

**FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
CONSTITUTION FOR PHI ALPHA HONOR SOCIETY**

Delta Xi Chapter

Effective date: April 2012

**School of Social Work
777 Glades Road, SO 303
Boca Raton FL. 33431-0991**

PREAMBLE

Eager to promote a closer bond among students of social work and to enter into more intimate fellowship with those dedicated to the promotion of humanitarian goals and ideals by a professional group for which quality educational preparation is deemed imperative, students and faculty involved in social work education at Florida Atlantic University resolve to sponsor a Chapter of Phi Alpha National Honor Society, thereby to foster high standards of education for social work and to invite into membership those who have attained excellence of scholarship and distinction of achievement as students of social work.

Article 1 - Name of Organization

The name of this organization shall be Phi Alpha Honor Society - Delta Xi Chapter.

The Supreme Law

This chapter of Phi Alpha shall be affiliated with the organization known as Phi Alpha Honor Society and to its National Council. The Constitution, membership and program shall be consistent with the Constitution and Statutes of the national organization.

Article 2 - Purpose of Organization

The purpose of this chapter of Phi Alpha shall be:

Section 1 - To recognize and promote scholastic achievement among students and faculty involved in the undergraduate or graduate social work program at Florida Atlantic University.

Section 2 - To recognize, improve and further the goals of social work in the community, state, nation and world.

Section 3 - To stimulate interest in preparation for a career in social work.

Section 4 - To encourage continued study and research at the undergraduate level, the graduate level, and in professional practice.

Section 5 - To recognize those professional social workers and others whose service,

contributions and leadership are held in esteem.

Article 3 - Membership of the organization

Section 1 - Members: Must be open to all FAU students.

Any undergraduate or graduate social work student at Florida Atlantic University who meets the qualifications set forth in the By-Laws shall be eligible for active membership.

Section 2 - Associate Members: Faculty, staff, and alumni may be associate members. Associate members cannot vote or hold office.

Faculty members having an official connection with the social work curriculum may be granted membership upon invitation of the Executive Committee and approval of the Chapter membership.

Section 3 - Phi Alpha Honor Society shall be in full compliance with all Federal and State nondiscrimination and equal opportunity laws, orders and regulations. Phi Alpha Honor Society shall not discriminate against a Student Officer, member or prospective member on any basis identified in FAU Regulation 5.010, except if specifically exempted by law. Phi Alpha Honor Society shall be open to all currently enrolled FAU Students, except if specifically exempted by law.

Honorary membership may be granted to professional social workers and others whose support of social work education and practice merit such recognition.

*****All groups except those exempt by law must have opportunities for male and female memberships.

Article 4 - Regulations

Section 1 - Phi Alpha Honor Society will abide by all Federal, State and Local Laws and FAU Regulations and policies, including but not limited to the Student Code of Conduct, Code of Academic Integrity, Regulation 4.006, Alcohol and Drug Policy, and all requirements as outlined in the Student Organization Manual.

Section 2 - Phi Alpha Honor Society agrees to abide by the Florida Anti-Hazing Law in the Student Code of Conduct and the Student Organization Manual.

Government

Section 1 - To supreme governing body shall be the National Council as defined in the National Constitution.

Section 2 - The governing body of this Chapter shall be the duly elected officers and the Executive Committee as defined in the By-Laws.

Article 5 - Officers

Section 1 - The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Community Service Chairperson.

Section 2 - In order to be eligible for an officer position, candidate must meet requirements as specified by Regulation 4.006 and be members of Phi Alpha Honor Society. All officers must be registered degree-seeking FAU students who meet the University's minimum qualifications for student officers, which is a 2.5 cumulative GPA and be registered for 6 credits hours for undergraduate students, and a 3.0 cumulative GPA and 3 credit hours for graduate students. Officers have to be in good academic standing and not on probation. Students serving as President must have earned at least 12 college credits. A student may serve in the same position or office for a maximum of two terms during his/her academic career at FAU. A student's academic career includes his/her undergraduate, graduate, and professional course work.

Section 3 - The duties of officers are as follows:

- a. President- shall preside at meetings of the chapter; appoint such committees as may be provided for by Chapter Constitution or By-Laws or vote of the chapter, call special meetings of the chapter; be responsible for all Chapter reports; perform duties of ritual chair and initiation ceremonies, and promote the welfare of the Society and Chapter.
- b. Vice President- shall perform all duties of the President in the latter's absence or disability and any other duties assigned by the President. Additionally, the Vice-President is responsible for ensuring that pledges meet and perform to the standards of the National Phi Alpha Society.
- c. Secretary- Document decisions made during the course of meetings and provide written minutes to the officers after each official meeting; report information covered during the meeting to any officer or faculty advisor if they were unable to attend the official meetings; report the result of elections to the chapter's members; and fulfill such additional duties as may be required by the chapter's officers, Constitution, and By-Laws.
- d. Treasurer- To maintain records of and be responsible for the national initiation fee for each student and faculty initiate prior to his or her acceptance into membership; provide a report certified by the faculty advisor covering the chapter's financial status after each academic term. The report is to include financial statement, and a list detailing the dates of the meetings held during the year; and fulfill additional duties as may be required by the chapter's officers, Constitution and By-Laws.
- e. Community Service Chairperson – Serve as liaison between service organizations, officers, pledges, and members. Will attend board meetings and develop relationships with agencies within the community to advance the organization.

Article 6 - Selection of Officers

- Section 1 - Officers will be nominated by the chapter and elected by a majority vote of the chapter and must be approved by the facilitator or faculty member.
- Section 2 - In the issue of a tie, the faculty member (advisor) or facilitator will provide the additional vote necessary to break the tie. If unavailable, the president will decide.
- Section 3 - The selection of officers shall take place once a year, beginning during the spring semester and elected during the last quarter of the spring semester. Officers shall take office at the beginning of the fall term.
- Section 4 - The term of office will extend for one academic year, unless reelected to a second term.
- Section 5 - An officer may not hold more than one position at any given time.
- Section 6 - Officers who wish to maintain their positions may do so by a majority vote of existing officers and consensus with advisor.

Article 7 - Officer Vacancies

- Section 1- Should a vacancy occur in any office, it shall be filled by appointment through a consensus vote of the existing officers and advisor.
- Section 2- The term of the replacement officer will be for the remainder of the current semester.
- Section 3 - Any member/officer may be expelled from membership for reasons of academic or personal conduct unbecoming a student of social work by a three fourths vote of the chapter, upon completion of an investigation, made by the officers.

Article 8 - Advisor

- Section 1 - A full-time faculty member shall act as the faculty advisor for Phi Alpha, and if a tie occurs in a decision making circumstance, he/she shall act as the tiebreaker.
- Section 2 - The faculty advisor will be selected by the Director of the School of Social Work.
- Section 3 - Faculty members must be full time faculty within the School of Social Work.

Article 9 - Meetings

- Section 1 - Chapter meetings shall be held a minimum of two times during the academic year.
- Section 2 - Special meetings may be called by any officer as needed.
- Section 3 - A quorum for any official or special meeting shall consist of a majority of the members (50% + 1).
- Section 4 - Phi Alpha will use Robert's Rules of Order when conducting Chapter meetings.

Article 10 - Amendments

- Section 1 - This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the Executive Committee and upon ratification by a three-fourths vote of the active chapter membership.
- Section 2 - Amendments may be proposed to the Executive Committee by any active member of the chapter.

By-Laws - Committees: May be appointed for the advancement of the organization, if needed, by the President.

Dues: a) The initiation fee shall be of sufficient amount to include the following:

- i) The initiation fee required by the National Honor Society.
- ii) The initiation fee required by the local chapter.

b) Annual chapter dues may be established in accordance with Chapter needs by action of the Executive Committee and a three-fourths vote of the chapter membership present.

c) Special fees, assessments, fines and penalties may be levied by the Executive Committee and a three-fourths vote of the chapter membership.

Disciplinary actions: Membership in Phi Alpha Honor Society is based on a lifetime membership. However, any member may be recommended to the Executive Council of the National Phi Alpha Honor Society for expulsion from the Chapter and from membership in the Society by a three-fourths vote of the chapter, following a thorough investigation and the member so charged has been granted an impartial hearing. Voting for the expulsion shall not take place at the same meeting in which the preliminary hearing has been held. Such expulsion shall not take place until approval of the Chapter findings have been given by the National Advisor. Dishonorable dismissal from the University shall be due cause for immediate recommendation for expulsion.