

Constitution of the Philanthropic Assembly of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



January 27, 2016

Preamble:

We, the members of the Philanthropic Literary Society at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in order to advance the higher ideals of citizenship, develop the arts of debating and oratory, promote the welfare of the University of North Carolina, encourage literary arts, facilitate the interchange of ideas, and cultivate lasting friendships, do ordain and establish this constitution of the Philanthropic Literary Society at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Article I. Name

This organization shall be officially known as the Philanthropic Society at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Whenever confusion cannot result, it may be referred to as the Philanthropic Society or Phi Society.

Article II. Motto

The motto of the Philanthropic Literary Society shall be “Virtus, Libertas, et Scientia,” “Virtue, Liberty, and Knowledge.”

Article III. Purpose

The purpose of the Philanthropic Literary Society shall be the realization of the aims set forth in the Preamble of this Constitution and the ideals expressed in the Motto.

Article IV. Membership

1. Membership in the Philanthropic Literary Society shall be regulated in accord with the laws of the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies.

2. The Philanthropic Society shall prohibit discrimination on the basis of age, citizenship status, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, gender identity, genetic information, marital status, medical condition, nationality, national origin, parental status, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, or veteran status.

Additionally, the Philanthropic Society shall adhere to any and all national, state, and local laws and University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill policies concerning non-discrimination.

3. The Philanthropic Literary Society may, at any time bestow honorary membership upon members of the community at the society's discretion.

Article V. Meetings

1. The Philanthropic Society shall meet at the call of the President or of a majority of the active membership, or at regular intervals as determined by the Society.
2. The Philanthropic Society shall hold a regularly scheduled business meeting once every session, prior to the elections of the Joint Senate. The Society shall elect its officers at this time, and shall then select its candidates for the offices of the Joint Senate by the same procedure.
3. Attendance at the Business meeting shall be mandatory.

Article VI. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of a majority of the active membership. A quorum shall be necessary before any business may receive the final approval of the Philanthropic Society, and shall be necessary before the Philanthropic Society may hold a regular meeting.

Article VII. Officers

1. The officers of the Philanthropic Society, in order of their ascendance to the Presidency, shall be the President, President Pro Tempore, and Secretary-Treasurer.
2. All officers shall be elected by majority vote and secret ballot at each business meeting. The new officers shall be inaugurated at the close of elections. Each officer shall serve until his or her successor is inaugurated.
3. The duties of the officers shall be as follows:
 - 3a. The President
 1. The president shall preside over all regular meetings of the Philanthropic Society; shall call the meeting to order at the stated time; shall announce all business in its correct parliamentary order, properly state each motion, and give the results of the vote.
 2. He or she shall at his or her discretion call to order, fine, or admonish any member, and shall decide all questions of order and interpretation of the Constitution.
 3. He or she shall call executive sessions of the Philanthropic Society when necessary, and shall appoint special committees when necessary.
 4. If the President vacates the chair, he shall call the President Pro Tempore to the chair; the other officers shall be called to the chair in the order of the ascendance to the Presidency.
 5. He or she shall be authorized to fill temporary vacancies in the administration.
 - 3b. The President Pro Tempore
 1. The President Pro Tempore shall assume the duties of the President in the absence or upon request of the president.
 2. He or she shall organize discussions, invite guest speakers, and encourage debates by members of the Society.
 3. He or she shall be responsible for parliamentary procedure used during the meeting, and he or she shall enforce the Constitution and By-Laws of the Philanthropic Society and any other internal resolutions passed by the Society.
 - 3c. The Secretary-Treasurer
 1. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep a record of the attendance of members and visitors, and keep the current membership roll in order of seniority.

2. He or she shall call the roll at the commencement of each meeting and determine the presence of a quorum and shall tabulate all votes of the Phi Society.
3. He or she shall at the request of the President notify all members of all sessions of the Philanthropic Society.
4. He or she shall make and keep accurate, complete, and up-to-date minutes of all meetings and transactions of the Philanthropic Society, and shall read at the opening of each regular meeting the minutes of the last meeting and shall submit them to the President for his or her signature. At the opening of each executive session the minutes of the preceding executive session shall be read.
5. He or she shall read and record all bills introduced before the Phi Society, and keep a volume of internal resolutions passed by the Phi Society, and shall pass it on to his or her successor.
6. He or she shall be in charge of the finances of the Phi Society, keep true and accurate financial records, collect all fees, fines, and assessments, and report on the condition of the treasury if requested at each regular meeting.
7. All accounts approved as correct shall be paid by the Secretary-Treasurer, and no one else. He or she shall pay out money only when instructed to do so by the Society. In every case, he or she shall be required to obtain and file receipts for all payments. He or she shall keep a book of bank receipts with stubs attached, and shall give a receipt to every member who shall pay money to the Society.
8. He or she shall at the end of his or her term, submit to the Phi Society a minute account of the condition of the treasury, and shall submit all books to the inspection of the Phi. At the end of his or her term he or she shall turn over to his or her successor all funds and records pertaining to the treasury.

Article VIII. Impeachment

1. A bill of impeachment for gross malcontent in office listing all charges, may be brought by any five members against any officers, and in case the President is impeached, the President Pro Tempore shall preside.
2. The merits of all impeachments shall be adjudged by the Society, and a two-thirds vote of the members present shall be required to convict.
3. The President shall appoint a committee to inquire into any charge of impeachment.

Article IX. Society Pins and Emblem

1. There shall be a pin known as the Phi Society pin that may be worn by any member of the Society who desires to purchase it.
2. A model of the pin shall be kept by the Secretary-Treasurer as the permanent property of the Phi Society.
3. The emblem of the Phi Society shall be a Maltese cross with its arms joined by a circle upon which there shall be written "Virtus, Libertas, et Scientia" and in the center of which there shall appear the Greek letter Phi.

Article X. Parliamentary Authority

Each session, the President Pro Tempore shall select an edition of Robert's Rules of Order to be the parliamentary authority that shall govern in all cases not specifically covered by the Constitution, By-laws, or Standing Rules of this Society.

Article XI. Amendment Procedure

All proposed amendments to the Constitution shall be presented to the Secretary-Treasurer at a regular meeting of the Phi Society, who shall read them before the Society. The floor shall then be thrown open for discussion. A two-thirds majority vote at two consecutive regular meetings shall be necessary for adoption of the amendment.

Article XII. Legality of the Constitution

1. This Constitution shall become the law of the Philanthropic Society upon its adoption at the second reading by a two-thirds vote of the members present and shall supersede all previous Constitutions of that Society.
2. The By-laws of the Phi Society shall supplement the Constitution and be second to the Constitution.