BYLAWS OF THE ALABAMA GAMMA CHAPTER
OF
THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION

BYLAW 1 – GENERAL

Section 1. These Bylaws shall govern the proceedings of this Chapter in all matters not expressly provided for in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc.

Section 2. This Chapter shall conform to such rules and regulations of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and its School of Engineering as may apply to honor societies.

Section 3. In the event of conflict between the Constitution and Bylaws of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., and the rules and regulations of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and/or its School of Engineering, the rules of the University of Alabama at Birmingham and/or the School of Engineering shall prevail, and the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association shall be notified of the circumstances of the conflict.

Section 4. Abbreviated references herein to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and to the various Bylaws of this document shall be made in the form illustrated by the following examples:

a. C-VI, 1-National Constitution Article VI, Section 1.
b. B-V, 5.02-National Bylaw V, Section 5.02.
c. AGB-1, 4-Alabama Gamma Chapter Bylaw I, Section 4.

BYLAW II – GOVERNMENT AND OFFICERS

Section 1. The Chapter shall be composed of members chosen from eligible students and alumni on the basis of distinguished scholarship or professional attainment and exemplary character, as enunciated in C-VIII and in The Eligibility Code of the Association.

Section 2. The Chapter shall have full control over its individual affairs, subject to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, which control shall be exercised by the active membership of the Chapter and its Advisory Board. An “active member” of this Chapter shall be as defined in C-VI, 1, and only active undergraduate and graduate-student members, as defined therein, shall have the privilege of voting on new members and on the amounts of the initiation fee, dues, fines, and assessments.

Section 3. The officers of the Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Cataloger, who shall be active members of the Chapter or a member of the faculty; and four alumnus advisors, preferably elected from among the faculty of the School of Engineering.

Section 4. The Advisory Board of the Chapter shall be composed of the President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and four alumnus members of the Association. The Chair of the Advisory Board shall be elected by its members at the first Board meeting of the year.
Section 5. Alumnus members of the Advisory Board shall serve four-year terms, as specified in C-VI, 7. All other officers shall serve for one year or until their successors are duly elected and installed.

Section 6. The duties of the officers shall be those usually performed by persons holding such offices, those prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, and those prescribed in these Bylaws or by Chapter action.

Section 7. The President shall be this Chapter's delegate to the Convention of the Association. The alternate delegate(s) shall be chosen from the active members of the Chapter.

Section 8. The following extra duties shall be required of the officers:

a. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

b. The President shall see that each officer and committee chair is provided with a written list of duties for which each is responsible. A copy of each list shall be placed in the Recording Secretary's notebook and in the President's Book.

c. The Recording Secretary shall see that each candidate accepting election receives copies of The Constitution and Bylaws and Eligibility Code of The Tau Beta Pi Association, Information About Tau Beta Pi, these Bylaws, and such other materials as the Chapter may deem desirable.

d. The Corresponding Secretary shall notify each active member and Advisor of the time, place, and purpose of each Chapter meeting at least one week in advance of the meeting.

e. The Corresponding Secretary shall serve as Secretary of the Advisory Board.

BYLAW III – MEETINGS

Section 1. The following regular meetings shall be scheduled and held once each year: Organization, Election of Officers, and Installation of Officers.

Section 2. Attendance of active members shall be required at all regular, scheduled meetings of the Chapter, unless excused by the President for reasons which he or she judges to be good and sufficient. A member who must miss a regular, scheduled meeting shall submit his or her reasons to the President, in writing, before the meeting, unless the excuse is illness.

Section 3. A quorum for the consideration of routine business shall be a majority of the active membership of the Chapter; for the election of new members, for changing the initiation fee or Chapter dues, for passing an assessment on the members of the Chapter, for amending the Chapter Bylaws, and for approval or disapproval of a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Association; a quorum shall be three-fourths of the active membership; for the election of officers, the quorum shall be two-thirds of the active membership. A quorum for an Advisory Board meeting shall be five members of the Board.

BYLAW IV – COMMITTEES

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of B-V, 5.02, the President shall appoint the chair and members of the following committees: Membership, Initiation, Program, and such other committees as the Chapter shall desire and establish.
Section 2. As early as possible after committee appointments are made, the President shall provide each committee chair with a list of his specific duties and responsibilities.

Section 3. Each committee chair shall make a report on the progress of his or her group's activities at each Chapter meeting.

BYLAW V – ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Section 1. Election of new members shall be held in the Fall and Spring semesters as soon as possible after grades for the previous term become available.

Section 2. All provisions of C-VIII and B-VI shall be strictly followed.

Section 3. Scholastically eligible graduate and undergraduate students in the following curricula shall be considered for membership in the Chapter: Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Materials Engineering. Scholastically eligible graduate students in the following curricula shall be considered for membership in the Chapter: Environmental Health Engineering and Computer Engineering.

Section 4. No student shall be considered more than twice as a junior or more than twice as a senior.

Section 5. Transfer students shall be eligible for consideration at the third regular election after their registration. Such students may be eligible at the second regular election after their registration, provided the consent of five-sevenths of the Advisory Board is obtained.

Section 6. The cases of students whose scholastic eligibility is in doubt because of irregularities in standing or curriculum shall be determined by the Advisory Board of the Chapter.

Section 7. The Chapter may elect to specify scholastic requirements higher than those stated in C-VIII.

Section 8. The Membership Committee shall periodically consult with the chairs of the various engineering departments to determine the names of graduate students, alumni, faculty members, and others who may be eligible for membership under the provisions of C-VIII, 3-6.

Section 9. Exemplary Character Evaluation:

a. Letter shall be sent to scholastically eligible candidates inviting them to a get-acquainted meeting ("smoker").

b. A get-acquainted meeting shall be held at which the Chapter members will meet the candidates. The candidates shall be introduced to the purposes and activities of Tau Beta Pi.

c. The Chapter members shall be asked to make recommendations on the candidates they met during the get-acquainted meeting, at the Chapter's election meeting.

Section 10. Voting Procedures

a. At the Election Meeting, the Eligibility Code shall first be read.

b. The election of senior candidates shall precede the election of junior candidates. Each name shall be presented in order of decreasing class rank for discussion and shall be voted on before the following name is considered.
c. After all names have been considered and voted on, there shall be a second individual ballot, to be taken in the same order, for each student who failed election on the first ballot.

d. No student who fails election on the second ballot shall be considered further unless twenty-five percent of the members present so request.

e. No student who fails election on the third ballot shall be considered again at this election. He or she may be considered again at the next election if he or she is then eligible.

Section 11. The President shall direct the membership committee to have sufficient letters of notification of election prepared in advance of the Election Meeting. These letters should be signed by the President, addressed to the electees, and mailed within six hours of the Election meeting.

Section 12. All members shall keep the election results in absolute confidence so that no candidate shall learn of his or her election except by means of the official letter; likewise, no candidate shall be informed of the details of the vote, especially concerning the personal matters discussed at the time of voting.

Section 13. At the first meeting of electees, the President shall explain the requirements, objectives, and activities of the Association and of the Chapter.

Section 14. Each electee who refuses initiation for financial reasons shall be interviewed by the Advisory Board, as required by C-VIII, 10 (2).

Section 15. Each electee shall be required to take part in an activity recommended or approved by the Chapter officers to foster a spirit of liberal culture. This activity may take the form of a project and/or the writing of an essay, as specified in B-VIII, 7.01. They shall also be required to read the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and these Bylaws.

Section 16. The Chapter may assign additional duties to electees, subject to the provisions of B-VII, 7.02.

BYLAW VI – ELECTION AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Cataloger, and an alumnus member of the Advisory Board shall be elected in the spring semester.

Section 2. Nominations for officers shall be made by two nominating committees appointed by the President. Each committee shall nominate one candidate for each office. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Election of Officers Meeting. Reports of the nominating committees shall be made at a scheduled Chapter meeting, or by mail to the active members, at least one week prior to the Election of Officers Meeting.

Section 3. The Election of Officers Meeting shall be held in the spring semester. Officers-elect shall be installed at the next meeting following elections. The Chapter Officer Installation Procedure given in the President’s Book shall be employed to install the new officers. During the period following the election until the installation, each Officer-elect shall work closely with his or her officer counterpart to learn the duties and responsibilities of the office.

Section 4. The election of officers shall be by secret ballot. Two-thirds of the active membership shall constitute a quorum for the Election of Officers Meeting, and a majority of the quorum shall be required for election. A vote by the members present will cause the nominee receiving
the least number of ballots to be dropped from further consideration until one receives a majority vote.

Section 5. If any office becomes vacant between regular elections, a special election shall be held at the next Chapter meeting to fill the vacancy. The officer elected shall serve until the next regular election.

BYLAW VII – FINANCES

Section 1. The expenses of the Chapter shall be borne by the initiation fee and by such dues and pro-rate assessments as may be voted by the Chapter. A majority vote of the active membership shall be required to change any fees or dues or to levy any assessment. Within one week the Corresponding Secretary shall inform the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of any changes in amounts of the Chapter’s initiation fee, dues or assessments.

Section 2. The initiation fee for all initiates shall be $60.00 payable in advance of initiation, to the Chapter Treasurer. This amount covers the national initiation fee of $27.00, the national Convention assessment of $3.00 and the operating expenses of the local Chapter.

Section 3. The Chapter shall use the official bookkeeping system of the Association.

Section 4. The Chapter’s fiscal year shall be May 1 to April 30.

Section 5. Immediately following the end of the fiscal year, at least one alumnus member of the Advisory Board (but not the Treasurer if he or she is an alumnus member of the Board) shall audit the Chapter’s books. If necessary, the Treasurer and Treasurer-elect shall file the Internal Revenue Service’s Form 990.

Section 6. No part of the net earnings of the Chapter will inure to the benefit of, or be distributed to, members or officers of the Chapter or to any other individual.

BYLAW VIII – RECORDS AND EQUIPMENT

Section 1. All permanent records of the Chapter shall be kept current and up-to-date.

Section 2. The initiation equipment shall be maintained in good order and in a secure manner by the Vice President, and the Ritual and its related materials shall be kept up-to-date and under lock and key when not in use.

Section 3. All records and an inventory of all physical equipment owned by the Chapter shall be turned over to the new officers at the Installation of Officers Meeting.

Section 4. The Charter of this Chapter shall be prominently displayed at a location determined by the Dean of Engineering.

Section 5. All records of this Chapter shall be open for inspection to any member of the Association and to any official of the University who has received approval from the Advisory Board, except that the Ritual may not be inspected by non-members of the Association.
BYLAW IX – SUSPENSION OF THE BYLAWS

Section 1. These Bylaws may be suspended only by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the active membership of the Chapter and by a four-sevenths affirmative vote of the Advisory Board, as provided in C-VI, 5.

BYLAW X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by any three active members of the Chapter. A proposed amendment shall be submitted in writing to the President and signed by the members proposing it.

Section 2. These Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the active membership of the Chapter, subject to the approval of the Advisory Board, as provided in C-VI, 7(b).

Section 3. The Corresponding Secretary shall send a copy of the Bylaws as amended, to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association within two weeks after an amendment is adopted.

BYLAW XI – DISSOLUTION

Section 1. In the event of dissolution of the Chapter, the residual assets shall be distributed to the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., a corporation organized and operated exclusively for educational and scientific purposes and exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Any of such assets not so disposed of shall be distributed to a Federal, State, or Local Government for public purposes.

BYLAW XII – ENACTMENT

Section 1. These Bylaws were adopted by vote of this Chapter and its Advisory Board and become effective on 4-25-80.

They were last amended on 5-06-04.

Signed

(Date)

(Parson)

Signed

(Advisory Board Chair)