ruff, Faculty Advisor

Prof. Lisa Kochevar, Faculty Advisor

Prof. Gabriela Stelcikova, Faculty Advisor

Ratified by SIRGO Membership on June 22, 2015