

**Constitution  
of  
Valparaiso University  
Panhellenic Association  
Approved July, 1998  
Updated February 2010**

**Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association.

**Article II. Object**

The object of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be to develop and maintain fraternity/sorority life and intergreek relations at a high level of accomplishment and in doing so to:

- (1) Consider the goals and ideals of member groups as continually applicable to campus and personal life.
- (2) Promote superior scholarship as basic to intellectual achievement.
- (3) Cooperate with member fraternities/sororities and the University administration in concern for maintenance of high social and moral standards.
- (4) Act in accordance with National Panhellenic Conference UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS and policies.
- (5) Act in accordance with such rules established by the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council as do not violate the sovereignty, rights, and privileges of member fraternities.

**Article III. Membership**

There shall be two classes of membership: Regular and Associate.

- (1) The Regular membership of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be composed of all chapter members in good standing of the National Panhellenic Conference members at Valparaiso University.
- (2) The Associate membership of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be composed of all members in good standing of the National Panhellenic Conference colonies or local sorority chapters.

#### **Article IV. Officers**

- (1) The officers of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be President, Vice-President of Recruitment, Secretary/Treasurer, Public Relations/Recruitment Guide Director.
- (2) The officers shall be delegates from fraternities/sororities holding regular membership in the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association. Delegates from fraternities/sororities holding associate membership shall not be eligible to hold office.
- (3) All officers must be active members of a National Panhellenic Conference fraternity/sorority.
- (4) The officers shall serve for a term of one year, the term of office to begin no later than February 1st.
- (5) Any officer failing to perform her duties as outlined shall resign and a successor be designated by election or as provided in Article VI., Section 3.

#### **Article V. Meetings**

- (1) **Regular.** Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council shall hold weekly meetings, if applicable.
- (2) **Special.** A special meeting of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council may be called by the President when necessary and shall be called by her upon the written request of any regular or associate member fraternity/sorority of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association.
- (3) The delegate from each regular or associate member fraternity shall be responsible for notifying her chapter of all regular and special meetings of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association/Council.

#### **Article VI. The Panhellenic Council**

The administrative body of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council.

It shall be the duty of the Panhellenic Council to administer all business related to the overall welfare of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association and to compile rules governing the Panhellenic Association, including recruitment, which do not violate the sovereignty, rights, and privileges of member fraternities.

- (1) **Membership.** The Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council shall be composed of one delegate, and one alternate delegate from each regular member fraternity/sorority colonies, national chapters, and only one delegate from each associate local sorority chapters at Valparaiso University.

- (2) **Selection of Delegates.** Delegates in the Panhellenic Council shall be selected by their respective fraternity/sorority or local sorority chapters to serve for a term of one year. Whenever possible, the alternate delegate of one year shall be the delegate for the succeeding year.
- (3) **Delegate Vacancies.** When a delegate vacancy occurs, it shall be the responsibility of the fraternity/sorority concerned to select a replacement within two weeks and to notify the Panhellenic Council Secretary/Treasurer of her name, address and telephone number. When a meeting of Panhellenic Council occurs while a delegate vacancy exists, the alternate delegate of the fraternity concerned shall fulfill the duties of the delegate in all cases, except that of President. The Vice-President shall fulfill the duties of President.
- (4) **Officers.** The officers of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall serve as the officers of its Panhellenic Council. These officers shall serve as the Executive Board of the Panhellenic Council and shall have such powers and duties as prescribed in the Bylaws of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association.
- (5) **Meetings.** Regular meetings of the Panhellenic Council shall be held at a time and place established at the beginning of each college term or semester.

**Special Meetings.** Special meetings of the Panhellenic Council may be called by the President when necessary and shall be called by her upon the written request of any member delegate of the Panhellenic Council.

**Quorum.** Two-thirds of the member fraternities/sororities shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business of the Panhellenic Association.

- (6) **Voting.**
  - (a) The voting body of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall be its Panhellenic Council.
  - (b) The voting members of the Panhellenic Council shall be delegates of each fraternity holding regular membership. If a delegate is absent, the vote of her fraternity shall be cast by its alternate. If both a delegate and alternate are absent, the vote may be cast by a member of the fraternity, providing she has been approved by the Council President prior to the meeting.
  - (c) Two-thirds of the voting members of the Panhellenic Council shall be required to establish recruitment rules, to establish Total Chapter size and to add a chapter. A majority vote shall be required to carry all other questions.
- (7) **Voice.** The Sorority Student Senate Representatives, Fraternity/Sorority Presidents and Panhellenic Advisor shall have voice but no vote.

### **Article VII. Panhellenic Advisor**

- (1) The Panhellenic Advisor shall be appointed by the University administration.
- (2) The Panhellenic Advisor shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association and its Council.

### **Article VIII. Sorority Student Senate Representatives**

- (1) The Sorority Student Senate Representatives must be members of a National Panhellenic Conference fraternity/sorority. They will be elected under the guidelines of the Valparaiso University Student Senate by members of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association.
- (2) The Sorority Student Senate Representatives shall serve as a liaison between the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council and Student Senate.

### **Article IX. Standing Committees**

Such Standing Committees and special officers as may be necessary to carry out the work of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council shall be appointed by its Executive Board to serve during the tenure in office of the Board which appoints them.

### **Article X. Unanimous Agreements and Policies**

- (1) All members of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association shall act in accordance with the fundamental policies established by the National Panhellenic Conference in the UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS (The Panhellenic Compact, Standards of Ethical Conduct, College Panhellenic Agreements, Agreement on Questionnaires and Constitutions, and the Jurisdiction of a College Panhellenic Council).
- (2) All Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association rules and policies shall be in harmony with those currently established by the National Panhellenic Conference.

### **Article XI. Violations**

- (1) Violation of any regulations of this Constitution or its related Bylaws, of recruitment rules, of rules concerning matters other than recruitment, of the National Panhellenic Conference UNANIMOUS AGREEMENTS (the Panhellenic Compact, Standards of Ethical Conduct, College Panhellenic Agreements, Agreement on Questionnaires and Constitutions and the Jurisdiction of a College Panhellenic Council) shall be the occasion for penalties established by the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council in conformity with those recommended by the National Panhellenic Conference (see College Panhellenic Agreement).

- (2) Any dispute growing out of the violations of the Panhellenic Association rules and regulations shall be adjusted through arbitration principles of the National Panhellenic Conference.

### **Article XII. Rules of Order**

The Valparaiso University Panhellenic Association and its Panhellenic Council shall be governed by Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised except in matters specifically provided for in the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules.

### **Article XIII. Hazing**

All forms of hazing, pledge day and/or pre-initiation activities which are defined as hazing shall be banned.

Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity/sorority premises to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities and situations include creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychological shocks; wearing publicly, apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and jokes; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; late night sessions which interfere with scholastic activities; any other activities which are not consistent with the regulations and policies of the educational institution.

### **Article IX Amendments**

This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the voting members of the Valparaiso University Panhellenic Council, provided notice of the proposed amendment has been given in writing at the preceding regular meeting.

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