

# Epsilon Tau Pi

## General Regulations

### Article I Name

The official name of this fraternity is Epsilon Tau Pi Brotherhood of Eagle Scouts. The fraternity may also be referred to as Epsilon Tau Pi, ETPi, or ETP.

### Article II Purpose

Epsilon Tau Pi was formed for five different purposes.

- 1.) The first purpose of Epsilon Tau Pi is to create a brotherhood of Eagle Scouts.
- 2.) The second purpose of Epsilon Tau Pi is to serve Scouting and the community.
- 3.) The third purpose of Epsilon Tau Pi is to uphold the principles of Scouting.
- 4.) The fourth purpose of Epsilon Tau Pi is to promote the achievement of the rank of Eagle Scout.
- 5.) The fifth purpose of Epsilon Tau Pi is to provide an example to all students of loyalty to the Alma Mater.

### Article III Membership

#### Section 1: Membership Requirements for Brothers

**A.) Membership Requirements:** Membership in Epsilon Tau Pi shall be open to all university students who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), *or have attained the highest award possible in their respective country's scouting organization*, and are currently in good standing with the college / university at which they are enrolled, and are at least 18 years of age.

**B.) Membership Approval:** Membership shall be granted upon approval of the Designated Chapter and after fulfilling further membership requirements as a candidate of the fraternity.

#### Section 2: Candidate Membership

**A.) Definition of Candidate Membership:** Candidate membership shall be conferred upon enrolled students at the designated university/college, or at a nearby, separate institution at which there is no current active chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi, who wish to join the fraternity. Students must be chosen by the chapter to enter a period of candidacy and instruction in the philosophies, purposes, and practices of Epsilon Tau Pi.

### **Section 3: Active Membership**

**A.) Definition of Active Membership:** Active membership shall be granted to the enrolled students of an institution of higher learning, who are in fellowship with the principles of Epsilon Tau Pi; who to the satisfaction of the Designated Chapter are so initiated according to the official Ritual of the fraternity. Active membership carries all rights and responsibilities within the chapter. Graduate students are welcome to join as active members, but may have a separate set of requirements from undergraduate students.

**B.) Requirements for Active Membership:** Active membership will be continued as long as the member stays in good standing with the chapter and is enrolled in their respective college/university (Article III, Section 7).

### **Section 4: Honorary Membership**

**A.) Definition of Honorary Membership:** Honorary membership can be granted by the Designated Chapter, upon any person, regardless of gender or rank within the BSA, who has contributed significantly to the ideals and purposes Epsilon Tau Pi. Persons so honored shall have all the rights and privileges of active members except for voting and holding office, and do not have to fulfill active membership requirements. Such membership may not be granted to undergraduate students currently enrolled in any college/university.

**B.) Selection of Honorary Members:** Selection of honorary members by the chapter requires the approval of at least two-thirds majority of the Designated Chapter's active membership. Once approved by the Designated Chapter, a request for Honorary Membership must be forwarded to the National Executive Board of Epsilon Tau Pi for approval. Should the National Executive Board approve the request, that individual shall be considered an honorary member of Designated Chapter.

**C.) Termination of Honorary Status:** Honorary membership is a lifetime distinction. However, the honor may be stripped from any individual by the National Executive Board of Epsilon Tau Pi should that person commit a severe breach of local, state, or federal law, or act in a manner that reflects poorly on their status as an honorary member of Epsilon Tau Pi.

### **Section 5: Advisory Membership**

**A.) Definition of Advisory Membership:** Advisory members are members of the faculty or staff of the sheltering institution of the Designated Chapter who assist the fraternity by providing guidance and advice from the point of view of the college/university. Advisory

members have all the rights and privileges of an active member except for voting and holding office, and do not have to fulfill active membership requirements. The Designated Chapter must have one advisor.

## **Section 6: Alumni Membership**

**A.) Definition of Alumni Membership:** Alumni members are:

- 1.) Active members in good standing with the fraternity who have graduated from the university/college at which they attend, with an accredited degree.
- 2.) Active members of the fraternity that have left the fraternity in good standing and have either transferred to another university or college that does not have an active chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi, or have decided not to continue in higher education.
- 3.) Non-active members that have left the fraternity for any reason, and have the approval of at least two-thirds of the active members of the chapter.
- 4.) Any members that are part of the chapter if it disbands.

**B.) Privileges of Alumni Members:** Alumni members have all the rights and privileges of active membership, except for voting and holding office at the chapter level, and do not have to fulfill active membership requirements. All alumni members are welcome to join any alumni organizations or groups that may exist either as a part of or separate from Epsilon Tau Pi.

**C.) Returning Alumni:** An alumni member that returns to a chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi may rejoin the fraternity as an active member, pending the approval of two-thirds of the chapter's active membership. Upon approval, that member will immediately be considered an active member of the chapter, with all rights and responsibilities of the same. Should the chapter not approve, then the alumni member may request to be an inactive member for an academic term before being allowed active membership. The active members will again be asked for a two-thirds approval for the alumni going into inactive status. If approved, then the alumni member will be considered inactive for an academic term, and cannot become active until the academic term that they rejoined has lapsed. If the chapter does not approve of the alumni member returning to the chapter, as an inactive member, then that person may not rejoin that chapter at that time. The alumni member may make a new request for active membership the following academic term. Failure to rejoin a chapter shall not in any way affect the member's alumni status. No alumni member may become a candidate member at any chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi.

## **Section 7: Maintaining Active Membership**

**A.) Definition of Active Participation:** Active members are expected to participate in the operation and function of the chapter as well as the events that it holds. The following requirements are to be considered the bare minimum of what would be considered as active participation in the chapter. All active members are expected to:

- 1.) Pay all dues and fees in to the chapter in the time frame set by the chapter.
- 2.) Attend all chapter meetings and ceremonies to the best of the member's ability.
- 3.) Perform service to the community and the brotherhood.
- 4.) Maintain a scholarly approach to college and seek to advance in their field of study.
- 5.) Act in a manner befitting both an Eagle Scout and a member of this fraternity.

## **Section 8: Inactive and Probationary Membership**

**A.) Definition of Non-Active Status:** Epsilon Tau Pi recognizes two types of non-active membership, inactive and probationary.

- 1.) An inactive member is a member who:
  - a.) Has not fulfilled one or more of the requirements for active membership.
  - b.) Acknowledges that they are unable to fulfill those requirements, and asks to be inactive.
  - c.) Has been approved by the chapter for inactive status.
- 2.) A probationary member is a member who:
  - a.) Has not fulfilled one or more of the requirements for active membership.
  - b.) Does not accept responsibility for their actions, or breaks a requirement of membership to an inexplicable degree.

**B.) Reasons for Non-Active Status:** Inactive membership is reserved for members who wish to be part of the brotherhood, but are having difficulty fulfilling requirements due to time constraints, personal problems, difficulty with grades, etc. Probationary membership is for members that have dishonored the fraternity or the chapter, and are being given a chance to redeem themselves, or are members that are having further trouble while being inactive. Any active member at a regular chapter meeting may request inactive membership. Probationary membership is assigned by the designated executive board, in all cases.

**C.) Participation of Inactive Members:** Inactive members are still expected to participate in certain events; they are strongly encouraged to perform to the best of their ability. Inactive members are required to attend all ceremonies, but are not under penalty if an adequate excuse is given to the President of the chapter a week prior to the ceremonies beginning. Inactive members are encouraged to attend fundraisers and meetings, but are not required to do so. Inactive members are only welcome at fraternity Informal Rush events and Socials by advance invitation by the Designated Chapter.

**D.) Participation of Probationary Members:** Probationary members are expected to participate in events to determine if their interest in the fraternity is genuine. Probationary members are required to attend all ceremonies, unless an adequate excuse is given to the Executive Board a week prior to the event. Probationary members are also required to attend meetings unless granted an excused absence by the chapter President. All probationary members that are on probation due to deficient GPA (1.9 or lower) are *automatically excused* from all fundraisers and meetings, and are expected to use the time to benefit their studies. All probationary members are prohibited from attending Rush events and Socials, without exception.

**E.) Non-Active Restrictions:** All non-active members are prohibited from the following:

- 1.) Being assigned as a Big Brother (Big) to a candidate (Little), during the candidate period.
- 2.) Holding any elected office in the fraternity.
- 3.) Voting during regular chapter meetings.
- 4.) Voting for officers.
- 5.) Voting in expulsion reviews and return-to-active votes.
- 6.) Applying to live in the fraternity house (if applicable).

Additionally, probationary members are prohibited from the following:

- 1.) Attending all fraternity Rush events and Socials.
- 2.) Living in the fraternity house (if applicable).

**F.) Non-Active Right to Voice:** All non-active members retain their right to a voice at regular chapter meetings. However, they are still prohibited from casting votes during motions.

**G.) Assignment of Non-Active Status:** Declaring the status of a non-active member to the brotherhood is the duty of the designated Executive Board. Once a member has failed to meet a

requirement of active membership, a member of the designated Executive Board will notify the member of that failure. At that time, that person may request an inactive review at the next chapter meeting. However due to the severity of offence, multiple offenses or repeat offences the designated Executive Board may deny the brothers request. The designated Executive Board member will be responsible for ensuring that the review will occur at the next chapter meeting unless denied. If one is not requested, it will be the responsibility of the Executive Board member to declare to the chapter that a member is on probation. The Executive Board must then have a meeting with the probationary member to review the situation and to declare when they will be able to return to active membership.

#### **H.) Reviews for Non-Active Members:**

1.) Initial Review for Inactive Members: At the regular chapter meeting immediately after the member has asked for inactive status, the inactive member will speak before the assembled chapter, and explain why they will be on inactive status. The other members of the chapter may ask questions of the inactive member after the inactive member has stated their reasons. At that time, the Vice President will ask if anyone objects this request. If there are no objections the president will approve this request. If there are any objections, these objections will be discussed and there will be an opportunity for a motion to deny this request. If no motion occurs or the vote to deny takes place and fails the request is approved.

2.) Initial Review for Probationary Members: The Executive Board will set a time and date to meet with the probationary member as soon as possible. At that review, the probationary member may contest their status with the Executive Board. Should the member present enough evidence that their placement on probationary status is unjust, then the Executive Board may vote to return the member to inactive status by a two-third majority vote of the Executive Board. If not, the Executive Board will explain to the member the exact reasons for the member's placement on probation and the actions needed to return to active status. At that time, the member is officially on probationary status. If the offense for which the probationary review is called is severe enough, the Executive Board may call a vote for an expulsion review. This is a two-thirds majority vote of the Executive Board, and if it passes a date and time will be set by the Executive Board for the expulsion review.

3.) Review for Non-active Members Returning to Active Status: After completing the necessary actions for returning to active status, the non-active member must meet with the Executive Board to review their actions within the fraternity during their time as a non-active member. The Executive board will review the work completed by the non-active member to see if the requirements to return to active status have been completed. If so, then the Executive Board will declare that member active, starting at the next regular chapter meeting.

4.) Expulsion Reviews: The active brotherhood of the Designated Chapter will perform Expulsion reviews. Members that have failed to fulfill the duties and obligations detailed

by these National Bylaws are to be removed from the fraternity. The expulsion review is the final opportunity for a member to plead their case to the fraternity. The member will have time to state their reasons for staying in the fraternity. No expulsion review may take place at any meeting where less than 2/3 of the active membership is present. The Designated Chapter must come to a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority decision of active brothers in attendance. Should the chapter find the member to be a beneficial member of the fraternity, the Executive Board may place that member on probationary status for one additional academic term. This probationary status will be treated as the member committing an action deemed unfit for a member of Epsilon Tau Pi (Section 7, Part A.5). However, should the chapter find that the member is unfit to continue as a member of Epsilon Tau Pi, then that member is declared as expelled from the fraternity. Unless the chapter votes otherwise that individual is banned from all Epsilon Tau Pi events. An expelled member forfeits all rights as a member of this fraternity, as well as any right to any dues or penalty fees paid during their membership. If the member is owed money from the fraternity from duly authorized purchases that member is still entitled to that money. An expelled member may not become an alumni member or any other type of member of the fraternity. An expelled member may NOT rejoin the fraternity. Expelled members are **REQUIRED** to return their candidate handbooks and related paraphernalia including but not limited to, polos, membership pins, membership certificates, printed material from the fraternity, as well as any materials that they may possess in conjunction to any offices that they may have held at the time. Expelled members may keep any other materials that were purchased outside the fraternity, such as shirts or memorabilia.

**5.) Expulsion Appeals:** Any brother facing expulsion has the ability to submit an appeal to the National Executive Board within five business days of receiving notice of expulsion. The request will then be taken up by the National Executive Board at their earliest convenience.

**I.) Returning to Active Status:** A member will remain on non-active status until these conditions have been fulfilled:

1.) For non-active members that are deficient in dues:

a.) *INACTIVE:* All dues, including any fees, expenses, or outstanding penalty fees, must be paid in full to the Treasurer, and verified by the President.

b.) *PROBATIONARY:* To return to *either* active or inactive status:

i.) All dues, including any fees, expenses, or outstanding penalty fees, must be paid in full to the Treasurer, and verified by the President.

ii.) Approved by the Executive Board to return to active status.

2.) For non-active members that have missed excessive meetings without valid excuse:

a.) *INACTIVE*: Members will be inactive for the duration of the academic term. For a member to be active again, all penalty fees for missed meetings must be paid in full before the end of that academic term.

b.) *PROBATIONARY*: Members will be on probationary status for the duration of the academic term. After that academic term, the member must:

i.) Pay all penalty fees for missed meetings.

ii.) Attend at least three consecutive meetings in the academic term after being placed on probation.

iii.) Be approved by the Executive Board to return to active status.

3.) For non-active members that have failed to participate in at least half of all service events, excluding Ritual:

a.) *INACTIVE*: Member will be inactive until:

i.) Attending any service project, excluding Ritual, and performing beneficial service.

ii.) Be approved for returning to active status by the Executive Board.

b.) *PROBATIONARY*: Member will be inactive until:

i.) Attending any *two* distinct service projects, excluding Ritual, and performing beneficial service.

ii.) Be approved to return to active status by the Executive Board.

## **J.) Time Allowed for Non-Active Status**

1.) Non-active membership is intended to be a temporary status. Therefore, members of the fraternity are permitted to be on inactive status for a maximum of two full, consecutive academic terms. After that time, the member will allowed to be on probationary status for one additional academic term.

2.) Members that have been placed directly onto probationary status will have one full academic term to return to active status, unless an additional academic term of probationary membership is added as a result of an expulsion review.

3.) If after this time, the member has failed to return to active status, they will have to take part in an expulsion review.



## **Section 9: Co-op/Interning Membership**

**A.) Membership Requirements:** Members of the fraternity that are performing co-op or internships during an academic term may have altered membership requirements in order to accommodate their work schedules. The member that wishes to be considered a Co-op/Interning member may request this status at any time. The Designated Chapter will then create a list of requirements for that member to complete of that academic term.

**B.) Rights of Co-op/Interning Members:** Co-op/Interning members have all rights of active members, so long as they maintain their specified requirements as per part A of this section.

## **Section 10: Transfer of Membership**

**A.) How to Transfer Membership:** Members of other chapters of Epsilon Tau Pi may transfer into another chapter as long as the member left their former chapter in good standing as an active member.

**B.) Transfers Without Good Standing:** If a non-active member of another chapter requests transfer membership, then the following shall occur:

- 1.) Should a member of another chapter leave their chapter due to expulsion, then that person cannot enter the new chapter, under any circumstances.
- 2.) If a transfer member left their former chapter under probationary status, then they must request to enter the chapter under probationary status for an academic term. The Designated Chapter must approve by a two-thirds majority in order for that member to enter the chapter as a probationary member for an academic term. If this vote fails, then that member may not join the chapter.
- 3.) If a member left their chapter or colony under inactive membership that brother automatically becomes an active member of the new chapter. That member may then request inactive membership as an active brother.

**C.) Inactive Membership for Transfer Members:** Members who transfer their status from one chapter or colony to another will carry over all accumulated academic terms on non active status.

**D.) Initiation Status:** Any member who transfer's their membership is considered an initiate of their original chapter. However, upon receipt of alumni membership, any transfer member must designate which chapter their alumni membership will be tied to.

## **Section 11: Suspension and Expulsion**

**A.) Suspension:** The National Executive Board may, by majority vote, suspend the membership of any brother. Suspension may be for any reason, including but not limited to Criminal Misconduct or Conduct unbecoming a brother. At the time of suspension, the NEB must clearly state the terms of the suspension, the reasons for the suspension, and the duration of the suspension. A member suspended in this manner shall be considered a non-member of the fraternity for the duration of the suspension, and may be barred from any and all official activities of the brotherhood. The member may appeal their suspension to the National Executive Board.

**B.) Expulsion:** The National Executive Board may, by majority vote, expel any member of the fraternity. Expulsion may be for any reason, including but not limited to Criminal Misconduct or Conduct unbecoming a brother. At the time of expulsion, the NEB must clearly state the causes for the expulsion. A member expelled in this manner shall immediately be considered a nonmember, and shall be ineligible for future membership in any form. The member may appeal their expulsion to the National Executive Board, unless the member was under suspension at the time of their expulsion.

## **Article IV Officers**

### **Section 1: Chapter Officers**

**A.) Definition of a Chapter Officer:** The Chapter Officers are the six elected officers of the Designated Chapter. These are the primary leadership of the chapter, and are responsible for directing the chapter toward its goals. Only active members may be Chapter Officers. No Chapter Officer may hold two Officer positions.

#### **B.) Definitions of Positions and Responsibilities:**

**1.) Chapter President:** The President of the chapter is the head executive officer of the chapter. They preside over the meetings and are the formal liaison of the chapter and fraternity on campus. They are the primary contact for all chapter matters. They are also responsible for the creation of the regular and Executive Board meeting agendas.

**2.) Chapter Vice President:** The Vice President of the chapter fulfills the duties of the President when the current President is unable to perform those duties. The Vice President also does any duties that may be assigned to them by the Executive Board or the President.

**3.) Chapter Treasurer:** The Treasurer of the chapter is in charge of the chapter's funds. They are responsible for the creation and maintenance of the chapter's financial budget. They are also responsible for the collection of dues from the chapter members. They are also responsible for establishing fundraising events and their coordination. They must also present a report of the budget to the entire chapter at the request of the Executive Board.

**4.) Chapter Secretary:** The Secretary of the chapter is responsible for the recording of the minutes of the regular and Executive Board meetings. They are responsible for their access to the other members of the chapter. They must submit a report to the Executive Board and to offending members concerning attendance violations as soon as feasibly possible. If the Secretary is unable to fulfill their duties at an event or meeting, then they must select an interim secretary for that event, prior to the day of that event.

**5.) Fraternity Education Officer:** The chapter's Fraternity Education Officer (FEO) is in charge of overseeing the candidate members and the candidacy period. They are responsible for overseeing candidacy meetings as well as organizing "Bigs" to aid the candidates.

**6.) Regional Delegate:** The Regional Delegate shall represent the interests of the Designated Chapter to the Region. They shall gauge the feelings of the collegiate members of the Designated Chapter on certain issues, and report those findings to the Region.

## **Section 2: Chapter Chairs**

**A.) Definitions of a Chapter Chair:** The Chapter Chairs are positions assigned to various members of the chapter to aid in the functions of the chapter. Chapter Chairs may be created at any chapter meeting. Only active members may hold Chapter Chair positions. An active member may hold as many Chapter Chair positions as they wish. Chapter Officers are permitted to hold Chapter Chair positions; however, they are recommended not to hold more than two distinct Chair positions at the same time. It is recommended that the Chapter President not hold a chair position as to focus on their duties as President.

## **Section 3: Election of Officers**

**A.) Election Dates:** The election of Chapter Officers shall be performed on a date designated by the Chapter.

**B.) Terms:** Chapter Officers shall have a term of 1 year.

**C.) Eligibility:** To be eligible for Chapter Office, a member must be active status and registered as a full-time student.

**D.) Election Timeframe:** All elections of Chapter Officers must take place on a scheduled date. The President shall open the floor for nominations of officers two regular meetings prior to the scheduled date of voting.

## **Section 4: Removal From Office**

**A.) Reasons for Removal:** In the event that an office is found to be inadequately filled, the chapter may choose to remove an elected official from office. It should be noted that this procedure is for use only if the officer is severely delinquent in the execution of their duties or is in any other way severely unqualified to hold the office.

**B.) Request for Removal from Office:** A written request to call for a vote of no confidence to take place during a general meeting must be made no later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled time of that meeting in person. Any active member may request such a vote; however, at least two active members must file similar requests for a vote to occur. All such requests should be brought to the President, unless the President is the officer in question, in which case the requests shall be submitted to the Vice President. In this case, the Vice President shall assume the role of President with regards to the procedure outlined below.

**C.) Non-Disclosure:** The officer for whom the vote is requested shall be verbally informed by the President, but the names of the members requesting the vote **MUST NOT** be revealed by the President or any other officer.

**D.) Primary Importance:** During the Chapter Meeting for which the vote was called, all other business is secondary; the situation must be resolved by the close of the meeting, at all costs. No vote of no confidence shall commence at a meeting of less than two thirds of active members at the meeting.

**E.) Vote of No Confidence:** Once the meeting is underway, the vote of No Confidence shall commence.

1.) The officer named in the vote shall be allotted 5 minutes to argue their case. The officer may ask general questions of the brotherhood, but may not seek out the names of those members who requested the vote.

2.) After this time has expired, the President shall distribute voting slips to all Active Members in attendance. Note that the officer in question has the right to vote on this issue, **AS DOES THE PRESIDENT**. Each active member shall write the word "Remove" to signify a vote for removal and "Do Not Remove" for a vote against removal. Voting shall be done in secret. No member may abstain from this vote.

**F.) Vote Counting:** The President and only the President shall collect the slips from every active member. The President and the next highest-ranking officer (excluding the officer in question) shall then count the ballots. In order for an officer to be removed by this method more than 51% of the active members of the chapter must vote REMOVE. Once the ballots have been counted, the president shall announce that either:

1.) The motion has failed, and the officer shall remain in office,

2.) The motion has succeeded, and the officer is removed from office.

**G.) Further Non-disclosure:** The exact tallies of the votes are NOT to be revealed under any circumstance. Once the outcome is known, the ballots are to be destroyed without delay.

**H.) In the Event of a Tie:** In the event of a tie in voting, the motion is considered to have failed, and the officer is not removed from office.

**I.) Results:** In the event that the motion succeeds, the officer in question immediately relinquishes all responsibilities, rights, privileges, and duties associated with that office, and the office is considered vacant. The officer must surrender all materials associated with the execution of the office (i.e. checkbook and ledger in the case of the treasurer). If the motion fails, the officer retains their position, and the matter is considered closed.

## **Section 5: Emergency Elections**

**A.) Reasons for Emergency Elections:** Emergency Elections are to take place when an officer position is left vacant.

**B.) Interim Officers:** Until such time as an Emergency Election may be held, any vacant office may be filled by an interim officer who shall execute the duties of the office as an elected officer would. This interim officer shall be chosen at any chapter meeting in the manner a chapter chair would be chosen.

**C.) Format:** The format of the Emergency Election shall be the same as a general election.

# **Article V Chapter Activities**

## **Section 1: Chapter Meetings**

**A.) Attendance:** Chapter meetings are open to all members of the fraternity. Attendance requirements for various members are listed above.

**B.) Schedule:** Chapter meetings are to be held once a week on a regularly scheduled day, time, and location. This schedule may be changed on a case-by-case basis.

**C.) Required Attendance:** Chapter meetings require the attendance of at least a simple majority of all active members in order to begin. If this percentage of active members is not available, then the meeting must be cancelled.

**D.) Presidency:** Chapter meetings are presided over by the President. In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall preside. In the absence of BOTH the President and the Vice President, then the FEO shall preside.

**F.) Agendas:** The presiding member shall provide an agenda for the meeting. This agenda may be passed out either prior to or at the start of the meeting. The agenda shall be comprised of issues that must be addressed by the fraternity. Members may suggest items to be added to the agenda prior to the day of the meeting. The manner in which this is done is the decision of the president.

**G.) Format:** The manner that chapter meetings are conducted is the decision of the current President. However, all decisions shall be made in the form of a motion.

**H.) Unanimous Consent:** The President, in order to expedite the conduct of business at a meeting of the chapter or of the executive board, may call for unanimous consent.

**I.) Emergency or Quick Meetings:** An emergency or quick meeting may be called by the Executive Board to complete decisions that must be made in a timely manner. All effort must be made to contact all members of the fraternity to ensure attendance requirements are met. If the attendance requirements are met, then a meeting may proceed as a normal chapter meeting.

## **Section 2: Executive Board**

**A.) Purpose of Executive Board Meetings:** The purpose of Executive Board meetings is to ensure that the operation of the fraternity continues smoothly. The Executive Board shall perform chapter chair and membership reviews.

**B.) Members of the Executive Board:** The members of the Executive Board are the President, Vice President, FEO, Treasurer, Secretary, Regional Delegate. Also, the chapter may appoint At-Large members to the Executive Board. At-Large members must be added two at a time, to ensure an odd number of members on the Executive Board. At-Large members are appointed in the same manner as chapter chairs.

**C.) Attendance:** At least half of the Executive Board members must be present for a meeting to begin. All other members are prohibited from attending Executive Board meetings, unless they have been directly requested to attend a meeting, whether for a chapter chair or membership review.

**D.) Executive Board Votes:** Votes will occur in a similar fashion to motions, however, the President will vote with the other members of the Executive Board, and no Executive Board member may abstain from voting.

**E.) Restrictions:** The Executive Board may NOT vote upon the following without the approval of the chapter:

- 1.) Member dues.
- 2.) Bylaws.

3.) Funding for events.

### **Section 3: Candidate Period**

**A.) Purpose of the Candidate Period:** The Candidate Period is the time during which new members are taught the principles and practices of Epsilon Tau Pi. The Candidate Period is presided over by the FEO.

**B.) Timeframe:** The Candidate Period begins with Formal Rush and ends with the Ritual Ceremony. The Candidate Period may be no shorter than 6 weeks and no longer than 10 weeks.

**C.) Candidacy:** Individuals who qualify to be members of Epsilon Tau Pi shall be selected to become candidates by the chapter during a chapter meeting prior to Formal Rush.

1.) The FEO shall contact the candidates and inform them of the Formal Rush activities. Should a candidate be unable to attend Formal Rush due to prior obligations and still shows desire to join Epsilon Tau Pi, the chapter may hold an alternate Formal Rush for that individual.

2.) Once Formal Rush has been completed, the FEO will schedule candidate meetings. These meetings are to be used to teach the candidates the specifics of being an Epsilon Tau Pi member.

3.) The candidates shall receive a copy of the Candidate Handbook, in which contains information about the fraternity and the principles it is founded on. The Candidate Handbook is to be considered sensitive material, and is not to be shown to anyone not authorized to view its contents. The Candidate Handbook is to be considered the property of Epsilon Tau Pi until the Candidate Period has ended. Any candidate failing to complete the Candidate Period is **REQUIRED** to return the Candidate Handbook, and is prohibited from revealing any information contained within to any other person not authorized to know.

4.) During the Candidate Period, all candidates must pay candidacy fees. These dues are **non-refundable**. Even if an individual fails to complete the Candidate Period, these fees are still owed to the fraternity. Candidate fees are to be paid in the three weeks after the first candidate meeting. Candidate fees are to be used to pay for the production of the Candidate Handbook and the cost of holding Formal Rush and the Ritual Ceremony, as well as any other costs associated with the Candidate Period.

5.) All other elements of the Candidate Period are to be determined by the FEO. The FEO will create a candidacy program for each individual candidate class, based on the expectations of the FEO and the Designated Chapter for those candidates. This

program shall be followed throughout the candidacy period. The Designated Chapter must accept this program prior to the beginning of the Candidate Period.

6.) As part of the Candidate Period, all candidates must participate in a Board of Review. In order for a Board of Review to take place, two-thirds of the active members of the chapter must attend. In order to pass a Board of Review, two-thirds of the active members must approve the candidate. No candidate may attend Ritual Ceremony without passing the Board of Review.

7.) The Candidate Period concludes with the Ritual Ceremony. Candidates must participate in the Ritual Ceremony, or else forfeit the opportunity to join Epsilon Tau Pi. Only in extreme circumstances may a candidate be excused from the Ritual Ceremony. An alternate Ritual Ceremony may be created for that candidate if they are still interested in joining the fraternity. Upon the conclusion of the Ritual Ceremony, all candidates are considered active members.

8.) Should a candidate fail to complete any requirement of candidacy as outlined by both these Bylaws and the candidacy program of the Designated Chapter, then the Designated Chapter reserves the right to refuse brotherhood to any candidate. However, should the candidate present viable reason for the failure to complete the requirements to the FEO, then the Designated Chapter may elect to allow that candidate to participate in the Ritual Ceremony. The Designated Chapter may also decide if those requirements must be completed after the Ritual Ceremony.

## **Section 4: Ceremonies**

**A.) Definitions of Ceremonies:** Epsilon Tau Pi recognizes two official membership Ceremonies: the Formal Rush Ceremony, and the Ritual Ceremony. The Formal Rush Ceremony represents a candidate's entrance to the Candidate Period, while the Ritual Ceremony represents the end of that period. The ceremonies of Epsilon Tau Pi are sacred to the Fraternity, and are to be held in the strictest confidence between members of Epsilon Tau Pi. Both Ceremonies shall adhere to the National Ceremonies Handbook.

**B.) Formal Rush Ceremony:** The Formal Rush Ceremony inducts candidates to the Candidate Period. No individual shall be considered a candidate of Epsilon Tau Pi without completing the Formal Rush Ceremony.

**C.) Ritual Ceremony:** The Ritual Ceremony initiates the candidates into full members of the Designated Chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi. No candidate may be a full member without completing the Ritual Ceremony.

**D.) Attendance Requirements:** Only the new candidates, current and alumni members, including all advisory and honorary members, may attend the Formal Rush Ceremony. Only the candidates being initiated, current and alumni members, including advisory members, may attend the Ritual Ceremony. Honorary members may NOT attend the Ritual Ceremony,



in the interest of confidentiality. All active and probationary members are expected to attend both Ceremonies, unless the President a week prior to the ceremony in question approves a valid excuse. All inactive members are excused from Ceremonies, but are asked to attend if possible.

**E.) Alternate Ceremonies:** In the event of the potential candidate cannot attend the Formal Rush Ceremony, then an alternate ceremony may be performed, pending the approval of the majority of active members. Also, if a candidate cannot attend the Ritual Ceremony, then an alternate ceremony may be performed, pending the approval of two-thirds majority of active members present when the vote is taken. All alternate ceremonies must follow the format of the standard ceremony. Due to the possible time constraints of setting up an Alternative Ceremony, attendance policy for these ceremonies will be lenient.

## **Section 5: Socials**

**A.) Definition of Social Events:** An official Designated Chapter Social Event is any event at which has been financed by the Designated Chapter to directly benefit its members.

**B.) Rules Governing Social Events:** These rules apply to all Designated Chapter Social Events.

- 1.) Alcohol is forbidden at all Epsilon Tau Pi social events.
- 2.) If social events are to be funded by the Designated Chapter. The money required is to be allocated by standard rules regarding allocation.
- 3.) Active members and their invited guests only may attend social events. If inactive members wish to attend social events may ask the fraternity for permission to attend social events. This is decided at a regular chapter meeting by a simple majority of active members.
- 4.) For overnight events, it is strongly recommended that members consider separate accommodations for female and male members where available, practical, or requested.

## **Article VI Finances**

### **Section 1: Accounts**

**A.) General Information:** The Designated Chapter of Epsilon Tau shall maintain at least one checking account, comprising all general funds possessed by the fraternity.

### **Section 2: Dues and Fees**

**A.) Definition of Dues and Fees:** Dues are payments owed to the Designated Chapter by every active member of the fraternity. Fees are all other payments owed to the fraternity by any member. All dues and fees are to be paid into the general fund.

**B.) Chapter Dues:** Chapter dues are the Designated Chapter dues that active members must pay as an active member of Epsilon Tau Pi.

1.) Dues are to be paid every Fall and Spring academic term during which a member is an active member in the fraternity.

2.) The due date for dues shall be set by the Treasurer; however, the due date may not be less than three weeks after the first chapter meeting of that academic term.

**C.) Candidate Fees:** Candidate fees are payments due to the Designated Chapter from candidate members to finance the Candidate Period, as well as purchase various items from the fraternity.

1.) Once a candidate member has completed Formal Rush, that candidate is required to pay Candidate fees to the Designated Chapter.

2.) Candidate fees must be paid within three weeks after their first candidate meeting.

3.) Candidate fees pay for expense incurred by the Designated Chapter as part of the Candidate Period. This includes any materials distributed to the candidates, and any events that the candidate participates.

**D.) Penalty Fees:** Penalty fees are fees that the Designated Chapter may order a member to pay as part of a disciplinary action; such as unexcused absences from required events, destruction of Fraternity property, etc.

1.) The Designated Chapter shall establish the penalty fee at the beginning of each academic term.

2.) The fee shall be assessed for each meeting missed in excess of two unexcused absences.

3.) All penalty fees are to be paid within three weeks of the assessment of the fine.

**E.) National Dues:** The NEB may levy a fee upon chapters and colonies of the Fraternity. This fee shall be collected by the Finance Director on March 1st and October 1st of each year. Such fee shall be paid by each chapter and colony on a per-brother basis. The NEB shall, by rule, provide for the amount of such fee, as well as the means by which it is collected and deposited.

### **Section 3: Donations to the Designated Chapter**

Donations made to the Designated Chapter may constitute any monetary amount, as well as anything else, including, but not limited to, camping gear, fuel, furniture, food, electrical equipment, etc.

#### **Section 4: Tax Exempt Status**

As a Non-Profit Organization, the Designated Chapter of Epsilon Tau Pi may be covered under the Sheltering institution's Tax-Free Exemption Status. The national entity Epsilon Tau Pi, Inc does not hold tax-exempts status and therefore chapters may not claim tax-exempt status under the National fraternity.

#### **Section 5: Reporting and Budgets**

**A.) Reporting:** The Treasurer of the Designated Chapter is required to present to the chapter an itemized list of all transactions from the general fund at least once a month at a regular chapter meeting.

**B.) Budget:** The budget of the Designated Chapter is to be created by the Treasurer to help gauge the expenses of the fraternity.

- 1.) Budgets are to be created to cover individual academic terms. They are to include set expenses for that given academic term.
- 2.) The budget will presented within the first four weeks of the academic term. The budget is subject to approval by a simple majority vote of the active membership of the chapter.
- 3.) With the approval of the budget, all amounts will be approved for amount allocation.
- 4.) As additional expenses arise, the budget may be amended as needed. These amendments are also subject to a simple majority vote.

#### **Section 6: Abuse and Disciplinary Action**

**A.) Definition of Abuse:** Funds delegated to a particular individual for a specific event is expected to be used only for that purpose. Failure to do so shall be considered as an abuse of privilege and an action deemed unfit for a member of Epsilon Tau Pi, and will be dealt in that manner.

## **Article VII Discipline of Chapters**

### **Section 1: Penalties**

Any chapter of this Fraternity may receive a warning, be placed on probation, or suspension, or may have its charter revoked for any good cause. A chapter may assume an inactive status as hereinafter described.

## **Section 2: Warning**

The National Chairman shall have the power to issue an official warning in writing to a chapter for any violation of Fraternity Law. This may be done at the discretion of the National Chairman or upon recommendation of the National Executive Board. The National Vice Chairman or Regional Director may issue such official warning if authorized by the National Chairman.

## **Section 3: Definition of Inactive Status, Probation, or Suspension**

**A.) Inactive Status:** Inactive status results from the self-imposed dormant state of a chapter.

**B.) Probation:** Probation is an official notification to a chapter that it has violated the Laws of this Fraternity and that if its conduct is not satisfactorily corrected, charter revocation may be necessary. During the probation period, certain specific objectives will be given to the chapter designed to correct its conduct in those programs, operations or other areas that caused the violation(s) of Fraternity law. Probation must be for a specific period not to exceed twelve (12) months. A chapter may not be on probation for more than twenty-four (24) consecutive months for the same violation(s).

**C.) Suspension:** Suspension involves a chapter being put on notice that the chapter cannot conduct any activity except that which may be authorized or directed by the National Executive Board or anyone commissioned by the National Executive Board to act on its behalf in order to allow the National Executive Board time to determine what action should be taken in regard to the chapter under suspension.

## **Section 4: Placement of Chapters on Probation**

**A.)** The National Executive Board shall have the power to place a chapter on probation. The National Chairman may recommend that a chapter be placed on probation but the enactment of such recommendation shall be at the discretion of a majority vote of the National Executive Board.

**B.)** A chapter may not be placed on probation unless an action under this Article (including probation) has been taken against the chapter within the four years preceding the start of the probation period for similar type(s) of violation(s).

**C.)** The limitation of Section 4 may be waived by a unanimous vote of voting eligible members of the National Executive Board in those specific cases deemed appropriate by the National Executive Board.

**D.)** Nothing in these General Regulations shall prevent a chapter from being given a warning and placed on probation simultaneously.

### **Section 5: Suspension of Chapters**

The National Executive Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, suspend a chapter's activity for a period of ninety (90) days. A suspension may be renewed for additional ninety (90) day periods by the unanimous vote of voting eligible members of the National Executive Board.

### **Section 6: Revocation of Charter**

After a chapter has been on probation or suspended for the stated period of time and the cause(s) for probation or suspension have not been rectified, the National Executive Board may, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote of those present, revoke the charter of such chapter. The National Executive Board may, by a four-fifths (4/5) vote, revoke the charter of a chapter at any time for any of the causes as hereinafter stated.

### **Section 7: Causes for Revocation of Charter**

The charter of any Collegiate Chapter may be revoked by the National Executive Board for any one of the following causes:

- 1.) Failure to strictly observe the Laws and policies of this Fraternity;
- 2.) The initiation of ineligible persons to membership in this Fraternity;
- 3.) The inability to maintain the standards as required by the regulations and usages of this Fraternity;
- 4.) Unworthy conduct;
- 5.) Insubordination;
- 6.) Unsatisfactory scholastic standing;
- 7.) Charter abandonment
- 8.) Gross immorality on the part of its members;
- 9.) The failure to pay national dues;
- 10.) The failure of the chapter to hold meetings for a period of over two (2) months during the academic year without good cause;

- 11.) For doing anything or causing anything to be done that, in the opinion of the National Executive Board, is prejudicial to the best interests of the chapter or this Fraternity.

## **Section 8: After Revocation of Charter**

A chapter whose charter is revoked shall, within sixty (60) days notice of such action, return the charter and all other property of this Fraternity, which shall include the standard accounting system, minutes, files, records, rituals, paraphernalia, official communications, etc., to the National Executive Board of the Fraternity, or to someone delegated by the Regional Director to receive the same. All property of a chapter whose charter is revoked shall pass into the custody of the Regional Director. Such property shall be held in trust; or sold, and the proceeds held in trust by the Financial Director for the benefit of the chapter should it be reorganized. Should the chapter not be reorganized within two years from the date the charter is revoked, the value of such property shall be credited to this Fraternity.

## **Section 9: Reactivation of Chapters**

A chapter on an inactive status or whose charter has been revoked shall be recognized as a chapter in good standing only after the steps for new collegiate chapters as hereinafter provided are completed and it has been authorized for reactivation by a majority vote of the National Executive Board. The original charter, the funds, and other property of the original chapter, which may not have been credited to the Fraternity, shall be given to the reactivated chapter. The date of installation of the original chapter shall be regarded as the date of founding of the reactivated chapter.

## **Section 10: Appeals**

**A.) Appeal of Probation:** A chapter placed on probation may, within thirty (30) days of notice of such action, submit an appeal to the Regional Director for consideration by the National Executive Board. An appeal must be in writing and must address the specific areas on which the probation action was taken. The National Executive Board, by a three-fourths (3/4) vote, may dismiss the probation; otherwise the decision already made is sustained.

**B.) Appeal of Charter Revocation:** A chapter whose charter has been revoked may, within thirty (30) days of notice of such action, submit an appeal to the Regional Director for consideration by the National Executive Board else the revocation action shall be final. Such appeals must be made in writing and must address the specific areas on which the charter revocation action was taken. It shall be the duty of the Regional Director to present the appeal documents to the next National Board meeting following, at which the voting members in attendance may, by a three fourths (3/4) vote, dismiss the charges and reinstate the chapter to its original status; otherwise, the charter revocation is sustained. During the appeal process, a chapter whose charter has been revoked shall not operate as a chapter of the Fraternity and shall follow the steps after revocation of a chapter charter as heretofore stated.

## **Section 11: Colonies**

**A.) Definition of a Colony:** A colony is any location that has been established by the National Executive Board but has not been granted a charter.

**B.) Disciplinary Action for Colonies:** Colonies do not have the same rights and privileges conferred by a charter. The National Executive Board may vote to place a colony on probation or suspension as defined in Section 3 or close a colony with a majority vote should they violate Fraternity Law.

**C.) Appeals:** Members of a colony may file an appeal against any action taken against their colony in accordance with Section 10.

## **Article VIII Overruling Guidelines**

### **Section 1: Law**

The Designated Chapter shall comply with all federal, state, and local statutes. This includes, but is not limited to:

**1.) Alcohol policies:** Epsilon Tau Pi is a non-alcoholic fraternity. As such, no alcohol of any kind is permitted at any official function. Further, Brothers who choose to drink alcohol under other circumstances may not do so while wearing the letters of Epsilon Tau Pi. Epsilon Tau Pi does not encourage the distribution of alcohol to minors, nor does it encourage excessive consumption of alcohol by those legally allowed to do so.

**2.) Hazing statutes:** Epsilon Tau Pi shall not participate in any activity, official or otherwise, which may be deemed hazing, as defined by statute. No Candidate for membership shall be forced to take any oath preferring any religion or creed. Further, any Candidate may request that their participation in an event be limited or that they be allowed not to participate, at no risk to themselves or their candidacy. No part of the candidacy is compulsory, and Candidates may opt out at any time. Epsilon Tau Pi encourages all Brothers and Candidates to uphold these high standards.

**3.) Nondiscrimination:** Epsilon Tau Pi shall not deny membership to any qualified individual. So long as an individual has attained the rank of Eagle Scout or the equivalent highest scouting rank, they are eligible for membership in Epsilon Tau Pi. No person shall be denied admission for reasons of Race, Creed, Religion, National Origin, Language, Color, Disability or Sexual Orientation.

### **Section 2: University**

The Designated Chapter shall comply with all University Guidelines, including but not limited to:

A.) Alcohol Policies: See Article VII, Section 1 Part 1.

B.) Hazing: See Article VII, Section 1 Part 2.

### **Section 3: Epsilon Tau Pi**

The Designated Chapter shall comply with the National Constitution, General Regulations, and all decisions of the National Executive Board.

## **Article IX General Provisions**

### **Section 1: Exclusion of Powers**

A.) In the event that these Bylaws do not set forth the manner in which a given situation or circumstance shall be dealt with, the chapter may either:

- 1.) Through proper channels the chapter may ask the NEB for a clarification on specific sections of the General Regulations or National Constitution.
- 2.) The executive board of the chapter may decide on its own interpretation, which the chapter president shall forward to the NEB in order to further refine the General Regulations.

### **Section 2: Effect of Partial Invalidity**

A determination that any part of these Bylaws are invalid shall not invalidate or impair the force or effect of any other part thereof, except to the extent that such other part is wholly dependent for its operation upon the part declared invalid.

### **Section 3: Titles Have No Substantive Meaning**

The titles of sections, subsections, and articles of these bylaws have no substantive meaning, and are included for convenience purposes only. Further, the numbering or designation of any particular section shall not be construed as to in any way influence its precedence, meaning, or importance.

### **Section 4: Chain of Command**

The Chain of Command of the Designated Chapter shall be, from first to last: President, Vice President, FEO, Treasurer, Secretary, and Regional Director.

### **Section 5: Chapter/Colony**

All references to the Designated Chapter shall apply equally to colonies as if the text read “colony” instead of “chapter.”



## **Section 6: Precedence**

These General Regulations shall be the primary set of rules for the operation of each and every chapter and colony of Epsilon Tau Pi. If a conflict or contradiction arises between the General Regulations and any chapter bylaws or other document (other than the National Constitution), the General Regulations shall prevail.

## **Article X Amendments**

Amendments to these General Regulations shall be made as follows:

### **Section 1: Procedure**

**A.)** Any brother may bring an Amendment to the NEB, but a Formal Proposal for changes to the text of these General Regulations shall originate from a voting member of the NEB.

**B.)** Any such proposal shall state the article and section to be amended and the manner in which it is to be amended.

**C.)** The NEB shall discuss the proposed amendment. Changes to the proposal may take place at this time.

**D.)** Once the proposal has been discussed by the NEB, the proposal shall be forwarded on to all Chapters and Colonies to elicit feedback. The feedback period shall last till the next scheduled NEB meeting.

**E.)** At the next scheduled NEB meeting, any feedback shall be discussed. Once discussion has finished, Chairman shall entertain motions to approve the proposed amendment. A proposed amendment will die for lack of a motion and second.

**F.)** Once a motion to approve has been made, the proposal shall come to a vote. Amendments to these General Regulations must pass by a vote of 75% of the membership of the NEB.

**G.)** Once approved, amendments to the General Regulations shall take effect and be in full force after 60 days from the date of their approval, unless approved by emergency.

### **Section 2: Emergency Amendments**

**A.)** If an amendment to the General Regulations is deemed to be of a pressing nature, or the board determines an amendment to be immediately necessary for the general welfare of the fraternity, it may pass amendments to the General Regulations by emergency.

**B.)** The NEB shall determine whether the Amendment is of an Emergency nature by vote. A unanimous vote of the NEB is necessary to continue as an Emergency Amendment. Should the vote not be unanimous, the Amendment may continue as outlined in Section 1.

**C.)** Once discussion of the Amendment is finished, a vote shall be taken. An amendment passed by emergency must receive a unanimous vote of the NEB in order to pass.

**D.)** Once approved by emergency, amendments to the General Regulations shall take effect and be in full force immediately from the date of their approval.

## **Amendment to the General Regulations**

I. Article III, Section 1, Clause A. will be amended to read as follows:

### **Section 1: Membership Requirements for Brothers**

**Membership Requirements:** Membership in Epsilon Tau Pi shall be open to all university students who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout in Scouts BSA or have attained the highest award possible in their respective country's scouting organization and are currently in good standing with the college/university at which they are enrolled

II. Article VII Discipline of Chapters will be introduced into the General Regulations. Subsequent articles will be renumbered appropriately.