

# Alpha Kappa Delta Alpha Chapter of Mississippi Constitution/Bylaws

## Article I: Name

Alpha Kappa Delta at Mississippi State University, Alpha Chapter of Mississippi, hereafter referred to as this Chapter.

## Article II: Purpose

The purpose of this Chapter shall be to promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

Alpha Kappa Delta is an International Sociology Honor Society. This chapter will be a part of the United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta: International Sociology Honor Society.

## Article III: Membership

### Section 1. Eligibility

This Chapter is open to Mississippi State University undergraduates who meet the following criteria:

- a. Shall be an officially declared sociology or criminology major within the Department of Sociology at Mississippi State University or demonstrate a serious interest in sociology (e.g., students pursuing a minor in sociology or pursuing a sociology concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies degree).
- b. Shall be at least a Junior (third year) by standards of Mississippi State University.
- c. Shall rank in the top 35% of their graduating class at the university level. If class rank is not readily available, in lieu of class rank, students shall have accumulated the equivalent of an overall grade point average of 3.3 based on a four point scale.
- d. Shall have completed at least four regular courses in sociology or criminology at Mississippi State University prior to initiation.

This Chapter is open to Mississippi State University graduate students who meet the following criteria:

- a. Shall have completed at least one half year of graduate study in sociology.
- b. Shall have a graduate GPA of 3.0.
- c. Shall demonstrate continued matriculation in a program of study leading toward a graduate degree in sociology at Mississippi State University.

This Chapter is open to Mississippi State University staff or faculty members that meet the following criteria:

- a. Formal conferral of the Ph.D. in sociology or employment as a sociologist.

### **Section 2. Nondiscrimination**

This Chapter will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, marital status, disability or status as a U.S. Veteran. This Chapter is not permitted to impose any other than purely academic performance criterion for selection of new members. All who meet stated academic criterion and exhibit high personal and professional standards are cordially and enthusiastically invited to join this academic honor society.

### **Section 3. Life Members**

Life Members shall be those persons who have been initiated into membership by this Chapter or another chapter of the International AKD Honor Society and have paid the initiation fee for membership (see Article VII).

### **Section 4. Voting Members**

Voting Members in the International AKD Honor Society shall be members who have been initiated into a chapter of AKD and have paid their dues for the year in question.

### **Section 5. Transfer of Membership**

Members of AKD initiated through another chapter prior to arriving to Mississippi State University may request to transfer their membership to this Chapter at no cost. This transfer must be approved by the Chapter Representative.

### **Section 6. Resignation**

A member desiring to resign from the Chapter shall submit such a resignation in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Honor Society and the AKD-MSU Secretary. A member may do so at any time.

### **Section 7. Hazing Policy**

This Chapter does not subscribe to and will not tolerate its membership practicing any

physically, psychologically, or emotionally abusive hazing related behaviors-either intentionally or unintentionally.

## **Article IV: Officers, Duties, and Requirements**

### **Section 1. Governing Body**

The governing body of this Chapter will consist of five members: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Undergraduate Liaison.

The President's responsibilities will consist of the oversight of the general operations of the organization, scheduling, calling, and presiding over meetings of the governing body and the general membership, and the determination of agendas.

The Vice-President's responsibilities include, but are not limited to, event coordination and membership recruitment.

The Treasurer's responsibilities include coordinating the yearly budget, collection of monies, maintaining financial records, generating and presenting financial reports, and working with the Faculty Advisor to ensure payment of expenditures.

The Secretary's responsibilities include keeping and distributing minutes and informing members of meetings and other events or activities.

The Undergraduate Liaison will serve as the representative for undergraduate members.

In addition, the Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Undergraduate Liaison will be responsible for reviewing decisions made by the President and will aid the President in the planning and implementation of all operations and activities of the Chapter.

The President and other officers must have a desire to serve in their respective positions and must be dedicated to promoting the Constitution, Bylaws, purposes, and goals of this organization and be initiated members. Each elected official must exhibit leadership qualities necessary to effectively and efficiently serve in their respected positions.

Governing body positions will have a one-year term that run according to the academic year. Officers must be Mississippi State University students who are in good academic standing. Any active member of the Chapter may serve as President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary; however, only undergraduate members may serve as the Undergraduate Liaison.

### **Section 2. Faculty Advisor**

The Faculty Advisor must be a full-time faculty member of the Mississippi State University Department of Sociology, must hold a Ph.D. in sociology, and must be an active voting member of AKD in order to serve in this capacity.

The primary Faculty Advisor's responsibilities will consist of, and include, approving monetary expenditures over \$100 with the officers, overseeing all of the Chapter's operations, aiding in communication with the University, and maintaining liaison between this Chapter and the AKD Council through the Regional Representative.

Faculty selected to serve as advisor to this Chapter will serve a two-year term that runs according to the calendar year (January to December). During the first year of this term, the faculty member selected for the position will serve as secondary advisor. During the second year of this term, the faculty member will become the primary Faculty Advisor and must acquire active voting membership in AKD. Both the primary and secondary faculty advisors agree to promote the Constitution, Bylaws, purposes, and goals of this Chapter. Any reference to the Faculty Adviser in this document refers to the primary Faculty Adviser.

### **Section 3. Chapter Representatives**

In addition to the governing body of this Chapter, there will be two elected representatives: the Graduate Student Association representative and the Student-Faculty representative.

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) representative will represent AKD at all GSA functions and will provide reports back to the chapter regarding GSA activities of interest to the chapter.

The Student-Faculty Representative will represent AKD at all meetings of the Department of Sociology faculty and will provide reports back to the chapter regarding departmental activities of interest to the chapter.

### **Section 4. Standing Committees**

There will be three standing committees for the chapter. Ideally, committees will consist of volunteer chapter members. In the event no member volunteers to be a committee member, the president may appoint chapter members to the committees if he/she feels that the committee is needed during their term of office. Committee chairs will be elected by the committee members at the first committee meeting.

**Social Events Committee-** The social events committee plans social events such as the welcome back party in the fall, bowling outings, movie nights, and other events for members to network, socialize and have fun in a relaxed environment. The social events committee also coordinates the annual Membership Recognition and Awards banquet that takes place in the spring semester, as well as any other formal events throughout the year.

**Service Committee-** The purpose of the Service Committee is to engage chapter members in community service, university service, professional service, and philanthropy. The committee will actively seek opportunities for chapter members to engage in service and will organize these activities when they occur.

Fundraising Committee- The Fundraising committee serves to assist in any efforts involving media coverage of chapter activities, public relations, and all chapter fundraising efforts.

## **Article V: Meetings**

### **Section 1. Executive Committee Meetings**

The Executive Committee shall meet as needed to conduct business necessary for the operation of AKD. The President (in collaboration with the Faculty Advisor) is responsible for setting the date, time, and location of meetings, after considering the needs of committee members. The primary purpose of these meetings is to set the agenda for the formal meeting and discuss any issues around that agenda prior to the meeting. A simple quorum of the Executive Committee shall exist when half the members attend in person. No action of the Executive Committee will be valid unless approved by a majority of the quorum.

### **Section 2. Formal Meetings**

Formal meetings of this Chapter will be held once per month. The President (in consultation with the Faculty Advisor) are the only individuals authorized to call a meeting unless otherwise specified due to extenuating circumstances. Should such extenuating circumstances arise, the Vice-President may be appointed (by the Faculty Advisor in consultation with an officer as necessary) to call and hold a formal meeting. A quorum is not required at any meeting; any reference to a majority vote in this document is thus the majority of members present at the meeting.

The Faculty Advisor or the President will call meetings to order, and the Secretary will keep track of the meeting time. Meetings will be held following Robert's Rules of Order and open communication will be encouraged as a part of the process. Meeting minutes will be written, distributed to the President and Faculty Advisor for approval, then distributed to all officers and members. The meeting presider (Advisor, President or designate) will regulate proceedings to ensure that the meetings run smoothly. The President and Faculty Advisor are authorized to adjourn any meeting when they deem it to be necessary.

### **Section 2. Events**

There will be at least one Chapter event held per academic year (although there may be an unlimited number of fundraisers). Ideally, at least one fundraiser and one community service event will be held during each semester. Funds acquired for or during these events will be used at the officers' discretion (with approval of the Faculty Advisor).

Each spring semester, this Chapter will co-host an annual honors and scholarship banquet to recognize scholarship within the department and note new AKD initiates. Dates are determined by the officers in consultation with the Faculty Advisor and the Department

Head. The banquet is typically held in mid-April and should not conflict with regional or national professional meetings.

## **Article VI: Elections and Officer Replacement/Removal**

Officers of this Chapter must meet the following requirements:

- a. Officers must meet the minimum GPA requirements for membership in the semester immediately prior to the election/appointment, the semester of election/appointment, and semesters during the term of office. In order for this provision to be met, at least six hours (half-time credits) must have been taken for the semester under consideration.
- b. Be in good standing with the university and enrolled at least half time (six or more credit hours) unless (1) if an undergraduate student, fewer than six hours are required to graduate during either the fall or spring semester during the term of office (2) if a graduate level student, fewer credits are required in the final stages of their degree as defined by the Continuous Registration Requirement during their term of office.

Officers will be ineligible to hold an office should the student fail to maintain the requirements as prescribed in (a) and (b). The faculty advisor will work with the departmental administrative assistants to insure that all officers of this Chapter are in good academic standing during their term of office.

New officers will be elected in the last meeting of the spring semester before classes adjourn for the summer. At an election meeting, the floor will be made open for the nominations for all officer positions, beginning with the office of president. The nominations will be recorded and the nominees will be asked to accept or decline their nominations. Elections (if needed for two or more candidates in one position) will then be held for each office position utilizing a simple majority vote system. Current officers may choose to remain in office if no other members are nominated for the vacancy.

All positions (except that Faculty Advisor position) will be limited to a one-year term. Following elections, out-going officers will work with in-coming officers to ensure a smooth transition.

Officers will be removed by the Faculty Advisor when an office holder fails to maintain academic good standing and/or fails to uphold and follow the Constitution and Bylaws of this Chapter. In the event that an officer is removed, an emergency meeting will be called, where nominations and elections will be held to fill the vacancy. If the President has been removed, the Vice President will assume the presidential duties, and elections will be held for Vice President.

## **Article VII: Finances**

This Chapter will assess a one-time initiation fee of \$45.00 (forty-five dollars). This amount shall entitle the initiate to a certificate of membership and a one-year subscription to Sociological Inquiry, thus making the initiate a Voting Member of the International Honor Society for the first year. Part of the initiation fees collected will be used to fund events and activities throughout the year. The fee amount will change if the fees charged by United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta are changed.

This Chapter will also assess annual dues for returning and transfer members. These dues will be \$20 for undergraduate and graduate members and \$40 for nonstudents. Donations are encouraged and accepted as well.

All monies belonging to this Chapter shall be deposited and disbursed through a bank account established for this Chapter at the Campus Organizations Accounting Office and/or approved institution/office (must receive authorization via Campus Organizations Accounting Office). All funds must be deposited within five business days after collection. The Faculty Advisor to this organization must approve and sign each expenditure over \$100 before payment can be made.

## **Article VIII: Advisor**

### **Duties:**

- a. Maintain communication and meet with officer(s) regularly.
- b. Awareness and approval of financial expenditures.
- c. Ensure that the organization is operating in conformity with the standards set forth by Mississippi State University and Student Activities Board.

### **Dates of Election/Appointment and Method:**

The term for the Faculty Advisor will be two full years (January to December), with the first year being limited to secondary advisor duties.

The Faculty Advisor will be selected by the officers and then voted on by the general membership. A majority vote is needed for a Faculty Advisor to be selected. Faculty members nominated for the role of Faculty Advisor may decline their nomination to the appointment. If this is the case, the process will be repeated until the position is filled.

The Faculty Advisor is a non-voting member of this Chapter. Processes for removal of a Faculty Advisor will be the exclusive prerogative of officers of the Chapter. After the officers have convened, a majority vote will be taken to determine whether or not the Faculty Advisor will be removed. A decision for removal will be based on the Faculty Advisor's lack of interest in continuing to serve in his or her position and/or failure to

uphold and promote the Constitution, Bylaws, goals, and ideals of the honor society. If the majority of the officers vote for removal of the faculty advisor, then the officers will bring their recommendation to the Department Head of the Department of Sociology. If the Department Head agrees with the recommendation of the officers, the Faculty Advisor will be asked to resign. Upon removal of a Faculty Advisor the officers will consult with and recommend another faculty advisor to the membership.

### **Article IX: Amendments/Revisions**

Any member of the organization may bring forth a proposal for Amendments and /or Revisions to the Constitution and Bylaws. Such proposals will be discussed and voted on at the next full formal meeting of this Chapter. Revisions to submitted proposals will be welcome, and shall preferably be discussed with the original proposer/s. A 2/3 majority vote of all members present is required to pass Amendments and Revisions. If the Faculty Advisor approves, then the changes will be made to the constitution.

### **Article X: Enabling Clause**

This Chapter agrees to abide by the policies of Mississippi State University, in addition to all federal, state, and local laws. Signed and dated:

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Ethan Stokes  
President, Alpha of Mississippi Chapter, Alpha Kappa Delta

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Dr. David C. May  
Faculty Advisor, Alpha of Mississippi Chapter, Alpha Kappa Delta