

# Bylaws of the Michigan Eta Chapter Of The Tau Beta Pi Association

## Bylaw I – 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 Lawrence Technological University and of the College 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 Lawrence Technological University and/or the College of Engineering, the rules of Lawrence Technological University and/or the College of Engineering shall prevail. 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. MEB-1, 4 – Michigan Eta Chapter Bylaw I, Section 4.

## Bylaw II – Government and Officers

**Section 1.** The Chapter shall be composed of members chosen from among eligible students and alumni on the bases 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 defined in C-VII, 1, and by the discretion of the chapter’s officers. 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 fees, dues, fines, and assessments. A student may become inactive only under the provisions of C-VII, 2, or by the discretion of the chapter’s officers.

**Section 3.** The officers of this Chapter shall be at minimum a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and four alumnus advisors. Other positions may be created by the chapter’s officers as needed. These officers shall be active members of the Chapter, except

for the four alumnus advisors. A minimum of one advisor shall be a member of the faculty of the College 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 a member of the faculty of the College of Engineering and elected by its members at the first Board meeting of the Fall Semester.

**Section 5.** Alumnus members of the Advisory Board shall serve four-year terms, as specified in C-VII, 8. 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 other officers shall be alternate delegates, in the order given in MEB-II, 3. In the event that none of the officers can attend the Convention, a delegate shall be selected from the active membership by the Advisory Board.

**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 specific duties for which each is responsible. A copy of each list shall be placed in the Corresponding Secretaries notebook and in the President's Book.
- c. The Corresponding 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 or President 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.
- f. The President and Vice-President shall pay a courtesy call to the Dean of the College of Engineering early in the fall term to discuss ways in which the Chapter may be of service to the College. The substance of such discussions shall be reported to the Chapter at the next meeting.
- g. The President shall cooperate with the Director of Tau Beta Pi District 7 and shall encourage the Chapter members to participate in the District's activities.

## Bylaw III – Meetings

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

**Section 2.** The following regular meetings shall be scheduled and held once in the Fall Semester and once in the Spring semester: Chapter Orientation Meeting, Election of Candidates, Initiation of Electees, and one general meeting of a social, literary, or technical nature.

**Section 3.** Special meetings may be called at any time by the President, any alumnus member of the Advisory Board, or upon written request to the President signed by 20% of the active members.

**Section 4.** Roberts Rules of Order shall be the parliamentary guide of the Chapter in all matters not covered in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association or in these Bylaws.

**Section 5.** The first meeting of each semester shall be held within two weeks of the start of the semester.

**Section 6.** The officers shall present a complete calendar of the regular meetings of the Chapter for the semester to the active members for their approval no later than the first meeting of the semester.

**Section 7.** Notices sent to the active members and alumnus advisors announcing meetings shall clearly state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

**Section 8.** Business meetings, other than the election meeting, shall last no longer than one hour, unless extended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the active members present. The order of business at these meetings shall be as follows:

- a. Roll call.
- b. Minutes of the previous meeting.
- c. Reports of the officers.
- d. Reports of the committees.
- e. Unfinished business.
- f. New business.
- g. Adjournment.

**Sections 9.** Attendance of active members shall be required at all regular, scheduled meetings of the Chapter, unless excused by the President for reasons deemed to be good and sufficient. A member who must miss a regular, scheduled meeting shall inform the President of his reasons for being unable to attend, unless the excuse is illness.

**Section 10.** The President shall call a meeting of the Advisory Board at the beginning of each semester to discuss Chapter activities for that semester. The minutes of each Advisory Board meeting shall be read at the following regular meeting of the Chapter. Additional meetings of the Board may be called by any of its members or upon written request to the Chair of the Board signed by 20% of the active members of the Chapter.

**Section 11.** 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 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.

**Section 12.** An active member will become inactive if he or she misses two consecutive meetings without notice, unless the excuse is illness. An inactive member will be readmitted to active status upon receipt of a written petition and its approval by the Advisory Board) (see B-V, Section 10).

## **Bylaw IV – Committees**

**Section 1.** Subject to provisions of B-V, 5.02, the President shall appoint the chair and members of the following committees: Membership, Initiation, Program, Social Activities, and such other committees as the Chapter shall desire and establish. Appointments shall be made at the beginning of each semester or as needed throughout a semester.

**Section 2.** As early as possible after committee appointments are made, the overseeing officer shall provide each committee chair with a list of specific duties and responsibilities.

**Section 3.** Each committee chair shall make a report on the progress of committee 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 the grades for the previous term become available.

**Section 2.** All provisions of C-VII shall be strictly followed.

**Section 3.** Scholastically eligible undergraduate students enrolled in Architectural Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Robotics Engineering shall be considered for membership in the Chapter. Scholastically eligible graduate students enrolled in MS Biomedical Engineering, MS Civil Engineering, MS Electrical and Computer Engineering, MS Mechanical Engineering, MS Mechatronics Systems Engineering shall be considered for membership in the Chapter.

**Section 4.** Junior students shall be considered to be those who have 60-89 credit hours towards their degree. Senior students shall be considered to be those who have over 90 credit hours towards their degree. No student shall be considered for membership 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. They *may* be considered at the second regular election with a 5/7ths vote of the Advisory Board.

**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-II.

**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-III, 3-6.

**Section 9. Exemplary Character Evaluation.**

- a. A list of scholastically eligible candidates shall be circulated to selected faculty members of Tau Beta Pi. The faculty shall be asked to make recommendations on candidates they know and also to suggest persons who may have been overlooked.
- b. Letters shall be hand delivered by faculty members of Tau Beta Pi to scholastically eligible candidates inviting them to the chapter orientation meeting.
- c. A chapter orientation meeting shall be held at which time the chapter officers will meet the candidates. The candidates shall be introduced to the purpose and activities of Tau Beta Pi. The President shall explain the requirements, objectives, and activities of the Association and of the Chapter.
- d. The active members of the Chapter shall be asked to look up candidates who are not well-known before the date of the election meeting.
- e. An election meeting shall be held at least one week after chapter orientation meeting.
- f. Chapter evaluation interviews must be held following the chapter orientation meeting hosted by active members of the chapter.

**Section 10. Voting Procedures.**

- a. At the Election Meeting, the Eligibility Code shall first be read.
- b. The election of the senior candidates shall precede the election of the junior candidates. Each name shall be presented in alphabetical order for discussion and shall be voted on before the following name is considered.
- c. The election of the members shall be by vocal majority and by a majority of the active membership of the chapter (See MEB-II, 2 and MEB-III, 11).
- d. 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.
- e. No student who fails election on the second ballot shall be considered further unless 25% of the members present so request.
- f. No student who fails election on the third ballot shall be considered again at this election. The student may be considered again at the next election if he or she is then eligible.

- g. Anyone eligible under C-II must be elected by an affirmative vote of at least 3/4 of the active chapter membership eligible to vote thereon, who are present and voting affirmatively or negatively, except as provided for in Constitution Article VIII, Sec. 4(a) (4) and 5(a) (4). In each case the total affirmative vote must be a majority of the active chapter membership eligible to vote thereon. In computing these ratios, any fraction 1/2 or greater shall be counted as a whole number.

**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 delivered within a week of the election meeting. Those electees desiring to accept election shall formally state their acceptance, in writing, in a letter addressed to the President.

**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.** Each electee who refuses initiation for financial reasons shall be interviewed by the Advisory Board, as required by C-III, 7.

**Section 14.** 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-VII, 7.01. They shall be required to read the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and these Bylaws.

**Section 15.** The Chapter may assign additional duties to electees, subject to the provision of B-VII, 7.02.

## **Bylaw VI – Election and Installation of Officers**

**Section 1.** The President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, and an alumnus member of the Advisory Board shall be elected in the spring semester for the upcoming school year.

**Section 2.** Active members are advised to self-nominate themselves prior to the first member meeting of the spring semester. Nominations for officers can also be made by active members of the Chapter at the meeting prior to the Election of Officers Meeting. Additional nominations may be made from the floor at the Election of Officers Meeting.

**Section 3.** The Election of Officers Meeting shall be held at least six weeks prior to the end of the spring semester. Officers-elect shall be formally installed by the last meeting of the spring semester. The Chapter Officer Installation Procedure 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. Transfer of financial records between the past and newly elected Treasurer is contingent upon an audit as required by MI H--VII, 8.

**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 candidate receives a majority vote.

**Section 5.** If the office of President becomes vacant between regular elections, the Vice President shall become President. If any other 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 initiation fee and by such dues and pro-rata 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 (See MEB-II, 2 and MEB-III, 11). Within one week the Corresponding Secretary shall inform the Secretary-Treasurer of the Association of any changes in the amounts of the Chapter's initiation fee, dues, or assessments.

**Section 2.** The initiation fee for all initiates shall be at minimum \$85.00, or adjusted at the first chapter meeting of the fall semester by a majority vote of the active members. The dues must be payable in advance of initiation, to the Chapter Treasurer. This amount covers the national initiation fee, the national Convention assessment, the cost of one initiation banquet, and the operating expenses of the local Chapter.

**Section 3.** Shortly after the Election of Officers Meeting a committee composed of the President, President-elect, Treasurer, and Treasurer-elect shall prepare an operating budget for the new year. The budget shall be submitted to the Chapter for approval by a majority vote at the first regular meeting in the fall semester. The budget shall include a recommended amount for the initiation fee to be charged during the year. Any additional expenses not provided for the adopted budget must be approved by the Chapter except that the Treasurer shall be authorized to advance to the Convention delegate a sum sufficient to cover the expected expenses of attending the annual Convention of the Association.

**Section 4.** The Chapter shall use the official bookkeeping system of the Association (except as provided in B-V, 5.03 € 2).

**Section 5.** There shall be at all times a balance of at least \$50.00 in the Chapter treasury. A sum of no more than \$25.00 may be kept in petty cash by the Treasurer.

**Section 6.** Expenditures in excess of \$5.00 shall be made by check, signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by the President. Expenditures of less than \$5.00 may be made from petty cash by the Treasurer.

**Section 7.** The Chapter's fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

**Section 8.** Immediately following the end of the fiscal year, at least one alumnus member of the Advisory Board (but not the Treasurer if the Treasurer 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 9.** No part of the net earnings of the Chapter will insure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, members or officers of the Chapter or to any other individual.

## **Bylaw VIII – Discipline**

**Section 1.** It is the intent of this disciplinary Bylaw to impress the membership with seriousness of purpose of this Chapter and of the Tau Beta Pi Association, and to enable the officers and dedicated members of this Chapter to accomplish necessary business in a manner not inconvenienced or encumbered by a lack of interest on the part of a few members.

**Section 2.** Discipline shall be in accordance with C-XII.

**Section 3.** The chapters membership status is ran based on a point system. Each initiated member is given active member status at the time of initiation. Active members of the chapter will lose their active status when the required number of points defined by the President for a given semester is not achieved. The points are earned through chapter events, officer or committee positions, or any other activities hosted by the chapter in a given semester. The President is granted freedom to define the critical details of this system to fit the needs of the chapter.

## **Bylaw IX – 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 President, and the Ritual and its related material 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 X – 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 XI – 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 Secretary-Treasurer of the Association within two weeks after an amendment is adopted.

**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 XII – Dissolution**

**Section 1.** In the event of the 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 US Internal Revenue Code of 1954. Any such assets not so disposed of shall be distributed to a Federal, State, or Local Government for public purposes.

### **Bylaw XIII – Enactment**

**Section 1.** These Bylaws were adopted by vote of this Chapter and its Advisory Board and became effective on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

They were last amended on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Signatures



\_\_\_\_\_  
President



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Chair of Advisory Board