CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1. Name  The name of this organization shall be Tau Beta Pi; Cal Sigma Chapter

Section 2. Purpose  The purpose of this organization shall be:

(a) To honor those students and alumni of the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) College of Engineering B.S. programs of Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Chemical Engineering who have distinguished themselves and the College of Engineering by their scholastic achievement and exemplary character.

(b) To encourage a spirit of liberal culture in engineering students.

ARTICLE II

Government

Section 1. Officers  The officers of this chapter shall be a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Cataloger, who shall be active members of Tau Beta Pi, and five alumni advisors. All officers shall be elected as described in the bylaws. The duties of the officers shall be described in the bylaws.

Section 2. Advisory Board

(a) The advisory board shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Corresponding Secretary, and four alumnus members elected by the chapter. Each alumnus member is elected to serve for a period of four years. The terms are staggered so that one new member is elected each spring, to hold office for four years.

(b) The advisory board shall set the chapter dues payable once in a lifetime, and act as an advisory and judiciary committee to determine the advisability of any action taken or proposed by the membership, and the constitutionality of any ruling or all of the student officers, which questions may be referred to it by a vote of the membership or brought before it by a petition of the minority of the membership.

ARTICLE III
Membership

Section 1. Active membership The active membership of this organization shall consist of all duly elected and initiated students who are in regular attendance both in the UCSB College of Engineering and at this chapter’s business meetings.

Section 2. Inactive membership The inactive membership of this organization shall consist of all duly elected and initiated students who are in regular attendance at the UCSB College of Engineering and who have been suspended from the organization. Any inactive member may request to have his membership reactivated by submitting such a request in writing to the Chairman of the Membership Committee via the Tau Beta Pi postbox in the Office of the Dean of the College of Engineering no less than 24 hours prior to a scheduled business meeting. The requesting member shall be present at the meeting. If the request is granted, it is effective immediately.

Section 3. Alumni membership Alumni members shall be those members who were elected and initiated and who subsequently have graduated.

Section 4. Eligibility Engineering students who meet the following qualifications shall be considered for membership:

(a) Scholarship

(i) All Juniors who rank in the upper one eighth of their class and Seniors who rank in the upper one fifth of their class, except that the Advisory Board may recommend a minimum grade point average for candidacy with the approval of the membership.

(ii) A transfer student shall not be eligible until the third election following their enrollment in the College of Engineering at UCSB.

(iii) All candidates for an engineering graduate degree in the eligible Departments who have been in residence for two quarters and who have completed a significant portion of their degree requirements. Proof of the worthiness of a candidate shall include: (1) evidence of the candidate’s scholastic ability, consisting of certification of his standing in the top fifth of his graduate class; (2) a list of the degree(s) held by the candidate, the institution(s) which granted the degree(s), and the year in which the degree was granted; and (3) a statement from the Advisory Board that it believes the candidate to be worth of membership and approve his election.

(iv) Any alumnus of a recognized engineering college who graduated more than then years ago and who has achieved distinction for his eminent attainments in engineering.
(b) Character. The character of the candidate shall be measured against the criteria of the Eligibility Code of Tau Beta Pi.

Section 5. Election of members

(a) There shall be two elections and initiations of new members: one in the Fall and one in the Spring Quarters of each year. Such elections are to be held as soon as practicable after information determining the scholastic eligibility and character of the candidates is available. It shall be the responsibility of the Membership Committee to obtain scholastic information from the Office of the Dean and to poll the membership, the candidates themselves, and their references in writing for adequate information for the membership to determine whether the candidates satisfy the criteria for membership and to deliver a list of eligible students to the President.

(b) Election shall be by secret ballot and shall require a three-fourths majority of the ballots case.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings

Section 1. At least one business meeting and one general meeting of a social, literary, or technical character shall be held each quarter.

Section 2. Special business meetings may be called, as necessary, by the President or the Advisory Board.

Section 3. All active and inactive members shall be informed in writing of the time and place of business meetings not less than seven days in advance. The proposed agenda of the meeting shall be included.

Section 4. Robert’s Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide for the conduct of all meetings.

Section 5. A quorum for the consideration of routine business shall consist of one-half of the active membership. For the election of new members, for passing of any assessment other than the chapter dues and initiation fee on the members or the approval or disapproval of any amendment to the Constitution of Bylaws, three-fourths of the active membership must be present.

Section 6. No member shall be permitted to vote by proxy.
Section 7. Attendance by active members at business meetings is required. Unexcused failure to attend shall be disciplined as specified in the bylaws. Any active member may request to be excused from a particular meeting by submitting such a request in writing to the Chairman of the Membership Committee via the Tau Beta Pi postbox in the Office of the Dean of the College of Engineering not less than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting. The request shall state the reason for the inattendance.

Section 8. The first item of business at all business meetings shall be consideration of requests to be excused from the meeting. The second item of business shall be consideration of requests to have membership reactivated. Requests shall be granted by majority vote of those present. The active membership may or may not grant a request depending upon the reason for the request and upon the member’s past level of participation in the organization. After consideration of requests, the Chairman of the Membership Committee shall determine and announce the quorum status of the meeting.

ARTICLE V

Finances

Section 1. The chapter dues shall be set by the Advisory Board.

Section 2. All members of this chapter may be assessed other fees as required for the proper functioning of the organization provided such assessment are authorized by the Advisory Board and passed by a majority vote of the quorum.

Section 3. Funds are to be entrusted to the Treasurer for safe keeping, subject to a semi-annual audit by the Advisory Board.

ARTICLE VI

Amendments

Section 1. Amendments to this Constitution and Bylaws may be submitted by any active member in good standing at any regularly scheduled business meeting or in writing at any time to the President. Notices of proposed amendments shall be sent to all active members and the Advisory Board prior to the next business meeting when the amendment shall be voted on.

Section 2. An amendment shall be passed by a three-fourths majority vote of the quorum.
BYLAWS

BYLAW I

Election of Duties of Officers

Section 1. Election of Officers

(a) Any active member in good standing shall be eligible for any office.

(b) There shall be an election of officers after the initiation of new members in the Spring Quarter. An office shall be held until the following election.

(c) The Vice President shall become President if that office is vacated for any reason. All other vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Advisory Board, subject to the approval of three-fourths of the quorum at the next business meeting.

(d) Any officer can be recalled by a three-fourths vote of the quorum, provided that the officer shall have an opportunity to respond to any charges of impropriety prior to such a vote.

(e) Designate alumni members of the Advisory Board hold office for four years.

Section 2. Duties of Officers

(a) The duties of the President shall be to act as responsible agent and leader of the organization. He shall have full powers to call meetings and to preside over all meetings. He shall appoint all committees and committee chairmen, subject to the approval of a majority vote of the quorum.

(b) The Vice President shall be the chairman of the Program Committee. He shall act in the capacity of any officer who is not present at a meeting.

(c) It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to keep a record of the minutes of all meetings and to keep a roll and record book of the organization.

(d) The Corresponding Secretary shall keep a list of all current members and their addresses. He shall maintain a file of all
correspondence of this chapter and carry on such correspondence as directed by the President.

(e) The duty of the Cataloger shall be to maintain current record of all members, including full name, home address, college address, and phone number. He shall also maintain a list of past and present officers, including the Advisory Board.

(f) The Treasurer shall collect all fees and pay all bills of Tau Beta Pi. He shall maintain a checking account in the name of the organization and all bills shall be paid by check with the Treasurer signing and the President co-signing. He shall also maintain a petty cash not to exceed ten dollars. At the first and last meetings of each school year he shall present a financial report to the organization.

BYLAW II

Committees

Section 1. The President shall be a ex-officio member of all committees.

Section 2. There shall be standing committees on Membership, Initiation, Program, and Social Activities. Other committees may be appointed as the membership deems necessary.

BYLAW III

Exemplary Character Evaluation

Section 1. Letters shall be sent by the Membership Committee to all scholastically eligible candidates inviting them to complete and return a resume form describing their activities and interests and listing two references. The letters shall contain a copy of the Eligibility code of Tau Beta Pi and a specific deadline date for returning the resumes.

Section 2. After the specified deadline date the Membership Committee shall send letters to the references listed by candidates asking them to complete and return a character reference form for the respective candidate. A copy of the Eligibility Code of Tau Beta Pi and a specific deadline date for returning the references shall be included.

Section 3. In addition, the Membership Committee shall send a letter to each active member of this chapter listing the responding candidates and asking them to pick up,
complete, and return to the Tau Beta Pi postbox a character reference form for each candidate the member knows personally. The letter shall specify a date for the return of the references.

Section 4. After the specified deadline date for the return of character references, the Membership Committee shall review all resumes and references and formulate a recommendation on each candidate.

Section 5. At the election meeting the Membership Committee shall report their findings about each candidate and shall have on hand each candidate’s resume and references for the membership’s reference.

BYLAW IV

Election of Candidates

Section 1. Election Procedure

(a) At the time of election the Eligibility Code shall first be read.
(b) The names of eligible candidates will be submitted to the membership in groups by the membership committee along with the committee’s favorable recommendation for each candidate in the group. The size of the groups shall be determined by the membership committee.
(c) If any active member has a question about any of the candidates in a group, that candidate’s name shall be removed from the group and considered separately.
(d) A vote shall be taken on the remainder of the group.
(e) Each candidate removed from a group and candidates who did not receive a favorable recommendation from the membership committee shall be considered separately after all groups have been voted on. Each name shall be presented for discussion and voted on before the following name is considered.
(f) After all names have been considered and voted on, there shall be a second individual ballot for each candidate who failed election on the first ballot.
(g) No candidate who fails election on the second ballot shall be considered further unless 25% of the members present so request.
(h) No candidate 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 2. Notice of election shall be by letter signed by the President and Corresponding Secretary and posted within 48 hours of the election. This letter shall specify the date, time, and location of the initiation banquet; it shall request written acceptance or rejection of the election; and it shall inform the candidate of his financial
and labor duties to Tau Beta Pi should he accept election. A date shall be specified for the receipt of the acceptances. If the candidate refuses election for financial reasons, he shall so state in his response. Notice of rejection shall be by letter signed by the President and Corresponding Secretary and posted within 48 hours of the election. The letter shall stress that the candidate may be successful in a future election.

Section 3. 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 4. Upon receipt of a successful candidate's written acceptance of election, any officer or the chairman of any committee may call upon the electee for work according to Bylaw IV, Section 1.

Section 5. Each electee who refuses initiation for financial reasons shall be interviewed by the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is authorized to waive the chapter dues.

BYLAW V

Initiation

Section 1. Any initiation duties of newly elected members shall be limited to tasks in the ongoing program of the organization. Such duties shall not consume an inordinate amount of their time. Physical violence, offense to dignity or decency, and public exercises which may embarrass the electee shall not be permitted.

Section 2. As part of the initiation, each electee shall sign the roll book giving their full name and permanent address. Each electee shall also receive a certificate of membership, a copy of the Constitution of Tau Beta Pi, and a current membership name, address, and telephone list.

Section 3. An initiation fee and chapter dues shall be assessed of each new member and must be paid prior to initiation. Such fee may be waived upon recommendation of the Advisory Board and approval of a majority of the quorum. The initiation fee shall consist of the current fee to the National Organization plus a fee for local chapter operations.
BYLAW VI

Discipline

Section 1. If any undergraduate member fails to maintain a high level of scholastic achievement, they may be expelled by recommendation of the Advisory Board and approval of three-fourths vote of the quorum.

Section 2. Any member may be expelled for just cause upon the recommendation of a majority of the Advisory Board and a three-fourths majority vote of the quorum, provided that the member shall have an opportunity to respond to any charges prior to the vote of the membership. Just cause shall not include race, religion, sex, political affiliation, sexual preference, or conviction of a misdemeanor.

Section 3. Any active member who is twice absent without being excused form a business meeting is automatically suspended. The first unexcused absence shall result, within 48 hours, in a letter from the President to the absent member informing him that his absence was noted and of the consequences of a second unexcused absence. Notice of suspension shall be mailed within 48 hours to the suspended member.
Eligibility Code

It is the purpose of this chapter to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon the UCSB College of Engineering by distinguished scholarship and exemplary character as students, or by their attainments as alumni.

Distinguished scholarships, while the primary requisite for admission, must not be considered the sole criterion.

After the scholastic requirements have been fulfilled, the selection shall be based on integrity, breadth of interest both inside and outside of engineering, adaptability, and unselfish activity.

We consider that true integrity is the sine qua non for membership in Tau Beta Pi, that it transcend in importance scholarship, activity, and every other qualification. Without private and public integrity, we believe that no organization is worthy of existence. Under integrity, we include honor and high standards of truth and justice.

Breadth of interest sufficient for eligibility in this organization will enable a person to maintain his position in a community by the exercise of qualities other than engineering abilities.

A true engineer must be able to adapt himself ingeniously to all circumstances and conditions, making them conform to his purpose.

The rating of a person on the degree of unselfish activity he manifests is intended to indicate that Tau Beta Pi believes that no one can become a worthy engineer without the welfare of his associates, his organizations, and his community at heart. It is furthermore expected that he displace his willingness to aid and assist in worthy causes by his actual campus record. However, the fact that a person may not have shown unselfish activity to an appreciable degree throughout his course is no infallible indication that he would not if the opportunity were offered. The most conspicuous illustration of this is that of the student who is self-supporting, for which due allowance must be made and due credit given. It is in this capacity for the unstinted giving of his best, without thought of remuneration, that we believe lies one of the most sensitive tests for determining a candidate’s right to bear the name of Tau Beta Pi.