

# Chamber Use Policy of the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies

Thank you for your interest in using our chambers. Please take a moment to look over our Chamber Use Policy, particularly Article III, Section A.

## Article I. The Societies

*Section A.* As stated in the preamble to the Joint Senate Constitution, the purpose of the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies is: to stimulate and advance interest in parliamentary discussion, to encourage public speaking, culture, and the arts, to facilitate a free interchange of ideas, to encourage rational thought, to promote the welfare of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and to promote the study of the history of this University.

*Section B.* All references to the Societies in this document are to the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, conditionally acknowledging the consent of both the Senate of the Dialectic Society and the Philanthropic Literary Society, and recognizing the rights of the Societies as individual entities.

*Section C.* All references to the Chambers of the Societies in this document refer specifically to the Dialectic Hall and the Philanthropic Chamber, which are located respectively on the top floors of New West Hall and New East Hall on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. "Chamber" refers specifically to the great rooms located just inside the main entry ways only and does not include the back rooms behind and above the Chambers of the Societies, the interior of the desks or filing cabinets, or any effects specifically related to the workings of the Societies. These effects include the President's gavel, the President's cane, the President's copy of the Constitution, the guest ledger, the Sergeant-at-Arms' roll book, the Critic's bell, the President's chair, the candlesticks, the Societies' copy of Wolfe's Look Homeward Angel, etc.

*Section D.* The Chambers of the Societies and the effects therein are the property of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation, Inc. and all conditions or request for the use of this property shall be directed by the Foundation through the Societies as their acting agents.

## Article II. Eligible Users

*Section A.* Any organization may use the Chambers, provided such usage is not inconsistent with the purposes of the Societies as stated in the Preamble to the Joint Senate Constitution.

*Section B.* Those who have traditionally used the Chambers shall continue to have access to them, provided that they follow the guidelines and restrictions listed herein.

*Section C.* The Societies reserve the right to deny use of the Chambers to any group on the basis of past misuse.

### **Article III. Conditions of Use**

*Section A.* Any and all groups meeting in the Chambers shall abide by the following conditions of such use:

1. Smoking is not allowed in the Chambers; this includes any and all smoke producing devices.
2. State and local laws, specifically those concerning liquor consumption and excessive noise levels, shall be obeyed at all times.
3. The Chambers shall be left in the same condition as they were found. The group using the Chamber shall be responsible for any and all damage caused to the Chambers or their effects during the time of use, including the costs of cleaning the Chambers.
4. A request must be made in advance to move any furniture into, out of, or within the Chambers.
5. The Societies reserve the right to have representative Senators present at any meeting held in the Chambers.
6. A statement concerning the nature of the Societies shall be read at the beginning of each meeting held in either Chamber, if the Societies so request. This statement will give, at a minimum, their purpose as stated in the Preamble to the Constitution and the time and date of their next regular meeting. It may be read by either a group or a Societies' representative, at the Societies' discretion.
7. No more than fifty (50) people shall be in a given Chamber at any one time.
8. Rowdy, obscene, unseemly, inebriated, or otherwise indecent, disrespectful, or ungentle displays of behavior by any member or guest of a group may be noted and acted upon by any representative of the Societies.
9. All groups must comply with the Societies' laws, customs, and traditions. Any egregious violations or deliberate non-compliance with the laws, customs, and traditions of either Society or of the Joint Senate may be noted and acted upon by any representative of the Societies.

*Section B.* Violation of any of these conditions shall be grounds for immediate expulsion from the Chambers, and may affect consideration of any future applications for use of the Chambers, including unconditional banishment.

*Section C.* Use of the Chambers shall constitute an agreement to abide by all the rules, regulations, and guidelines of this act.

*Section D.* Any and all organizations meeting in either Chamber shall be requested to contribute an amount, as prescribed below, for each such meeting, hereinafter referred to as the 'Chamber Use Contribution.'

1. The Chamber Use Contribution shall be sixty dollars (\$60) for each meeting in the Dialectic Hall and fifty dollars (\$50) for each meeting in the Philanthropic Chamber.
2. Should the organization wish to serve refreshments in the Philanthropic Chamber, the Chamber Use Contribution shall be increased by twenty-five dollars (\$25).
3. The Societies reserve the right to waive the Chamber Use Contribution. Such waiver requires the consent of two-thirds (2/3) of the active members present at a regular meeting of the Societies. It is suggested that the Chamber Use Contribution be waived for debates, artistic and literary presentations, and speeches of general public interest.

## **Article IV. Procedures**

- Section A.* Permission to use the Chambers may not be granted until a formal request for such use has been submitted, either in writing, or in person by a representative of the group at a regular meeting of the Societies.
1. Such a request shall include, at a minimum, the name of the group or organization, dates, times, and purpose of which use of the Chambers is requested, as well as which of the Chambers is desired.
  2. The Societies will expect to receive written requests at least two weeks in advance of the time the Chambers are to be used. Any request reaching the Societies less than one week in advance will not be considered.
  3. In extraordinary or emergency situations, the Societies may approve requests which do not meet the above requirements, using the same procedure as for requests submitted in the proper manner. However, in these circumstances, good cause must be shown by the applicant why such an irregular request should be considered at all, as well as why use of the Chamber should be granted. The vote for such a request shall either be a two-thirds majority of a special meeting of the Societies; or the unanimous consent of Executive Committee members who are voting, which must include must include three-quarters of the officers and either the President or the President Pro Tempore. Executive Committee must contact all members in accordance with Article I, Section C of the Joint Senate Statutory Code (Adequate Notice) before approving the request.
  4. Any Senator may present a request for use of the Chambers at any regular meeting of the Societies during the business section. When the Senator presenting the request is a member of the group seeking use of the Chambers, the monetary contribution for that request may be waived, provided that the member will be present during the Chamber use and will personally vouch, on his or her honor as a Senator of the Societies, for the benevolent intentions of that group.
  5. If a group has previously been granted use of either of the Chambers, this reservation obviously takes precedence over any later request from another group for the same time. Groups wishing to avoid such scheduling conflicts are advised to make their requests as far in advance as possible.
- Section B.* The Societies shall vote on each request for use of either Chamber before two regular meetings of the Societies have passed, following receipt of the request. In the case of a request presented in person by a representative of the group, the vote should occur following the presentation of the request and debate on the question.
1. The consent of two-thirds of the active members present at a regular meeting of the Societies shall be required to grant permission for the use of either of the two Chambers.
  2. It is suggested that, whenever possible, the Clerk send a copy of this Chamber Use Policy, along with the Societies' decision on the request, within a week of that decision. It is further suggested that the Clerk send a statement of the Societies' purposes and history, as well as an announcement of the next regular meeting of the Societies.
  3. If it should prove impossible for the Societies to vote on a request in time for a

meeting, the President shall act in accordance with Article IV Section A, Paragraph 3 of this action.

*Section C.* The Sergeant-at-Arms shall be responsible for keeping a record of the usage of the Chambers by outside groups, including documentation of any damage that may occur, or lack thereof. The Sergeant-at-Arms, or a Senator appointed by the Sergeant-at-Arms, shall ensure that the Chambers are unlocked and accessible before, and locked and secured after, any group's use of the Chambers. They shall also be responsible for noting the condition of the Chambers before and after each use. It is suggested that any representatives present, the appointee of the Sergeant-at-Arms, and/or the Sergeant-at-Arms themselves deliver a report on the group's use at the next regular meeting of the Societies, noting and reviewing the group's conduct at the meeting.

*Section D.* Informal gatherings of Senators and their guests, where a formal group or organization is not involved, may use the Chambers without having a formal reservation.

- 1.** The activities of those present must be consistent with the purposes of the Societies as stated in the Preamble to the Joint Senate Constitution.
- 2.** Those Senators present will be held personally accountable to the Societies for the appropriateness of such use of the Chambers, and for all occurrences during that use of the Chambers. In particular, the provisions of Article III, Section A, Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 7 will apply. Extreme abuse of this privilege may constitute grounds for censure or expulsion from the Societies.
- 3.** The provisions of the Section may in no way be used to allow an organization use of the Chambers without making a proper request to the Societies, or after such a request has been denied.

#### **Article V. Groups Exempt**

*Section A.* The provisions of the Policy shall not apply to the meetings of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, their Committees, groups composed solely of their members, or the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation Inc.