

The National Handbook for Alpha Mu Gamma

DIVISION I THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME AND PURPOSES

- Section 1.** This national collegiate foreign language honor society shall be known as **Alpha Mu Gamma**.
- Section 2.** The purposes of the Society shall be: (a) to recognize achievement in the field of foreign-language study; (b) to stimulate a desire for linguistic attainment; (c) to encourage a continuing interest in the study of foreign languages, literatures, cultures and civilizations; and (d) to foster sympathetic understanding of other peoples and international friendship.

ARTICLE II INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1.** Membership in this Society shall be open to colleges and universities which offer foreign language instruction and are academically accredited by their regional associations.
- Section 2.** Applications for the establishment of chapters shall be made to the National Executive Secretary and transmitted by him/her to the National Executive Council, which shall vote upon the application.
- Section 3.** Each chapter shall have a faculty /advisor who shall be responsible to the National Executive Council for the welfare of the chapter, the regular selection of candidates for student membership, and the remittance of national dues. This responsibility may be shared with one or more associate /advisors.

ARTICLE III NATIONAL OFFICERS

- Section 1.** The elective officers of this Society shall be the National President, the National Vice-President, the Regional Vice-Presidents, the National Executive Secretary, the National Treasurer, the Scholarship Chairperson and the Intercultural Relations Chairperson.

- Section 2.** All elective officers shall be active or retired faculty members of this Society. All elective officers shall be active or retired faculty members of this Society.
- Section 3.** At least three months before the biennial National Convention, the National President shall appoint a Nominating Committee. The chairperson of the Nominating Committee shall send the names of the nominees for elective office to the National Executive Secretary two months before the date of the Convention.
- Section 4.** The National Executive Secretary shall send the ballots to all chapter advisors, except those that are inactive. Ballots returned to the National Office after the specified deadline will not be counted.
- Section 5.** Regional vice-presidents shall be nominated to represent the various regions in which Alpha Mu Gamma chapters are located. Their designations shall indicate the geographical areas to which they are assigned.

ARTICLE IV NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

- Section 1.** The National Executive Council shall consist of the national officers provided in Article III, the retiring National President and active past Presidents.
- Section 2.** The Executive Council shall direct the activities of the Society in accordance with policies and plans adopted by the National Convention and shall have the power to interpret this Constitution.
- Section 3.** The Executive Council shall have power to establish committees, the chairperson to be appointed by the National President; to fill vacancies in national offices by appointment, and to declare any office to be vacant if, in the judgment of the Executive Council, the incumbent fails to perform his/her duties.
- Section 4.** A majority of the members of the Executive Council shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE V NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

- Section 1.** The National Convention shall be the source of all authority in the Society. It may delegate such powers as may be deemed necessary to the Executive Council and to individual national officers.
- Section 2.** National Conventions shall be held every two years, the time and place to be determined by the National Executive Council.
- a) The National Convention shall serve as a forum for student and faculty academic performances through the presentation of papers or programs.

- b) The National Convention shall be the setting for the installation of the elected National Officers.
- c) The National Convention shall be used to create a sense of communication among the members of the Society.

Section 3. The Business Meeting will be held in conjunction with the National Convention.

Section 4. Each active chapter shall be entitled to two voting delegates.

Section 5. Each active chapter may send any number of non-voting delegates who may participate in discussions and serve on committees, but only the voting delegates shall have the right to vote.

Section 6. The National Treasurer shall, with the approval of the Executive Council, be authorized to expend funds necessary for the Convention.

ARTICLE VI FEES AND DUES

Section 1. Each academic institution shall pay a one time installation fee, to be determined by the National Executive Council, to establish an Alpha Mu Gamma chapter on its campus.

Section 2. Each student candidate shall pay: (a) national initiation dues to be set by the National Executive Council and (b) the cost of the key or other items, if ordered. The local chapter may in addition set such local initiation dues and membership dues as it may require.

Section 3. Each chapter shall remit all national initiation dues required of new member, to the National Office prior to each initiation.

ARTICLE VII REQUIREMENTS AND PRIVILEGES OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A candidate for Full Membership shall have completed one of the following language requirements:

- a) A candidate shall offer two final course grades of "A" in two college level courses of the same foreign language.
- b) A candidate who is a native of non-English speaking country may offer two final course grades of "A" in college level English or English as a Second Language as well as candidate of American Sign Language (ASL).

Section 2. A candidate shall also have attained a minimum cumulative Grade Point Average of "B" in all college level work.

- Section 3.** Any chapter may adopt for itself higher, but not lower, requirements than those in this Article.
- Section 4.** Grades offered in satisfaction of the requirements of Section 1 shall be the equivalent of two college level courses of at least three semester hours in the target language.
- Section 5.** Chapters may admit to Associate Membership any student who has completed a portion of the requirements for Full Membership. Upon the completion of all the requirements, such an Associate Member shall be eligible for Full Membership.
- Section 6.** The chapter may elect to Honorary Membership persons who have made an outstanding contribution to the purposes and activities of the local chapter.
- Section 7.** The chapter may elect to Faculty Membership any member of its foreign language faculty.
- Section 8.** Only Full, Honorary and Faculty Members may wear the key. Only Full Members may vote in the chapter and be candidates for chapter offices.

ARTICLE VIII TRANSFERS

- Section 1.** A Full Member of any chapter who transfers to another university or college which has a chapter of Alpha Mu Gamma may be accepted as Full Member of the second chapter without paying additional national or local initiation dues. He/she remains, however, an alumnus/a member of the first chapter.

ARTICLE IX PUBLICATIONS

- Section 1.** News from the National Executive Council, the National Office and reports of chapter activities shall be communicated to all the chapters through the **Alpha Mu Gamma Newsletter**, which shall be distributed, electronically, at least twice a year.
- Section 2.** Other publications of the Society may be issued by the National Office from time to time.

ARTICLE X AMENDMENTS

- Section 1.** Copies of any proposed amendments to this Constitution may be forwarded by any chapter or member of Alpha Mu Gamma to the National Office. Such proposed amendments must reach the National Office no later than two months before the meeting of the National Convention. Copies of the proposed amendment shall be forwarded by the National Office to all chapters not later than one month before the National Convention.
- Section 2.** An amendment must receive at least a two-thirds affirmative approval of all eligible delegates present and voting at the National Convention.

ARTICLE XI BY - LAWS

- Section 1.** Proposed By-Laws and amendments to By-Laws shall be submitted to and voted upon by the National Executive Council. A simple majority vote of the members of the National Executive Council is required for passage.