



## ***Constitution of the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill***

October 18, 2017

### **Preamble:**

WE, the members of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, in order to promote the ideals of our Societies; namely

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,

Do ordain and establish this Constitution for the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies.

### **Article I. Name, Motto, and Purpose**

1. This organization shall be known as the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Whenever confusion arises, it may be referred to as the Joint Senate, Di-Phi, the Societies, or the Di and Phi Societies.

2. The Societies 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 Joint Senate 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 motto of the Joint Senate shall be "*Ad Virtutem, Libertatem, Scientiamque*," which, in English, means "Towards Virtue, Liberty, and Knowledge."

4. The purpose and philosophy of the Societies shall be defined as the diligent pursuance by all members of the ideals in the Preamble of this Constitution. No philosophy inconsistent with these ideals can be considered the philosophy of the Societies.

## **Article II. Membership**

1. There shall be five classes of membership: student, associate, alumnus, faculty, and honorary. Student and associate members are subject to further classification as active, inactive, suspended, or lapsed.

2. Membership in the Societies is permanent except in the cases of resignation, expulsion, expiration of lapsed membership, or graduation while lapsed.

3. Active membership shall entitle the member to vote and participate in all matters concerning the Societies except as provided elsewhere in this Constitution, as well as to hold the title of Senator of the Societies, and shall carry with it the requirements of attendance at all regular meetings, payment of all dues, payment of all outstanding fines, and other duties as this Constitution, the Di Phi Code, and the Societies shall determine.

4. An active member who desires inactive membership shall petition the Societies, showing good cause for the request. Upon acceptance of the petition by a majority vote, the member shall be reclassified as an inactive member, for a period of one regular session or as specified in the vote. At the end of this term of inactive membership, the member shall be reclassified as active.

5. Any member who is absent without a valid excuse for three consecutive regular meetings shall be declared suspended, and shall be notified of this action. An excuse shall be considered valid only if it is presented in writing and accepted at the discretion of the chair, and shall be valid for one meeting only.

6. An inactive or suspended member may attend meetings and participate in all proceedings of the Societies, save that he or she shall not be eligible to vote or hold office. The member will be reinstated to active status following formal announcement of appropriate intentions to the Societies at any regular meeting. A suspended member shall be requested to show good cause why he or she should not be fined or otherwise disciplined for his or her extended absence.

7. Any member who has been suspended during a regular session of the Societies and who has attended fewer than three regular meetings in that session shall be reclassified as lapsed at the final meeting of that session, unless this declaration is over-ridden by a two-thirds majority vote at that meeting. The President, with a two-thirds majority vote, has the discretion to move any Senator in suspension into lapsed status.

8. A lapsed member shall retain only the right to petition for restoration of active status, showing good cause for the request, at any regular meeting of the regular session immediately following that in which his or her membership became lapsed. This petition shall be approved by standing vote, a simple majority being necessary for approval. At the end of this session, lapsed membership shall expire, and the expired member shall no longer be a member of the Societies. Afterwards, this person may reapply for admission to the Societies, being required to again fulfill all minimum requirements for admission as if he or she had never been a member. Should an expired member be readmitted, the normal procedure shall be followed, save that he or she shall not again go through the induction ceremony.

9. All suspended members shall be notified at the middle and at the end of each regular session of their suspended status. All lapsed members shall be advised of the time remaining before the expiration of their memberships at the middle of each regular session. All active, inactive, or suspended members who have not attended three regular meetings of a regular session shall be so informed before the third-to-last regular meeting of that session. Failure to so notify members, however, does not nullify their suspension, lapsing, or expiration; it is the responsibility of each member to attend meetings of the Societies or to present a proper excuse.

10. Any student of the University shall be eligible for student membership in the Societies. A student wishing such status shall fulfill all requirements for active membership and shall then have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereof.

11. Petitions for student membership shall not be heard or accepted in the final semester of a graduating student's enrollment at the University, unless the petitioner will continue coursework at the University in the following term. In the event that the petitioner plans to graduate during either summer session, the spring semester shall be considered the Petitioner's final semester.

12. Any person who is neither a student nor a member of the faculty of the University shall be eligible for associate membership in the Societies. A person wishing such status shall fulfill all requirements for active membership and shall then have all rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereof, except the right to hold office or to vote on amendments to the Constitution.

13. Any active, inactive, or suspended members of the Societies shall become alumni members upon receipt of a diploma from the Societies.

14. Any member of the University faculty shall be eligible for faculty membership in the Societies. A member of the faculty who petitions the Societies and is accepted by standing vote of a majority of the active members present shall become a faculty member of the Societies. Faculty membership shall entitle the member to the title of Senator of the

Societies, and to vote and participate in all matters concerning the Societies, save the right to hold office or to vote on election of officers, approval of new members, or amendments to the Constitution. It shall carry with it the requirements of attendance at a minimum of four meetings during a session, payment of all dues, and other duties as this Constitution, the By-Laws, and the Societies shall determine.

15. Honorary membership may be conferred by the Societies upon any worthy person who is not a registered student in the University. This shall be done by unanimous concurrence of the members present at two consecutive regular meetings of the Societies.

16. Alumni and honorary members may attend meetings and may participate in debates and discussions; they may not vote or hold office in the Societies.

17. Any alumnus member who continues coursework at the University, or returns to the University after graduation, may petition the Societies for active student membership and shall become active one week following the acceptance of the petition by a majority vote of the Societies.

18. Any alumnus or honorary member who is not a student at the University, but wishes to participate in the Societies, may petition the Societies for active associate membership at any regular meeting and shall become active one week following the acceptance of the petition by a majority vote of the Societies.

19. Any alumnus or honorary member who attains active status in this way shall remain, respectively, an alumnus or honorary member, even though the member also holds the status of active student or associate membership and all the rights and duties this entails. Should circumstances require such a member to become inactive, upon formal presentation of this request to the Societies the member shall revert to his or her former status as an alumnus or honorary member. Should such a member be classified as suspended, his or her status shall revert in the same way.

20. Should a student member find that his or her studies at the University are interrupted, for graduation or any other reason, so that he or she is no longer eligible to be a student member, he or she may petition for associate membership and shall become an associate member upon the acceptance of his or her petition by a majority vote. If an associate member enrolls in or returns to the University as a student, thus becoming ineligible for associate membership, he or she shall be given student membership. In either case, his or her classification as active, inactive, suspended, or lapsed shall remain unchanged. If an active member, no longer being a student, finds that he or she cannot attend the meetings of the Societies, he or she may petition for inactive status in the usual way, and the Societies are encouraged to grant it. If a student member leaves the University without being granted alumnus or associate status, he or she shall expire at the end of that semester.

21. The requirements for membership other than honorary or faculty shall be (1) an original, oral presentation to the Societies, (2) attendance of at least three meetings of the Societies, (3) sponsorship by a non-lapsed member of the Societies who has agreed to sponsorship at least one regular meeting prior to the night of the petition, (4) approval by secret ballot, requiring a two-thirds majority vote of present senators who are eligible to vote, and (5) proper induction.

22. Prospective members shall petition to join one of the two Societies. By tradition, North Carolina residents shall petition the Dialectic Society if they live west of Chapel Hill or the Philanthropic Society if they live east of Chapel Hill. However, it shall be the prerogative of each prospective member to determine which society he or she shall petition.

23. The Societies shall keep secret all their proceedings during consideration and acceptance or rejection of applicants for membership, and all induction ceremonies.

### **Article III. Officers**

1. The elected officers of the Societies, in order of succession, shall be President, President Pro Tempore, Critic, Clerk, Treasurer, Sergeant-At-Arms, and Historian.

2. All officers shall be elected by a secret ballot at the second to the last meeting of each semester, a majority of those present being necessary for election. The officers shall be inaugurated and shall take office at the last meeting of the semester.

3. The duties of the **President** shall be: a) to preside at meetings of the Societies, b) to appoint all standing committees as shall be deemed necessary, c) to fill by appointment any temporary vacancies in the administration, d) when presiding, to call to order, fine, or admonish any member at her or his discretion, e) to decide, when presiding, all questions of order and interpretation of the Constitution subject to veto by the Societies, requiring a majority vote in the case of a question of order and a three-fourths (3/4) majority in the case of a question of interpretation, f) to direct the Treasurer, upon authorization of the Societies, to pay out any money, g) to deliver, at the time of inauguration, an original written address which shall be filed with the Clerk, h) to chair the Executive committee, and to serve as an *ex officio* member without vote of all other committees, i) to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation, Inc., and j) to serve as official representative of the Societies. k) The President of the Joint Senate is permitted, but not required, to vote if, after the votes of Senators are tallied, her or his vote would affect the outcome of the vote. In cases where the President's vote would have no effect on the outcome of said vote, then she or he shall not be suffered a recorded vote.

4. The duties of the **President Pro Tempore** shall be: a) to assume the duties of the President at his or her request, or in his or her absence or disability, b) to serve as Parliamentarian, c) to serve as Chair of the Constitutional Committee, d) to keep members supplied with current copies of the Constitution and Statutory Code of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, e) to ensure any resolutions are properly enforced and to keep appropriate record of such resolutions.

5. The duties of the **Critic** shall be: a) to make an oral evaluation at each meeting of speeches given by members, including newly elected members, during public discussions and debates, b) to present the resolutions for the Societies' debates, other than the Centennial and Bicentennial Debates, c) to serve as moderator during debates involving speakers invited by the Societies for that purpose, and d) to serve as Chair of the Program Committee.

6. The duties of the **Clerk** shall be: a) to keep neat, accurate, and complete records of all meetings and transactions of the Societies, and to read the minutes of the previous meeting at the direction of the President, b) to read to the Societies records of all meetings of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation, Inc., Board of Directors, c) to handle all official correspondence, and optionally to appoint a **Correspondent of the Societies** to assist in overseeing such correspondence d) to maintain the current files of the Societies, and to turn over all current files and records to the successor in office and e) to send out weekly guest and Society emails with the following week's updates and events.

7. The duties of the **Treasurer** shall be: a) to maintain a digital version of a balance sheet available to all members as the record of the financial transactions of the Societies, a physical copy of the balance sheet and a physical record of each financial transaction including receipts, b) to update the balance sheets after every deposit or expenditure, c) to rectify the balance sheets with the checking account of the Societies monthly, with the assistance of the finance chair as necessary, d) to collect all dues, fines, and assessments, e) to pay out money when authorized by the Societies and directed by the President, f) to serve as a member, but not as Chair of the Finance Committee, g) to submit the balance sheets, checking account statements and records of all financial transactions of the Societies to the Chair of the Finance Committee for the audit of the Societies' accounts each session, h) to pass the balance sheets, checking account statements and records of all financial transactions of the Societies to the succeeding treasurer and to submit a copy of these records to the minutes to be deposited in the Societies' archives at the conclusion of the session. i) The Treasurer shall be solely empowered to sign checks for the Societies, upon authorization by the Societies and direction of the President.

8. The duties of the **Sergeant-At-Arms** shall be: a) to keep a roll of all members, and to call the roll of active members at the commencement of each meeting, b) to determine the presence or absence of a quorum at the beginning of each meeting, or upon request of the chair, c) to tabulate and record all votes of the Societies, d) to distribute to all members a roll of the members with home and University addresses and telephone numbers, and to update it periodically, e) to notify all members and interested parties of special meetings at least a day in advance, including the time, place, and purpose of the meeting, f) to keep a list of those having keys to the Di and Phi chambers and the New East and New West buildings, g) to be responsible for the condition of the properties of the Societies, and for the cleanliness of the chambers h) to enforce order in the Chambers and to eject members at the President' s discretion, and i) to appoint a member, who is not currently an officer, to serve as the **Curator of the Societies**. The Curator of the Societies shall administer the Societies' library and chair the Portrait Committee should she or he decide to call it. The Curator appointed in the **Fall** semester shall be tasked with conducting a yearly census of the portraits of the Societies and to compose a written index of their condition for restoration purposes. This census shall be conducted prior to the first Foundation meeting of the year and a copy of this report shall be given to both the Societies' minutes and the Foundation. The Curator in the **Spring** shall be responsible for completing a yearly catalog of all the books in the Societies' library, including any recent donations, and ensuring that the books are reasonably organized. This catalog shall be deposited along with the minutes in the Societies' archives.

9. The duties of the **Historian** shall be: a) to prepare and to report to the Societies at least twice during the term of office on some incident, event, or member of interest in the long history of the Societies, b) to prepare a paper on the activities of the Societies during his or her term of office, to be delivered before the Societies, c) to be responsible for maintaining order in the Societies' papers and archives with recent additions, d) to research and propose a resolution for the Societies' Centennial and Bicentennial Debates, to prepare for the Mangum Medal competition and the Kemp Plummer Battle Lecture, to lead a tour of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery the Friday immediately preceding Halloween and to lead an equivalent historical event in the Spring semester, and g) to turn over to the University Archivist all records no longer needed for current business for deposit with the Societies' archives.

10. A candidate for the office of President must have been a member of the Societies at the beginning of the first regular meeting of the current session and at the beginning of the two previous sessions. A candidate for the office of President Pro Tempore must have been a member of the Societies at the beginning of the first regular meeting of the current session and at the beginning of the previous session. These requirements may be

relaxed, by no more than one regular session, only if no active senator meets these requirements or if no active senator meeting these requirements wishes to run for the office in question.

#### **Article IV. Committees**

1. There shall be an Executive Committee of the Societies, chaired by the President and composed of all officers of the Joint Senate, together with the presidents of the Di and Phi as representatives of the two Societies. It should meet at least once every month during the collegiate year at a time apart from the regular meeting of the Societies.

2. The Executive Committee shall be charged with the preliminary consideration of matters of the Societies' business and reporting its findings. It shall also be empowered to conduct business for the Societies in situations where decisions must be made but consultation with the Societies is impractical. Such actions are subject to review and veto by the Societies, requiring a majority vote.

3. The standing committees of the Societies shall be the Membership, Program, Social, Finance, Constitutional, and Philanthropy Committees. There shall be a chair and at least two members appointed by the President to each committee, unless provided otherwise in the Constitution. They should meet at least once every session, and be able to make reports upon the request of the President or the Joint Senate.

4. The Membership Committee shall be charged with finding prospective members and making them acquainted with the purposes and goals of the Societies and with the qualifications for membership.

5. The Program Committee shall be charged with proposing, and, upon the Societies' approval and in coordination with the President, developing and enacting program activities for the Societies during regular meetings as well as for such programs and activities outside the regular meetings as the Societies shall approve.

6. The Social Committee shall be charged with strengthening the bonds of friendship by coordinating social events and gatherings.

7. The Finance Committee shall have the Treasurer as a member, but not as chair, and shall be charged with overseeing the finances of the Societies, and developing and proposing means of revenue. All proposals for major expenditures by the Societies shall be referred automatically to the Finance Committee for study and recommendation before consideration by the Societies. It shall also be the responsibility of the Finance Committee to conduct an internal audit of the Societies' accounts within the first three weeks of every session. All information and records must have been surrendered to the Finance Committee Chair at least three (3) days prior to the date of the audit. The audit



shall include the monetary dealings of the Societies over the previous two (2) regular sessions.

8. The Constitutional Committee shall be chaired by the President Pro Tempore, and shall be charged with keeping members supplied with current copies of the Constitution and Statutory Code of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies, with discussing and reporting on all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Joint Senate Rules submitted or referred to it, and with proposing from time to time such amendments as may be necessary. It shall also keep a volume of internal resolutions passed by the Societies, and shall see that these resolutions are enforced for the duration specified in such a resolution. It shall pass all papers and records on to the succeeding committee.

9. The Philanthropy Committee shall be charged with doing charitable works whose effects reach beyond the Societies. This shall be done in accordance with the ideals set forth in the Preamble, namely "To encourage public speaking, culture, and the arts" and "To promote the welfare of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill." This committee must conduct at least one charitable act a semester. The nature of the act(s) of charity carried out by Philanthropy Committee shall be at the discretion of the Committee.

10. The President may appoint Special Committees of the Societies, and their members, at his or her discretion or at the discretion of the Societies. These committees shall be appointed for a specific purpose, upon completion of which the committee shall be dissolved.

## **Article V. Fines, Censure, Impeachment, and Expulsion**

1. Rowdy, obscene, unseemly, inebriated, or otherwise indecent, disrespectful, or ungentle displays of behavior are subject to fine at the discretion of the chair or by a majority vote of the Societies. The maximum fine shall be ten dollars per count. If a member feels that a fine was levied unjustly, that member may appeal the fine to the Societies and a majority vote of members present shall sustain the fine.

2. Members who have outstanding debts to the Societies as a result of fines exceeding in total ten dollars for more than one academic semester may be considered in gross neglect of duty. This constitutes grounds for expulsion as noted in the following article.

3. Grounds for impeachment of officers or expulsion of members shall consist of extravagant breaches of decorum, gross neglect of duty, or any overt act or attitude reprehensible to the interests of the Societies. Grounds for the censure of members shall consist of similar offenses, but of lesser severity not meriting impeachment or expulsion.

4. A resolution of censure, listing all particulars, may be brought by any two active members against any member. A two-thirds vote of the members present shall be necessary to pass such a resolution, provided that the member in question shall be provided with the opportunity to present his or her defense, and that the members bringing the charges shall be present, at the time the resolution is debated. The member shall also receive at least one week's notice of the consideration of the resolution of censure against him or her.

5. A bill of impeachment for misconduct in office, listing all charges, may be brought by any three active members against any officer. The merits of all impeachments shall be decided by the Joint Senate of the Societies. In the event that the President is impeached, the President Pro Tempore shall preside.

6. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the active members of the Societies shall be necessary for removal from office, provided that a fair trial shall have been held, at which the officer in question has the opportunity to present a full defense, and that such officer shall have received written notice at least one week in advance of both the trial and the presentation of the charges against him or her, and that the members bringing the charges shall be present at the trial.

7. A bill of expulsion, listing all charges, may be brought against any member by any three active members of the Societies.

8. No member may be expelled from the Societies without a fair trial, during which time such member shall have the opportunity to present a full defense, and at which time those members bringing the charges shall be present. He or she shall receive written notice of the trial and the charges against him or her at least one week in advance of the trial. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of all active members is necessary for expulsion.

9. Any member expelled from the Societies may reapply for admission to the Societies no sooner than one semester following expulsion, provided that the conditions of the expulsion do not require a longer time, or specify that the expulsion shall be permanent. At that time such member shall be required to fulfill all minimum requirements for admission as if he or she had never been a member.

10. All proceedings during the consideration of a resolution of censure, or during a trial for impeachment or expulsion, shall be kept secret.

## **Article VI. Legislation and Resolutions**

1. The Societies may pass at any time such statutory legislation as they shall deem necessary for their continued operations. Such legislation must pass readings at two consecutive meetings before it may be considered legal.

2. The Statutory Code of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies (the Di Phi Code) shall supplement the Constitution and be second to the Constitution. All statutes shall have no fixed duration and shall be incorporated into the Di Phi Code.

3. Resolutions intended to temporarily govern some aspect of the Societies for a specified period of time shall, upon passage, be filed with the Clerk and the President Pro Tempore as chair of the Constitutional Committee. It shall be the latter's duty to ensure observance and compliance with such resolutions.

## **Article VII. Quorum**

1. A quorum for the conduct of all business shall consist of a majority of the active membership.

## **Article VIII. The Individual Societies**

1. As provided in Article I of this Constitution, collective names such as the Societies shall always refer to the Joint Senate.

2. Each Society may establish such laws as it wishes for the regulation of its affairs, subject to the supreme authority of the Joint Senate, and shall adopt no provisions contrary to the laws of the Joint Senate.

3. Each Society may create and fill such offices as it wishes, but must have a presiding officer, to be known to the Joint Senate as its president. This president shall have the duty of representing that Society before the Joint Senate and all other organizations.

4. If and when a motion is made to dissolve the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies and to return to the two separate Societies, it shall be necessary for this motion to be supported by a majority of the total membership in each Society. Failure to obtain such majorities shall make any such resolution of dissolution null and void. Should any members of a Society separate themselves despite the failure of a motion of dissolution, the remaining members may, at the discretion of the president of the other Society, continue as a rump Senate.

5. If a resolution of dissolution is successfully passed, it shall not take effect until a committee composed of an equal number of members from each Society and elected by a majority vote of each Society determines the legality, feasibility, and practicality of the dissolution of the Joint Senate, particularly as regards membership and property rights.

## **Article IX. Amendments**

1. All proposed amendments to the Constitution, except those originated by the Constitutional Committee, shall be presented to the Clerk, who shall read them before the Societies at a regular meeting. The amendment shall then be referred to the Constitutional Committee for consideration, after which the committee shall return the amendment, together with its report, to the Clerk at the next regular meeting. This report and the proposed amendment shall be read to the Societies and the floor opened up for discussion. Amendments originating in the Constitutional Committee shall be presented, together with the report of the committee, to the Clerk for reading to the Societies after which the floor shall be opened up for discussion as above. A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at two consecutive regular meetings shall suffice for adoption of an amendment. Alternatively, the distribution to all senators of the complete text of the proposed amendment, followed at least one week later by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote at one regular business meeting, shall suffice for adoption of an amendment. The Constitution shall be amended by no other method.

2. A "regular business meeting" is the final regular meeting of a semester.

## **Article X. Legality**

1. This Constitution shall become law of the Joint Senate of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies upon its adoption at the second reading by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present and shall supersede all previous Constitutions of either Society or of the Joint Senate. Any future Constitutional adoption must follow this procedure to become law.

2. No provision of this Constitution may, at any time, be suspended by the Joint Senate.

Last adopted in full on the second reading, Spring 2016.