Senators, Alumni, and Esteemed Guests,

In the interest of:
- Ensuring consistency in the evaluation of petitioners
- Maintaining the quality of admitted Senators by ensuring that they are prepared to uphold the values of the Societies
- Ensuring consistency in the degree of preparation petitioners receive
- Clarifying commonly held questions by petitioners

And,

- Focusing the evaluation of petitioners during Executive Sessions in order to make those sessions more brief and organized

the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies has created the following document, which outlines desirable characteristics in a petitioner. The Societies emphasize that no petitioner is expected to fulfill all of the following characteristics, but that each characteristic will be considered within the context of the petition as a whole. For any questions regarding these qualifications, petitioners are encouraged to ask their sponsor.

Upholding the Values of the Societies

- Petitioners should be prepared to explain what they can contribute to the Societies, and how they are prepared to uphold the values outlined in the Societies’ preamble.
- Petitioners are expected to understand how to express their views and criticize other arguments politely, but unapologetically.
- **However,** petitioners are expected to demonstrate respect for the views of others both inside and outside of meetings. Personal attacks will not be condoned either as valid forms of rhetoric or as acceptable social behavior.
- Petitioners are expected to respect all senators and guests regardless of race, color, socio-economic status, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.
- Petitioners are highly encouraged to attend social events related to the Societies, including, but not limited to, Phi Days and post-meeting get-togethers at Linda’s bar. Guests who have scheduling conflicts with these events should feel welcome to approach Senators to either meet with them at another or suggest social events that they are able to attend.
- During official meetings, guests are expected to uphold the decorum of the Societies. This includes, but is not limited to, raising your hand, dressing appropriately, and not stepping on the dais. For any procedural questions, please consult our President Pro Tempore.
- Petitioners are expected to demonstrate a willingness to learn and improve their rhetorical skills. Senators will consider to what degree petitioners have improved over their time DiPhi and how they have responded to major flaws in their speaking style.
- Petitioners are expected to demonstrate their passion for the Societies through, but not limited to, any or all of the following tactics:
  - Regular attendance of meetings, attendance of social events, speaking during meetings beyond the regular requirements, attendance of special programs,
independent research on the Societies’ history, or questioning Senators about Societal procedure and history.

• Petitioners are reminded that previous debate experience is not a requirement for joining the Societies.
• Petitioners are expected to uphold these values both inside and outside of formal meetings.

**Petitioning Speech**

• Petitioners should have a clearly stated thesis towards the beginning of their speech.
• Petitioners are expected to provide at least two arguments that support their thesis.
• Petitioners are expected to address at least one argument against their thesis.
• These points should be amply supported by evidence such as statistical or scientific data, historical examples, analogies, or personal anecdotes. Petitioners should be prepared to provide examples that underscore their points if Senators feel that a given point is underdeveloped.
• These arguments should be expressed in a clear, organized format.
• We recognized that there is no single most effective format for a speech. However, senators should be able to both understand the logical flow between arguments and outline the petitioner’s main points without having to ask questions. In the past, successful petitions have given a brief outline of their main points at the beginning of the speech.
• All of the points in a petitioner’s speech should be clearly related to each other and connected by smooth transitions.
• Speeches should be understandable without any specialized knowledge in the field. However, petitioners should feel welcome to include any background information or context they believe would help senators understand their topic.
• Petitioners are advised that successful speeches combine well-written texts with persuasive delivery. In order to demonstrate this, petitioners are encouraged to use either some of the techniques listed below or similar ones:
  - Enthusiasm and sincerity of delivery; utilization of pathos, ethos, and logos arguments; utilization of rhetorical devices such as rhetorical questions; utilization of humor; or changes in tone and facial expression
• For a more comprehensive list of recommended rhetorical devices, see the following website: [http://www.virtualsalt.com/rhetoric.htm](http://www.virtualsalt.com/rhetoric.htm)
• Petitioners are expected to maintain the poise and decorum associated with giving a speech. That includes, but is not limited to:
  - Having proper posture, avoiding filler words like “um” and “uh,” speaking at an appropriate volume, and maintaining eye contact
• Successful speakers appear at ease while speaking. However, the Societies recognize that petitioners may be nervous and will take this into consideration when evaluating them.
• Petitioners are not required to cite sources in their speech. However, petitioners are highly encouraged to know their sources if questioned by a senator. Furthermore, petitioners may be called upon to justify the quality of their sources, especially if those sources are not well-known.
• Petitioners are highly encouraged to set up a practice petition so that they can rehearse their speech in front of some of the senators. Their sponsor is expected to assist them in this. Petitioners whose sponsors are reluctant to set them up with a practice petition should feel free to approach another senator for assistance.
• Petitions are expected to be between 8 and 10 minutes. However, successful petitions are typically closer to 10 minutes.
• For further information about how DiPhi assesses speeches, please see the attached copy of the rubric our Critic uses to assess slated speakers.
Queries

Speech-related queries

- Petitioners are expected to answer ALL queries to the best of their ability. While the Societies recognize that it is impossible for petitioners to have prepared answers to all potential queries, petitioners are expected to demonstrate their ability to quickly and creatively synthesize information in a coherent manner.

- Petitioners will not be penalized if they ask senators to repeat or clarify queries.

Historic queries

- Senators will be tracking the number of correct and incorrect responses to historical questions. While no specific “grade” is required, petitioners should be comfortable enough with the history of the Societies to be able to answer the questions proficiently.
- Petitioners are expected to elaborate on answers to history questions as much as possible, using this time as an opportunity to express as much historical knowledge as is relevant.
- Petitioners are only responsible for the information contained in the petitioning guide. However, if they have learned more about the Societies either through independent research or discussion with the Senators, they are encouraged to share this information during their petition.