

Bylaws of the Nebraska Alpha Chapter Of the Tau Beta Pi Association

*(Approved February 1978, Revised December 1999, April 2004, October 2006,
April 2014)*

Preamble: Sigma Tau Fraternity, founded at the University of Nebraska In 1904, merged into the Tau Beta Pi Association on January 1, 1974. These bylaws are drawn to accomplish the change from the Alpha Chapter of Sigma Tau to the Nebraska Alpha Chapter of the Tau Beta Pi Association.

Article 1

Name, Insignia, and Constitution

SECTION 1. The name of this chapter shall be the Nebraska Alpha Chapter of the Tau Beta Pi Association.

SECTION 2. The insignia for the Chapter shall be as authorized in Article I of the constitution of the Tau Beta Pi Association

SECTION 3. These Bylaws are intended to supplement, be in accordance with, and subordinate to the Constitution and the Bylaws of the Tau Beta Pi Association.

Article 2

Chapter Governance

SECTION 1. The officers of the Chapter shall be elected from the active membership and consist of the President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, New Member Educator, and Publicity Chair. These officers shall be elected by the active members. A minimum of four additional at-large officer positions will be occupied by Alumnus Advisors serving at the request of the College of Engineering or its representatives. One advisor shall serve as Chief Advisor by general agreement of the advisors, with the duties and responsibility as outlined in the Chapter's Bylaws. The duties of the all officers shall be as outlined in the Bylaws of the Association.

SECTION 2. The Advisory Board of the Chapter shall consist of the President, the Vice President, the Recording Secretary, and the Alumnus Advisors. It shall act as an advisory and judiciary committee. Any proposed changes to the Chapter Bylaws must be submitted to the advisors for review and approval by a majority of the sitting advisors, no less than 10 days before being voted upon by the active members. All changes in the Chapter Bylaws must be submitted to, and approved by, the Advisory Board before going into effect.

SECTION 3.

a. The election of the Chapter officers shall be in the following manner. At the last business meeting of the academic year (usually held in the spring semester in late April or early May), the positions of Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, New Member Educator, and the Publicity Chair shall be elected. The election shall be by a majority vote from the active members in attendance. All officers shall serve from May 16 following election until May 15 of the next year.

b. Nominees for the Vice-President position should be willing and able to serve for a total of two years. The Vice-President once elected shall serve a year term and then will be promoted to the position of President for the second year term. If the Vice-President is unable to continue the second year term as President, a new President will be elected from the existing officers. The new President's former office will be filled by an election from active members in the manner prescribed herein for that office.

c. The retiring officers shall turn over all records and chapter property to their respective successors. All records shall be up to date. Each incoming officer shall become familiar with these records and confirm that they are up to date and in order.

d. If necessary and in the best interest of the Chapter, the Advisors reserve the right to relieve an officer of their duties. Officers may be relieved of by a majority vote of the Chapter Advisors with a minimum of four votes required. Any officer vacancies created under this provision shall be filled by an active member selected by the Chapter Advisors. That individual shall serve until the next election of executive officers in accordance with these bylaws.

SECTION 4. The Vice-President during the fall semester shall be the National Convention Delegate and the President during the fall semester shall be the Alternate to represent the Chapter at the Convention of the Association. If neither the Vice-President nor the President is able to attend the National Convention, a delegate will be selected from the active membership with preference being given to the other officers. It is the responsibility of the delegate to represent the Chapter, and to report back to the Chapter any business transacted at the Convention, along with suggestions for improvement in the Chapter activities based on information learned from other Delegates.

SECTION 5. Parliamentary procedure for the Chapter shall be in accordance with the current version of Robert's Rules of Order, Revised.

SECTION 6. A quorum shall consist of one-half of the active membership for consideration of routine business, and shall consist of three-fourths of the active membership for the election of new members, passing any dues assessment, changing these Bylaws, or for the recall of any Officer.

Article 3 *Committees*

SECTION 1. The Chapter shall have standing committees on Membership and Initiation. The President or Chief Advisor shall decide the size of each committee and appoint its membership. Other committees may be established by the Advisory Board.

SECTION 2. The Finance Committee shall consist of the Treasurer, the President, and an Advisor selected by the Advisory Board. It shall review and approve payment for all bills properly incurred. It shall recommend any changes in the initiation fees or assessments needed to assure a financially sound operation in accordance with the policies of the University of Nebraska's Registered Student Organizations (RSO's) with which the Chapter shall comply and maintain an active status.

SECTION 3: The Chapter's fiscal year shall be January 1 to December 31.

Article 4 *Finances*

SECTION 1. The expenses of the Chapter shall be borne by the initiation fees, or by special assessments in accordance with Article 2, Section 6.

SECTION 2. The initiation fee shall be set by the Advisory Board and must be paid before a member can be initiated. This amount shall cover the National initiation fee, which includes the badge, a membership certificate, and a four-year subscription to the BENT magazine; and the costs of the pledge supplies and any initiation banquet. The initiation fee shall apply to all undergraduate, graduate, or alumni members.

SECTION 3. Each candidate shall be informed that inability to pay the initiation fee should not be a determining factor in the decision to join the Association. A reasonable effort should be made by the Chapter to accommodate those special cases where the initiation fee has been determined to be a financial hardship.

Article 5 *Membership*

SECTION 1. The election of undergraduate members shall be held at least once per academic year. Election shall be by secret ballot by a majority vote of the active chapter membership eligible to vote thereon. The Chapter's membership policy shall be in accordance with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Non-Discrimination Policy.

SECTION 2.

a. To be eligible for election as an undergraduate member, the person must be pursuing an engineering curriculum in the College of Engineering, rank in the upper one-eighth of the class if a Junior, or rank in the upper one-fifth of the class if a Senior.

Class determination is made by the Dean of the College and includes acceptance into the professional degree program of the student's degree program. Undergraduate programs which qualify under the College of Engineering are: Agricultural Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Biological Systems Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Construction Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering.

b. The Chapter may elect to membership a graduate student who is in the top one-fifth of his/her class or who has the recommendation of his major adviser, and who has the approval by the Advisory Board of the Chapter. Graduate programs that qualify are those in the College of Engineering that require undergraduate engineering degrees for admission into the graduate program and include: Agricultural & Biological Systems Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Civil Engineering, Construction Engineering, Computer Science & Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Engineering Mechanics, Environmental Engineering, Industrial & Management Systems Engineering, Materials Engineering, Mechanical Engineering & Applied Mechanics, and Telecommunications Engineering.

c. Membership may be granted to Eminent Engineers who are not students. To be eligible for election, the Eminent Engineer must be actively engaged in the engineering profession with at least ten years of experience with a high level of competence; and be of good character, high integrity, and exceptional ability. Proof of worthiness must be presented in writing to the Association, be approved by the Executive Council and be received by the Chapter before final election.

SECTION 3.

The election procedure shall be as follows:

a. The membership committee and chief advisor shall work with the Dean to prepare a list of eligible students in the top eighth of the Junior class and top fifth of the Senior class. Those students who are already members shall then be deleted. All eligible students shall be contacted in writing explaining the purpose of the Tau Beta Pi Association and the Nebraska Alpha Chapter. The contacted students will be requested to remove themselves from consideration if they believe they have received the invitation in error. Eligible students will be asked to accept or reject his or her invitation to be considered for election.

b. To aid in the evaluation of exemplary character, eligible students will be requested to appear for an informal visit with one or more Chapter representatives at a scheduled time and place. Eligible students will also be required to do a public service project and other duties as may be assigned by the general membership in order to be considered for election. No "hazing" of any kind shall be permitted under any circumstances. Additionally a list of scholastically eligible candidates may be circulated to selected faculty members of Tau Beta Pi and asked to make recommendations on candidates they know.

c. From the list of eligible students who wish to be considered for membership and have met the foregoing qualifications, the Chief Advisor and New Member Educator shall collaborate to prepare a slate of candidates for membership based on eligibility, expression of interest, character and service. Upon review and approval of the Chief Advisor or the President, this slate of candidates shall be officially submitted for election to the active members. At the time of the election of new members, the Eligibility Code from the Association shall be distributed to the existing members. The election shall be conducted by confidential electronic ballot given or sent to the Chief Advisor or President. The ballot shall solicit explicit, detailed reasons for any rejection votes. If rejections are recorded for a candidate, the President and Chief Advisor shall discuss the reasons for rejection to determine whether election or rejection of the candidate is appropriate.

d. Those elected to membership will be invited to attend the Chapter's formal initiation ceremony and be given the Constitution, Bylaws of the Tau Beta Pi Association and the Bylaws of the Chapter to review. Each initiate shall sign his/her name in the Roll Book of the Chapter as part of the initiation ceremony. Each sheet of the Roll Book shall have as a caption the pledge to support the Constitution and Bylaws and the ideals of the Tau Beta Pi Association.

e. Reports of eligible candidates, elected members, and initiated members shall be made to the Association as required in the Association Bylaws.

SECTION 4. Active membership in the chapter shall be determined by the President or Chief Advisor based on attendance and participation during the academic year. As a general guideline, spending at least 8-10 hours per academic year in meetings or activities will be considered active status. However determination can be made on a case-by-case basis. An active member who withdraws from college or because of illness or accident, is not able to participate shall be come inactive. Such members shall be readmitted to active status upon return to active college enrollment or by personal appeal to the Advisory Board.

Article 6

Adoption, Amendment, and Interpretation

SECTION 1. An affirmative vote by two-thirds of the quorum as set in Article 2, Section 6, shall be necessary to adopt or amend these Bylaws. Before being voted on, these Bylaws or any amendment thereto, must be available for review at least one week prior to being voted on.

SECTION 2. The President or Chief Advisor shall interpret these Bylaws. Any interpretation is subject to appeal by the Chapter to the Advisory Board.

Article 7

Awards and Scholarships

SECTION 1. O.J. Ferguson Outstanding Senior Award. In the spring of each year the Chapter will sponsor the awarding of the O.J. Ferguson Award to the Overall Outstanding Senior in the College of Engineering. The slate of candidates will be obtained from the College of Engineering based on the recipients of each department's outstanding senior award for that year. The officers will discuss the candidates and a confidential vote will be taken by the President or Chief Advisor. The criteria for and the nature of the award are as established by the agreement with the former Dean O.J. Ferguson and the College of Engineering.

SECTION 2: Additional Awards and Scholarships can be discussed and determined by the Advisory committee in cooperation with the College of Engineering. This discussion may include the information and minutes from the ad-hoc committee that originated in the spring of 2012 consisting of representatives of the Advisory Board, the College of Engineering, and the University of Nebraska Foundation. This committee reviewed the awards and scholarships associated to Tau Beta Pi at that time. The criteria for and the nature of the awards was agreed on by this committee and resulted in the O.J. Ferguson Award to the Overall Outstanding Senior as outlined in Section 1. Other additional awards were discussed but not finalized with the understanding that the Chapter retains the right to revisit the matter. The minutes and actions of that ad-hoc committee can be found either with the current Chief Advisor or in the Chapter's documents.