

Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority
Chi Chapter
University of South Carolina-Columbia

We, the members of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority, in order to secure for ourselves, for the people of the University of South Carolina, and for the people of the community-at-large, the rewards that comes from the affiliation of members and to deliver a program of service to our fellow people, do hereby adopt the following Constitution and By-Laws.

Article I: Insignia

Section 1: Name

This organization shall be known as the Chi Chapter of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina.

Section 2: Affiliation

This is a chapter of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority and, as such, members are bound by the National Constitution and By-Laws, which supersede those of chapters.

Section 3: Mission

The mission of Omega Phi Alpha is to provide service to the university community, to the community at large, to the members of the sorority, and to the nations of the world; and to promote friendship, leadership, and service.

Section 4: National Insignia

The crest, coat of arms, pins, colors, and flower shall be in accordance with Article I, Section 2-8 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

Section 5: Chi Chapter Mascot

The Chi chapter mascot shall be the elephant. Her name shall be Izzy.

Article II: Purpose

The purpose and goals of this sorority shall be to assemble its members in the fellowship of Omega Phi Alpha, to develop friendship, leadership, and cooperation by promoting

service to the university community, to the community-at-large, to the members of the sorority, and to the nations of the world.

Article III: Membership

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership of Omega Phi Alpha shall be limited to persons officially connected to the University of South Carolina, such as faculty, staff, or full-time students. Students taking 12 credit hours or more and who pay the university fees are considered full-time students.

Section 2: Open Membership Policy

Membership in this chapter shall not be limited to a person based on their race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status.

Section 3: Active Membership

Clause 1: Membership in this chapter shall be conferred upon those who complete the pledge process on a local and national level, pay membership dues, and pass a final membership vote of 85%.

Clause 2: Lifetime membership shall be granted to all members upon payment of an activation fee as prescribed by the National Executive Board.

Clause 3: All active members of Chi Chapter shall have the following rights and privileges: attend service projects; attend social functions; vote in chapter issues; represent chapter at national and regional events; hold local, regional, and national offices; have a little sister; wear the letters; receive the Chevron; and be included in chapter-level honors.

Clause 4: In order to remain in active standing, each sister must complete service hour requirements, pay local and national dues, follow local attendance policy, and remain in good standing with the university as set forth in the By-Laws of the Constitution.

Section 4: Affiliation

Membership status and qualification shall remain consistent with those defined in Article IV Sections 1-13 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha. There shall be no

membership status that is not outlined in the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha: pledge, active, member on leave of absence, alumna, honorary.

Section 5: Status Change

The National Executive Board must be notified of every status change.

Article IV: Behavior Policies

Section 1: Alcohol and Illegal Drugs

Chi Chapter policy shall be in accordance with Article III Section 1 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

Section 2: Non-Discriminatory

Chi Chapter policy shall be in accordance with Article III Section 2 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

Section 3: Hazing Policy

Chi Chapter policy shall be in accordance with Article III Section 3 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

Section 4: Policy Violations

If there is a violation of Sections 1-3; the active, alumna, or pledge found in violation shall be responsible for any and all damages and/or repercussions caused by the violation.

Clause 1: The repercussions of these violations are clearly stated in Article III Section 4 Clauses 3-4 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority.

Clause 2: The chapter shall immediately submit any violation to Omega Phi Alpha National Executive Board.

Section 4: Active Behavior Policy

Each active must adhere to the standards of Omega Phi Alpha.

Clause 1: Any sister who does not uphold the standards of Omega Phi Alpha shall be reported to the chapter president and will be subject to protocol laid out in Article III, Section II of the National Constitution.

Clause 2: If an investigation is warranted, the sister will be called to a meeting with Standards Board in accordance with the National Constitution, the Board

will review the case and determine the severity of the infraction.

Clause 3: If a case is determined to be high severity (such as an action or situation that results in or has the possibility to result in negative external ramifications for the chapter), 15 points will be given to the sister in question. If a case is determined to be low severity (such as an action or situation that results in negative internal ramifications for the chapter), 7 points will be given to the sister in question.

Item 1: Any sister who is found to be dishonest regarding their attendance at or participation in any Omega Phi Alpha event will not receive credit for the event and will be subject to consequences in accordance with the above clause.

Item 2: Any sister who is found to misrepresent Omega Phi Alpha and its values on social media will be subject to consequences in accordance with the above clause.

Article V: University Policies

Section 1: Faculty Advisor

The faculty/staff advisor to this chapter shall be nominated by any active member and approved by the Chapter Executive Board. The faculty/staff advisor must be selected from full-time faculty or administrative staff members of the university. The advisor shall serve as a liaison with the university and receive chapter minutes weekly.

Article VI: Active Requirements

Section 1: General Requirements

Clause 1: Each active member must be enrolled and in good standing with the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Clause 2: Each active member must complete service requirements outlined in Article VII.

Clause 3: Each active member must pay local dues to the chapter by the deadline specified by the chapter treasurer each semester.

Section 2: Specific Requirements

Each semester, an active member shall accumulate a total of 7 or less points, complete local service requirements, participate in one fundraiser, pay dues, and participate in two fellowships. The point system is described in detail in the By-Laws.

Article VII. Service

Section 1: The Service Directors are in charge of planning both National Projects and Chi Chapter Projects.

Clause 1: One National Project will be planned for each of the 6 areas of service.

The projects must be voted on by chapter by secret ballot and must receive 60% approval to pass.

Clause 2: In order to be a Chi Chapter Project, chapter must vote to accept the project as a way to receive hours. If one sister votes “yes”, the project is approved.

Section 2: Each active member is required to complete local service requirements each semester, which are as follows:

Clause 1: Each sister must complete 30 hours of service.

Clause 2: Each sister must participate in 4 out of the 6 National Projects.

Clause 3: Each sister must complete an hour in each of the 6 areas of service.

Section 3: Consequences for not meeting local service requirements are outlined in the By-Laws Article III.

Section 4: Each active member is required to cast a participation vote for each National Project. A sister must cast at least three positive votes each semester.

Section 5: If an active sister is absent from the meeting in which voting occurred, they will have 1 week to notify the secretary in writing of their vote before receiving a point for each subsequent week that it is late.

Article VIII: Recruitment

Section 1: Chi Chapter will follow all National Selective Rush procedures as outlined in the National Handbook.

Section 2: Potential members must be present at all Recruitment activities, unless proof of a faculty-led activity or documented extenuating circumstance is provided to the Membership Directors in advance.

Section 3: Each potential member must be and remain in good standing with the University of South Carolina-Columbia.

Section 4: Before the last night of Rush, Chi chapter will vote on inviting the potential new members to Invite Night.

Section 5: After the last night of Rush, Chi chapter must vote on the potential new members to whom a bid shall be extended. The number of bids extended shall match the number Little sisters approved to be taken that semester. The potential new members receiving bids will be determined by the highest percentage of positive votes.

Clause 1. If the last spot results in a tie, the chapter must revote only on the potential new members who are tied. The highest percentage shall receive the bid.

Section 6: The votes at rush shall be tallied by the President using the iClicker system and checked by the Secretary at the end of voting. The President and the Membership Directors are the only active members not allowed to vote.

Section 7: During voting sessions, voting by proxy will not be permitted.

Article IX: Pledge Period Requirements

Section 1: Chi Chapter shall be in accordance with National Constitution By-Laws Article VIII regarding the pledging period in addition to local requirements.

Section 2: Local Pledge Requirements

Each pledge must receive no more than 5 points, complete 15 service hours total, complete an hour of service in each of the 6 areas, attend two active chapter meetings, attend 75% of pledge meetings unless a documented extenuating circumstance is provided to the Membership Directors, and interview 85% of active chapter. Each pledge must also attend 2/3 of the following events: Bid Night, Pledge Retreat, Pinning, Retreat Day 1, Retreat Day 2, Activation.

Article X: Officers

Section 1: Chapter Executive Board

The Chapter Executive Board shall consist of the following members: President, Vice-President, two Service Directors, Secretary, Treasurer, two Membership Directors, and Chair Relations Director.

Section 2: Duties of Office and Elections

The duties of each office shall be as specified in the By-Laws of the Constitution.

Section 3: Terms of Office and Elections

Clause 1: Terms for elected offices, with the exception of President, Vice President, and Treasurer, shall be one semester, with elections being held in early April and early November. Officers elected for the fall semester formally take office on June 16th and serve until December 15th, while those elected for the spring semester formally take office on December 16th and serve until June 15th. Membership Directors will serve from the date of election to the date of activation. The term for President, Vice President, and Treasurer will be one year. This election will be held in early April with the other Executive Board positions, and the elected officer will serve from June 16th until June 15th.

Clause 2: If a pledge class is to be taken by the chapter during the semester, the Membership Directors shall be elected in early April for the fall semester or early November for the spring semester. The new Membership Directors serve starting from the date of election to the date of Activation.

Clause 3: Officers shall be elected by a plurality vote and elections shall follow the prescribed procedures listed in the chapter's By-Laws. For the Service Directors, the two individuals with the highest number of votes will be elected. For Membership Directors, the two individuals must run as a team.

Section 4: Stipulations

The active members of this chapter shall elect the officers of this organization. Any student seeking to hold or holding office must remain in good standing with their respective university.

Clause 1: To be eligible for President, a member must have held at least one full term in an Executive Board position.

Clause 2: If an active member runs for a year long position but is planning to study abroad during the second semester of the term then the following conditions must be met:

1. They must inform chapter during their election speech that they intends to study abroad or they will be removed from their position.
2. They cannot run for President or Treasurer.
3. Elections to fill the position in the spring will be held a month before the last chapter.
4. The member filling the position may not run for election if they took a Leave of Absence during the Fall semester.

Section 5: Chapter Alumna Advisor

The President must find a Chapter Alumna Advisor who lives in the Columbia, SC area and offers advice to the chapter.

Section 6: Chair Positions

The chair positions shall be whichever positions are deemed necessary by the Executive Board each semester. Active District Officer, Alumnae Chair, and Day of Wellness Chair(s) are mandatory chair positions. Other chair positions can include, but are not limited to: Fellowship Chair, Encourager, Historian, Dance Marathon Chair, Semi Formal Chair, Service Trip Coordinator, and Relay for Life Chair. All chair positions will be expected to attend meetings set by the Chair Relations Director throughout the semester. Missing these meetings results in one point.

Clause 1: Members shall be appointed to these positions by the President, Chair Relations Director, one or both Service Directors, and two neutral members of active chapter. The neutral members of chapter will be nominated by active chapter and voted on by active chapter.

Clause 2: A chair position term is one semester with the exception of chair positions where a longer term is deemed necessary (i.e. Polar Run chair, Relay for Life, Dance Marathon, Active District Officer, etc.).

Clause 3: In the event that a sister holding a chair position must take an emergency Leave of Absence, the vacant chair position shall be reopened for application. A member shall be appointed to this position as stated in Article X, Section 6, Clause 1 of the Chi chapter constitution. The newly appointed sister shall serve in this position for the remainder of the term.

Clause 4: Mandatory Chair Positions

A. Active District Officers must collaborate with the other district officers to plan one District Summit per year and facilitate communication with the Traveling Leadership Consultant.

B. Alumnae Chair must send at least two newsletters to the alumnae sisters per semester, manage the alumnae Facebook group, update the alumnae database, and plan at least one alumnae event per year.

C. Day of Wellness Chair(s) must plan one day per semester that evaluates the chapter's weaknesses and strengths and seeks to improve the chapter.

Section 7: Executive Board Position Removal from Office

Clause 1: A written request by seven or more active members given to any member of the Standards Board will begin a process of investigation of an Executive Board member. The member who received it must keep the names on the written request confidential. The written request should include the supposed offenses. The request should be discussed in a Standards Board meeting with the questioned officer present in order to share their own perspective. A 2/3 negative vote by the Standards Board will move the issue to active chapter. After the issue is discussed in active chapter, active chapter will vote. If 85% of the active chapter votes to impeach the officer, the officer will be removed from the executive board and their position filled.

Clause 2: A written request by four or more executive board members given to any member of the Standards Board will begin a process of investigation of an Executive Board member. The member who received it must keep the names on the written request confidential. The written request should include the supposed

offenses. The request should be discussed in a Standards Board meeting with the questioned officer present in order to share their own perspective. A 2/3 negative vote by the Standards Board will move the issue to active chapter. After the issue is discussed in active chapter, active chapter will vote. If 85% of the active chapter votes to impeach the officer, the officer will be removed from the Executive Board and their position filled.

Clause 3: Proof of fraud (financial numbers, documentation of sisters records, etc) or violating any of the policies in Article III of the National Constitution can be given to any member of the Standards Board and will begin a process of investigation of an Executive Board member. The member who received it must keep the name(s) on the written request confidential. The written request should include the supposed offenses. The request should be discussed in a Standards Board meeting with the questioned officer present in order to share their own perspective. A 2/3 negative vote by the Standards Board will move the issue to active chapter. After the issue is discussed in active chapter, active chapter will vote. If 85% of the active chapter votes to impeach the officer, the officer will be removed from the executive board and their position filled.

Section 8: Vacancies

If a vacancy in any elected office occurs, a special election will be held to elect the new officer. The procedure for elections is as set forth in the By-Laws of this Constitution. If a vacancy in an appointed office occurs, the Chapter Executive Board is responsible for appointing a replacement.

Article XI: Elections and Appointments

Section 1: Three-fourths of all active members of chapter must be present during the chapter meeting in order to elect officers.

Section 2: Nominations shall be accepted from any member of the chapter until the deadline posted by the President. Self-nominations are accepted and encouraged.

Section 3: All elections shall be by secret means and voting by proxy shall not be permitted. During chapter, the President and Secretary will collect all votes.

Section 4: Nominations of officers shall be voted on in the following order: Membership Directors, President, Vice President, Treasurer, Service Directors, Chair Relations Director, and Secretary.

Section 5: During an election, the President shall ask all nominees for a particular position to leave the room and, then, allow them to present their platform one at a time. Questions to the candidates can be posed by anyone in the chapter. After all candidates have explained their platform, there will be a discussion session before the official vote. After the vote, the candidates can be asked back into the room.

Section 6: Executive Board

Clause 1: Elections for President, Vice President, and Treasurer will be held once per year in the spring semester. The term for these positions is one year beginning on June 16th and ending on June 15th the following year.

Clause 2: Membership Director, Service Directors, Chair Relations Director, and Secretary Elections will be held once per semester. A term for a Membership Director, service director, chair relations director, and secretary is one semester.

Clause 3: If an Executive Board member is unable to complete a full term, another election will occur and the new Executive Board member will fulfill the remainder of the term. If the President cannot fulfill their term, the Vice President will become President and a new Vice President will be elected.

Section 7: Selection of Chair Positions

The President, Chair Relations Director, one or both Service Directors, and two neutral members of chapter will select chair position by a vote.

Clause 1: The candidate with the largest amount of votes will be officially selected to serve the following term. The selected candidate must have at least 50% of the vote.

Article XII: Chapter Standard's Board

Section 1: Standards Board

Standards Board shall consist of all of the Executive Board members and at least eight chapter members. The chapter members must represent each family (Angels, Bunnies, Bears, Butterflies, Turtles) and each pledge class that still has an active member.

Clause 1: Standards Board members must join at the beginning of a semester after being prompted by the Vice President. Standards Board is responsible for reviewing new Constitutional laws before they are presented to chapter.

Clause 2: Standards Board votes to approve extenuating circumstances. A 2/3 vote results in a positive outcome. Each case shall be submitted to Standards Board by the Vice President without the sister's name.

Clause 3: All sisters can participate in Standards Board deliberations but only the Standards Board chosen at the beginning of the semester votes on the final decision.

Clause 4: A sister on Standards Board will receive one point for each Standards Board meeting missed.

Article XIII: Finance

Section 1: Dues

Clause 1: Each active member shall be required to pay national dues set forth by the national organization and local dues set forth by Chi Chapter each semester.

Clause 2: One point per week will be assigned to any sister who does not submit or waive their dues by Treasurer's deadline.

Section 2: Waivers

Clause 1: National dues and local dues may be waived by the organization for sufficient reason. The Executive Board will vote on the submitted waiver petitions each semester.

Clause 2: A waiver is available only to those pledges or sisters for whom payment of dues/fines/fees would present considerable economic hardship as determined by the Chapter Executive Board.

Clause 3: A request for dues/fines/fees waiver must be presented to the Treasurer of Chi chapter two weeks prior to the dues/fines/fee deadline as set forth by the executive board.

Article XIV: Constitutional Ratification and Amendments

Section 1: Ratification

This Constitution shall be reviewed each fall semester in its entirety, and taking into account any changes made to the National Constitutional at Convention. Three-fourths of active chapter must be present during Constitutional ratifications. A three-fourths positive vote is required to change the Constitution.

Section 2: Amendments

Clause 1: Proposals to amend the Constitution and By-Laws of Chi chapter must be submitted in writing to the Vice President. Copies are then made available to all active members of the chapter.

Clause 2: Chapter Standards Board shall discuss the proposals, shall make an overall committee report, and shall present it to the chapter during the next scheduled chapter meeting.

Clause 3: After presentation of the committee report, the chapter has the chance to discuss the proposed amendments.

Article XV: Ratification

The active members of the University of South Carolina-Columbia, after a three-fourths affirmative vote of active members, do hereby agree to follow the guidelines of this Constitution.

By-Laws of Omega Phi Alpha National Service Sorority
Chi Chapter
University of South Carolina-Columbia

Article I: Supplement

The By-Laws of this sorority shall supplement and not conflict with the Chi Chapter Constitution, National Constitution, and National By-Laws.

Article II: Membership

Section 1: Disassociation

A disassociated member has no rights at any level: local, regional, or national.

Clause 1: A member can only be disassociated for the reasons listed in the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha Article IV Section 7. Disassociation processes can be found in Article IV Section 7 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha.

Clause 2: Any member who loses their lifetime privileges may be able to regain such privileges by submitting an appeal to the National President, per Article IV Section 7 Clause 6 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha.

Section 2: Leave of Absence

A member on leave of absence is enrolled in the university, but receives approval to remove the attendance, service, and financial requirements for one semester for a specific reason.

Clause 1: The Chi Chapter **Standards** Board grants one-semester leave of absence status based on the sister's petition to the Chapter Executive Board two weeks after the first meeting of the semester. The sister requesting LOA status must petition why they would like to go LOA status, and, at the Vice President's discretion, may be required to meet with the Chi Chapter Executive Board in person to further explain their petition. A $\frac{3}{4}$ vote is required to grant a member a leave of absence status.

Clause 2: An active sister must request leave of absence status by filling out the LOA form by the date set by the Vice President at the beginning of every semester. If a sister is not granted LOA status, they must go through an appeals process with Chi Chapter Executive Board or Standards Board to further explain their case.

Clause 3: Leave of absence status is automatically granted to an active member whose course of study removes them from the main campus.

Clause 4: Emergency leave of absence status is granted only after a meeting between the active member and the Chi Chapter Executive Board and 2/3 of the Chi Chapter Executive Board votes that they believe the member deserves to be granted an emergency leave of absence status. The member's financial obligations are not relieved by granting an emergency leave of absence status, meaning that dues are not returned and any outstanding financial commitments must be met.

Clause 5: Sisters with leave of absence status are able to attend service projects and social events, but lose the right to vote at any event, participate on Executive Board, take a chair position, or take a little sister.

Clause 6: Until notified by the Vice President that a sister has received Leave of Absence status, they are expected to fulfill active requirements.

Section 3: Early Alumna

Clause 1: An active sister may declare an automatic alumna status for the four reasons stated in Article IV Section 9 of the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha.

Clause 2: An Active sister wanting Early Alumna status must notify the Chapter Standards Board by filling out Early Alumna form and returning it before the date the Vice President sets at the beginning of each semester.

Clause 3: If an active sister wishes to become early alumna for a reason different than the reasons stated in the National Constitution of Omega Phi Alpha, the sister must petition the National Standards Board for alumna status.

Section 4: Alumna Status

An alumna is a member who is no longer active and does not intend to be again.

Section 5: Disassociated Status

A disassociated member has no rights at any level: local, regional, or national.

Clause 1: A member can only be disassociated for the reasons found in the National Constitution in Article IV Section 7.

Section 6: Pledge Status

Clause 1: To become a pledge, one must receive an invitation from the chapter to join.

Clause 2: Potential members will be voted on the last night of Rush. There will be three voting options for each member: yes, no, abstain. The potential new members with the highest percentages will be issued an invitation to join Chi Chapter.

Clause 3: The size of the pledge class will be limited to the amount of Little sisters approved to be taken that semester.

Clause 4: If a pledge quits during the pledge term, the entire pledge process must be redone during another term. This does include the recruitment process.

Clause 5: Pledges have no rights and privileges within the chapter until all requirements are met, and an activation ceremony is complete.

Article III: Active Requirements

Section 1: Taking A Little Sister

Each member may only take one little sister during their time in Omega Phi Alpha.

Clause 1: If an active member's little sister does not complete the pledging process and does not activate; then the member may take a little sister during another pledging period.

Clause 2: An active member may not take a little sister during their first active semester unless approved by Membership Directors.

Clause 3: If a member disassociates from Omega Phi Alpha before taking a little sister, the disassociated member's big sister is eligible to take a little sister in order to continue the lineage.

Clause 4: If a lineage dies, then a member from that family is eligible to take a second little or twins in order to keep the family's number of lineages the same.

Clause 5: In order for an active sister to retain their "little sister" they must attend as much of rush as their class schedule allows and have fewer than seven points the day after pinning. If the sister fails to meet these requirements they will lose their "little sister" privileges. The membership directors will have discretion over who will take little in place of active sister deemed unfit.

Section 2: Point System

There shall be a point system for monitoring service requirements, attendance at mandatory events, and failed commitments.

Clause 1: Points are equal to the amount of hours that you spend at an event.

Point Total Specifications:

Required:		
Meetings	24	(2/meeting)
Pledge Meeting	2	(1/meeting)
Leadership Night	2	
Service Night	2	
Sisterhood Night(s)	4	(2/interviews, 2/voting)
Bid Day	1.5	
Pinning	1.5	
Chapter Wellness	2	
District Summit	5	(only in Spring)
Retreat Day 1	3	3 for reveal
Retreat Day 2	4	2 for cheers, 2 for pass the candle
Activation	1.5	
Fellowship	2	(1/fellowship)
Dues	X	(1/week late)
Fundraisers	2	(1/fundraiser)

Exec Board Meeting	14	(1/meeting)
Standards Board Meetings	4	(1/meeting)
Chair Meetings	14	(1/meeting)

Item 1: Each sister is excused from 1 chapter for the semester

Clause 2: Signing up for a project or event and not attending results in a failed commitment (equivalent to one point) if the person in charge of the event is not notified 24 hours before the event or if a replacement is not found. Examples include service events and sisterhood events.

Clause 3: Points can be erased by spending one hour per point at any service event directly mentioned by the Service Directors or Membership Directors during the chapter meeting. The Vice President can also deem events of benefit to chapter welfare as worthy to make up points. An example would be Homecoming.

- A. A proposal for erasing points must be submitted and approved by the Vice President. Points can only be erased through service or chapter welfare events that occur before the end of the semester in question.

Clause 4: The acceptable amount of points not erased per semester is 7. At 8 points, the first letter of warning is sent (found in OPA Exec Drive). At 11 points, the second letter is sent. At 15 points, the third letter of warning is sent. The active sister has the remaining part of the semester to erase points.

- A. Each point represents a financial obligation to the sorority. At the end of the semester, \$10 is owed to the chapter for each point numbered 8-15, any point over 15 is valued at \$20. In order to stay active, the member must pay the fine in order to lessen their point total to 7.
- B. The member has until the first chapter meeting of the following semester to pay the fine. If they do not pay the fine the Chapter Executive Board shall begin the Automatic Disassociation Procedure (found in OPA Exec Drive or in National Virtual Filing Cabinet).

Clause 5: The only excused absences are class and being sick with an explanatory doctor's note. Excused absences receive 0 points.

- A. If there is an extenuating circumstance, such as a car accident or family emergency, the member can submit a letter to the Chapter Standards Board explaining the circumstances. The Chapter Standards Board will use their discretion to excuse or not excuse the absence by voting.
- B. The event will only be excused if 2/3 of the Chapter Standards Board votes to excuse the absence.

Clause 6: One point is awarded for each of the two fellowships a sister does not attend throughout the duration of the semester.

Clause 7: Points will be awarded for not meeting service requirements.

- A. If a sister completes less than 30 hours of service then they will receive a point per hour under 30. These points will be counted towards the semester in which the hours were not completed.
- B. If a sister does not participate in 4 out of the 6 National service projects then they receive 2 points total for failing to meet the requirement.
- C. If a sister does not complete an hour of service in each of the 6 areas of service then they receive 2 points total for failing to meet the requirement.
- D. If a sister receives points for 2 out of the 3 situations listed above (A-C) then they receive an additional 5 points.
- E. If a sister does not cast 3 positive votes for the National Projects, then they will receive 2 points total for failing to meet the requirement.

Section 3: Interaction With Pledges

All members of Omega Phi Alpha must act as role models for the incoming pledge class.

Clause 1: There shall be no use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs of any kind between an active member of Omega Phi Alpha and a pledge. In addition, there shall be no alcohol present in any situation where actives and pledges are interacting.

Clause 2: If a member (active or pledge) believes that an active has been in violation of Clause 1 then they must write a letter to the Chapter Standards Board explaining the incident and providing any proof of the infraction.

Clause 3: The member in question will be allowed to come in front of the Chapter Standards Board and explain their situation if they choose, but their presence is not required if they do not want to appear before Standards

Clause 4: If Standards Board reviews the information and determines that the member was in violation of Clause 1 then they will be awarded 8 points for their infraction.

Article IV: Pledge Period Requirements

Section 1: Pledgeship Ceremonies

There shall be a pinning ceremony for each pledge class, at which time the pledge shall receive a pledge bracelet, pin, or ribbon. Pledge pins/ribbons are to be worn over the heart on all clothing, excluding that found inappropriate by the Membership Directors, between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM, Monday through Friday. In addition, a pledge shall wear their pin to all chapter functions as deemed appropriate by the Membership Directors, including service projects, fellowships, and meetings. The pin shall not be worn when the pledge is engaging in the consumption of alcoholic beverages.

Section 2: Midsemester Checks

Each pledge must participate in the mid-pledging check conducted by the President and Vice President at Retreat.

Section 3: Service Requirements

The pledge class should plan an official project in all six areas of service. An official project is determined by 75% pledge class participation.

Section 4: Scrapbook

The pledge class shall be required to keep a scrapbook during the pledge period to be presented to the chapter at Activation. The pledge class historian will lead this project.

Section 5: Points System

Clause 1: Points can be acquired for the reasons in the chart below for the specified point values. The entire pledge class must be informed of the fellowship 24 hours in advance. Pledges can receive points for not wearing the pledge pin during the designated hours.

Pledge Point Total Specifications:

Required Events:	Total Points:
Pledge Meetings (2 per meeting)	20
Active Meetings (2 per meeting)	4
Bid Night	1.5
Pledge Retreat	4
Pinning	1.5
Retreat Day 1	3
Retreat Day 2	4
Activation	1.5
Fellowships (2)	2
Total:	41.5

Clause 2: Points can be erased by completing service hours in the company of two or more active or pledge sisters.

Clause 3: Quizzes can be taken up to three times. After failing the quiz for the third time, the potential member will not be able to activate.

Clause 4: Breaking any of pledge requirements outlined in Article IX of the Chi Chapter Constitution will result in the potential member's inability to activate without undergoing the pledge process another time. If there are extenuating circumstances, the issue must be brought before active chapter and the pledge must receive a 90% positive vote to continue in the pledging process.

Section 6: Behavior Clause

Each pledge must adhere to the standards of Omega Phi Alpha throughout the pledging period.

Clause 1: There shall be no use, possession, or distribution of alcohol or illegal drugs of any kind between an active member of Omega Phi Alpha and a pledge. In addition, there shall be no alcohol present in any situation where actives and pledges are interacting with each other.

Clause 2: If a member (pledge or active) believes that a pledge has been in violation of Clause 1 or has failed to uphold the standards of Omega Phi Alpha then they must bring their concerns, and any proof of the violation, to the Membership Directors and to the President. Examples of not upholding the standards of the sorority include dishonesty that impacts the sorority, causing physical or mental distress to another sister, instigating a division among the pledge class, etc.

Clause 3: If the Membership Directors and the President believe the claim to be legitimate then they must schedule a meeting with the pledge in question to discuss the issue. This will be considered a first offense. This meeting shall be well documented in case future reference is needed.

Clause 4: If a pledge receives a first offense but upholds the standards of Omega Phi Alpha from that point forward, the first offense may not be held against them when voting on whether they have completed their requirements to become an active member.

Clause 5: If the issue is not resolved or an additional issue arises with the pledge in question that both the Membership Directors and the President deem legitimate, then the procedure outlined in the National Constitution By Laws Article VIII Section 1 Clause 9 shall be followed.

Clause 6: If a pledge is found in violation of a second offense then this shall be viewed as a failure to complete a local requirement necessary to become an active member.

Article V. Officer Duties

Section 1: The President must be a liaison to the National organization, manage Executive Board meetings, communicate with university programs and the Office of Student Organizations, organize retreats and leadership conferences for members and Executive Board members to attend, lead chapter meetings, manage Blackboard community and membership statuses in Facebook groups (Omega Phi Alpha Chi Chapter and Gamecock OPhiAs), participate consistently in President's council with the National organization, check and record all voting, and complete the MSRF and award forms.

Section 2: The Vice President must monitor the point system, lead Standards Board, monitor behavior during meetings, follow membership status changes, and lead chapter in constitutional ratifications and amendments.

Section 3: The Secretary must organize public relations, such as the website and the Twitter account; record meeting minutes for chapter meetings, executive board meetings, and standards board meetings; write Chevron articles; run the iClicker system during chapter; and check the President's record of votes during Recruitment.

Section 4: The Chair Relations Director must manage all communications in active Facebook groups and manage chair positions.

Section 5: The Treasurer must create a budget; collect money for dues and all chapter orders, present the budget to the chapter once per semester, and send dues to the National organization.

Section 6: The Service Directors must plan six official projects in the six National areas of service, present other unofficial service projects, complete National monthly service reports, and complete the National Service Report Form each semester (SPRF).

Clause 1: Service directors have the right to appoint service representatives based off of need at the beginning of their term. There an application process that will be required for potential service representatives to be considered. The service directors must decide whether to have service representatives upon the opening on chair applications for the next semester. The executive board will ultimately vote on who will be a service representative. Service directors can assign points to service representatives that do not uphold their service chair duties including but not limited to: failed commitments, not

attending service representative meetings, not upholding the provisions in the service representative contract, etc.

Section 7: The Membership Directors must plan Recruitment, Retreat, and all ceremonies; book a retreat house; complete and send National pledging membership forms; maintain traditions; and act as a liaison between the pledge class and active chapter throughout the pledging period.

Section 8: Members of the Executive Board who wish to take Senior Option owe 15 service hours and can miss two chapters, bid acceptance, and both fellowships; however they are still required to attend Retreat and District Summit.

Addendum

During the Spring 2013 semester, the Chi chapter will trial a senior option. Seniors that take advantage of the senior option must be in their last two semesters before graduation, can only take the option once, owe 15 service hours, and can miss two meetings, Retreat, Bid acceptance, both fellowships, and district summit without repercussions. Seniors who wish to take Senior Option but do not meet the requirements may submit a petition to the Chi Chapter Executive Board. The Executive Board will then vote on each case to determine if the sister has valid concerns that merit Senior Option.