

Bylaws of the South Dakota Alpha Chapter of The Tau Beta Pi Association

Bylaw I – General

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

Section 2. The South Dakota Alpha Chapter shall conform to such rules and regulations of the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology as may apply to honor societies.

Section 3. 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 I
- b. B-V, 5.02 - National Bylaw V, Section 5.02
- c. SDAB-1,3 – South Dakota Alpha Chapter Bylaw I, Section 3

Bylaw II – Government and Officers

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

Section 2. The South Dakota Alpha Chapter shall have full control of 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. The 'active membership' of the South Dakota Alpha chapter shall be as defined in C-VI, 1. Members will be declared 'inactive' if they miss two consecutive regular meetings ('regular meetings are defined in SDAB-III, 1&2). 'Inactive' members remain members of Tau Beta Pi and will be returned to 'active' member status when they attend a regular meeting. Only 'active' members are counted for 'quorum' considerations.

Section 3. The officers of the South Dakota Alpha Chapter shall be a President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be active members of the Chapter and full-time students, and four alumnus advisors, preferably elected from among the engineering faculty. The office of Recording Secretary is optional. The duties of this office when not filled, fall to the Corresponding Secretary. All resulting ties will be decided by the Chief Advisor.

Section 4. The duties of the officers shall be those usually performed by persons holding such offices, those prescribed in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association, and those prescribed in these Bylaws or by Chapter action.

Section 5. 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 SDAB-II,3.

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. The following regular meetings shall be scheduled and held once in the fall and once in the spring semesters: Preliminary Consideration of Candidates, 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 or upon a written request to the President signed by 20% of the active membership of the Chapter.

Section 4. The first meeting of each semester shall be held within two weeks of the start of the semester.

Section 5. Notices sent to the active membership announcing meetings shall clearly state the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.

Section 6. Business meetings, other than the Election Meeting, shall last no longer than two hours, unless extended by an affirmative vote of three-fourths of the members present. The order of business at these meetings shall be as follows:

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

Section 7. A quorum for the consideration of routine business shall be a majority of the active members of the Chapter. A quorum 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 approving or disapproving a proposed amendment to the Constitution of the Association, shall be three-fourths of the active members of the Chapter. A quorum for the election of officers shall be two-thirds of the active members of the Chapter.

Bylaw IV – Committees

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of B-V,5.02, the President may form the following committees and appoint the chairman and members: Membership, Initiation, Program, Social Activities, Point, and such other committees as the Chapter shall desire and establish.

Section 2. When forming a Point Committee, it must be comprised of at least three individuals, including a unique Committee Chair and Committee Secretary.

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 are available.

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

Section 3. Scholastically eligible students in undergraduate Computer Science and scholastically eligible students (undergraduate and graduate) in the following Engineering curricula shall be considered from membership in the South Dakota Alpha Chapter: Biomedical, Chemical, Civil, Computer, Electrical, Geological, Industrial, Mechanical, Metallurgical, and Mining.

Section 4. Transfer students shall be eligible for consideration at the second regular election after their registration.

Section 5. The Membership Committee shall periodically consult with the chairman 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,3-7.

Section 6. New members of the Chapter shall be elected from among the scholastically eligible candidates on the basis of character, as enunciated in The Eligibility Code of the Association. The selection procedure is as follows:

- a. Letters shall be sent to scholastically eligible candidates inviting them to a get-acquainted meeting.
- b. A get-acquainted meeting shall be held at which 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 have the opportunity to make recommendations on the candidates they have met during the get-acquainted meeting at the Chapter's Election meeting.
- d. At the Election Meeting, The Eligibility Code of the Association shall first be read.
- e. The names of eligible candidates will be submitted to the Chapter membership in two groups. One group shall be comprised of those candidates showing interest in the Association, and the other group, those showing no interest.
- f. 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
- g. A Chapter vote shall be taken on the remainder of the group.
- h. Each candidate removed from a group and candidates who did not receive a favorable recommendation from an active member shall be considered separately after the groups have been voted on. Each name shall be presented for discussion and voted on before the following name is considered.
- i. No candidate who fails election 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 7. All members shall keep the election results in absolute confidence so that no candidate shall learn of his 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 the voting.

Section 8. At the first meeting of the electees, the President shall explain the requirements, objectives, and activities of the Association and of the Chapter. Electees desiring to accept election shall formally state their acceptance to the President.

Section 9. 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. As a substitution, members may also perform an hour of community service approved by the officers or an interview conducted by the officers and/or South Dakota Alpha chapter members. Electees shall also be required to read the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association and the South Dakota Alpha Chapter Bylaws

Section 10. The Chapter may assign additional duties to electees, subject to the provisions of B-VII,7.02.

Section 11. Tau Beta Pi does not discriminate in membership selection, officer election or other appointments, or practices of organizational activities on the basis of race, color,

national origin, military status, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, political preference or disability.

Section 12. Membership in Tau Beta Pi shall not be restricted due to race, sex, religion, color, national or ethnic origin, age, disability, military service or sexual orientation, in compliance with Federal law, including the provisions of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Section 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Bylaw VI – Election and Installation of Officers

Section 1. The President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected at a meeting following the spring initiation.

Section 2. Two-thirds of the active members of the Chapter shall constitute a quorum for the Election of Officers, and a majority of this quorum shall be required for election (SDAB-III,7). If no nominee receives a majority on the first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken between the two leading candidates.

Section 3. If any office becomes vacant between regular elections, a special election shall be held at the next meeting to fill the vacancy. The officer elected shall serve until the next regular election.

Section 4. The Chapter Officer Installation Procedure given in the President's Book shall be employed to install the new officers.

Bylaw VII – Point System

Section 1. In the absence of a formal Point Committee, the President will perform the duties of the Committee Chair, the Recording Secretary will perform the duties of the Committee's Secretary, and the entire officer group will comprise the Point Committee.

Section 2. Wearing Tau Beta Pi graduation regalia is an honor; as such, it must be earned by meeting a minimum point requirement. In addition, members who are not initiated the semester of their graduation, must vote on electees. In the event of special circumstances, a majority vote by the Point Committee may waive any or all of the requirements to wear graduation regalia.

Section 3. The minimum point requirement will be set by majority vote of the Point Committee during the first two weeks of the semester in question. This point requirement must be lower than the current total earnable points for the semester and must be communicated to all chapter members within one week of the meeting at which it was set along with all currently known ways in which to receive points that semester. This point requirement may not be raised throughout the course of the semester; however, it may be lowered by majority vote of the Point Committee.

Section 4. Member points will be reset at the end of every semester.

Section 5. Each member who attends a chapter meeting, performs an hour of approved community service, or performs an hour of chapter related work, all of which are defined by a majority vote of the Point Committee, will receive one point. All events which do not fall into one of these three categories will be assigned similar point values by majority vote of the Point Committee.

Section 6. Any points outside of the predefined points which are given to a member of the Point Committee must be approved by majority vote of the officer team.

Section 7. Initiates will receive one point for attending the information session, one point for meeting the initiation requirements, and two points for initiation.

Section 8. The Committee Secretary will keep track of each members' points. Points must be given if they were earned and any member may request their point total at any time by contacting the Committee Secretary. They will then have five school days to respond to the request.

Section 9. Members may contest the accuracy of their personal point accumulation by submitting a written explanation of what they believe to be the problem and how they think it should be fixed to the Committee Chair. They must then schedule a meeting of the Point Committee to discuss the matter and the outcome will be decided by majority vote of the Point Committee. This meeting must occur within five school days of the Committee Chair's receipt of the complaint.

Section 10. The current highest point value held by a member at the time in question must be available anonymously upon requesting this information from the Committee.

Section 11. If more members than available financed seats want to attend District or National Convention, the member or members with the most points will have priority.

Section 12. Officers are exempt from the point system due to the difficulty in assigning points to officer duties. In addition, since conventions are an important source of officer training, current and incoming officer's convention expenses will be covered before those of chapter members who wish to attend unless otherwise specified by a donor.

Section 13. This bylaw will take effect on July 1, 2016.

Bylaw VIII – Finances

Section 1. The expenses of the Chapter shall be borne by the initiation fee and by such dues and pro rata assessments approved by the Chapter (SDAB-III,7).

Section 2. The initiation fee shall be set during the first Chapter meeting in the fall semester of each year. The initiation fee shall include the national initiation fee, the national Convention assessment, and the cost of one initiation banquet. It shall be paid in advance of the initiation.

Section 3. The Chapter's fiscal year shall be May 1 to April 30

Section 4. Immediately following the end of the Chapter's fiscal year, the Treasurer, with the aid of the Treasurer-elect, shall file the required information with the District Director of Internal Revenue.

Bylaw IX – Discipline

Section 1. It is the intent of this disciplinary Bylaw to impress upon the membership the 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 its necessary business in a manner not inconvenienced or encumbered by a possible lack of interest upon the part of a few members.

Section 2. Discipline shall be in accordance with C-IX,4&5.

Bylaw X – Records and Equipment

Section 1. All permanent records of the Chapter shall be kept accurate 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 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 framed under glass and prominently displayed at a location determined by the university's Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Bylaw XI – Suspension of the Bylaws

Section 1. These Bylaws may be suspended only by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the active members of the Chapter.

Bylaw XII – Amendments

Section 1. These Bylaws may be amended by a three-fourths affirmative vote of the active members of the Chapter.

Section 2. 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 XIII – Conforming with University Policies

Section 1. Tau Beta Pi, including all members, officers and advisors, agrees to abide by all SDSM&T regulations, policies and procedures of an academic, non-academic, legal or financial nature.

Section 2. Tau Beta Pi does not participate in or encourage any unlawful activity.

Section 3. Tau Beta Pi, including all members, does not allow hazing in any form. Hazing is defined as an act which endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student, or which destroys or removes public or private property, for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with or as a condition for continued membership in, a group or organization.

Bylaw XIV – Enactment

Section 1. These Bylaws were adopted by a vote of this Chapter and became effective on March 18, 1979, were revised on January 30, 1996, September 28, 1999, January 22, 2004 and September 29, 2020. They were last revised and approved by the active members of the South Dakota Alpha Chapter on September 29, 2020.

Signed Morgan Wetz
(President)

10/8/2020
(date)

Signed Cassandra Birrenkott
(Chief Advisor)

10/12/2020
(date)