



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

June 8, 2022

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, DiPhi, 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 three classes of membership: full, associate, and honorary
 - a. Full Membership
 - i. Any student of the University shall be eligible for full membership in the Societies.
 1. A student wishing such status shall fulfill all requirements outlined in Article II, Section 3 for full membership, and shall then have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities thereof.
 2. Full 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.
 3. This shall carry with it the requirements of attendance at all regular meetings, payment of all dues, payment of all outstanding fines exceeding ten dollars, and other duties as this Constitution, the DiPhi Code, and the Societies shall determine.
 4. Full membership is lost only upon expiration, expulsion, graduation, or at the request of the member.
 - ii. Upon graduation from the societies, full members shall become alumni and have associate membership conferred upon them
 1. Any alumni who continues coursework at the University, or returns to the University after graduation, may petition the Societies for full membership following the acceptance of the petition by a majority vote of the Societies and gain the rights and responsibilities of an active student member.
 - b. Associate Membership
 - i. Any person shall be eligible for associate membership in the Societies.
 1. Any person who petitions the Societies, and is accepted by a standing vote of a majority of the active members present, shall become an associate member of the Societies.

ii. Suspended

1. Any member who is absent without a valid excuse for four consecutive regular meetings or who has failed to meet their dues obligation past the fifth regular meeting, shall be declared suspended.
 - a. Any suspended members may attend meetings and participate in all proceedings of the Societies, save that they shall not be eligible to vote or hold office.
 - b. The member will be reinstated to active status following a formal petition for active status in an executive session during any regular meeting with a two-thirds vote of present members.
 - i. A suspended member shall be requested to elaborate on why they should not be fined or otherwise disciplined for their absence or failure to meet their dues obligation.
 - c. Any member who is suspended at the end of a regular session of the Societies may at any future time become expired by a motion, followed by a two-thirds majority vote at that meeting.
 - d. Afterwards, this person may reapply for admission to the Societies, being required to again fulfill all minimum requirements for admission as if they had never been a member.
 - i. Should an expired member be readmitted, the normal procedure shall be followed, save that they shall not again go through the induction ceremony.

iii. Notification

1. Members shall be notified of their pending suspension by the Sergeant-At-Arms no fewer than 2 meetings prior to the end of the semester.
2. Failure to notify members nullifies their expiration; it is the responsibility of each member to attend meetings of the Societies or to present a proper excuse.

3. Requirements for Membership

- a. Prospective members shall petition to join one of the two Societies.
 - i. If a current member seeks to petition a different society, they shall follow the regular process for petitioning but shall immediately and

- automatically resign their membership in their previous society upon induction into their new society.
- b. The requirements for full membership shall be
 - i. An original, oral presentation to the Societies.
 - ii. Speaking before the Societies on at least four occasions.
 - iii. Sponsorship by an active member of the Societies who has agreed to sponsorship, announced two weeks prior to the night of the petition.
 - iv. Approval by secret ballot requiring a two-thirds majority vote of present senators who are eligible to vote.
 - v. Proper induction.
 - c. The Societies shall keep secret all their proceedings during consideration and acceptance or rejection of applicants for membership, and all induction ceremonies.
4. Any Senator may resign at any time upon written notice to the Clerk or to such person or persons as the Clerk may designate. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, no acceptance of such resignation shall be necessary to make it effective.

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 secret ballot at the second to last regular 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 regular meeting of the semester.
 - a. The duties of the President shall be as follows:
 - i. To preside at all meetings of the Societies.
 - ii. To appoint all standing committees as deemed necessary.
 - iii. To fill by appointment any temporary vacancies in the administration.
 - iv. When presiding, to call to order, fine, or admonish any members at discretion.
 - v. 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.

- vi. To direct the Treasurer, upon authorization of the Societies, to pay out any money.
 - vii. To deliver, at the time of inauguration, an original written address which shall be filed with the Clerk.
 - viii. To serve as a voting member of the Executive Committee, and to serve as an ex officio member without vote of all other committees.
 - ix. To serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation.
 - x. To serve as the official representative of the Societies.
 - xi. The President of the Joint Senate is permitted, but not required, to vote if, after the votes of Senators are tallied, their vote would affect the outcome of the vote.
 - 1. In cases where the President's vote would have no effect on the outcome of said vote, then they shall not suffer a recorded vote.
 - xii. 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.
 - 1. 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 Presidency.
 - xiii. After Serving out their term the President shall become President Emeritus which shall be their title both as an active student member or as an alumni member.
- b. The duties of the President Pro Tempore shall be as follows:
- i. To assume the duties of the President at their request, or in their absence or disability.
 - ii. To serve as Parliamentarian.
 - iii. To serve as Chair of the Executive Committee and the Constitutional Committee.
 - iv. To keep members supplied with current copies of the Constitution and Statutory Code of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies.
 - v. To ensure any resolutions are properly enforced and to keep appropriate record of such resolutions.
 - vi. 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.

1. 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 PPT.
- c. The duties of the Critic shall be as follows:
 - i. To make an oral evaluation at each meeting of speeches given by members.
 - ii. To present the resolutions for the Societies' debates, other than the Centennial and Bicentennial Debates.
 - iii. To serve as moderator during debates involving speakers invited by the Societies for that purpose.
 - iv. To serve as Chair of the Programs Committee.
 - d. The duties of the Clerk shall be as follows:
 - i. To keep neat, accurate, and complete records of all meetings and correspondence of the Societies, and to read the minutes of the previous meeting at the direction of the President.
 - ii. To read before the Societies records of all meetings of the Board of Directors of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies Foundation.
 - iii. To handle all official correspondence, and optionally to appoint a Correspondent of the Societies to assist in overseeing such correspondence.
 - iv. To maintain the current files of the Societies, and to turn over all current files and records to their successor in office.
 - v. To send out weekly guest and Society emails with the following week's updates and events.
 - vi. 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.
 - e. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:
 - i. To maintain a balance sheet, available to all members, as a record of the financial transactions of the Societies, and a record of each financial transaction including receipts.
 1. The balance sheets should be updated after every deposit or expenditure.
 - ii. To rectify the balance sheets with the checking account of the Societies monthly, with the assistance of the Chair of the Finance Committee as necessary.
 - iii. To collect all dues, fines, and assessments.

- iv. To pay out money when authorized by the Societies and directed by the President.
 - v. To serve as a member, but not as Chair, of the Finance Committee.
 - vi. 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.
 - vii. 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.
 - viii. To, in the Spring semester, file the Societies' federal corporate income tax returns by no later than the fifteenth day of April.
 - ix. The Treasurer shall be solely empowered to sign checks for the Societies, upon authorization by the Societies and direction of the President.
- f. The duties of the Sergeant-At-Arms shall be as follows:
- i. To keep a roll of all members, and to call the roll of active members at the commencement of each meeting.
 - ii. To determine the presence or absence of a quorum at the beginning of each meeting, or upon request of the chair.
 - iii. To tabulate and record all votes of the Societies.
 - iv. To distribute to all members a roll of the members with University email addresses and telephone numbers, and to update it periodically.
 - v. To keep a list of those having keys to the Di and Phi chambers and the New East and New West buildings.
 - vi. To be responsible for the condition of the properties of the Societies, and for the cleanliness of the chambers.
 - vii. To enforce order in the Chambers and to eject members at the President's discretion.
 - viii. The Sergeant-at-Arms may appoint a member to serve as the Curator of the Societies. The duties of the Curator of the Societies shall be as follows.
 - 1. To administer the Societies' library.
 - 2. To assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in matters regarding the portraits and busts.

3. To maintain a catalog of the contents of the library, including any recent donations, which shall be deposited along with the minutes in the Societies' archives.
 4. To ensure that the books are reasonably organized.
 5. At the end of the session in which they serve, the Curator shall assess which items are still checked out and communicate with the members who borrowed them about their intentions for returning them.
 6. To conduct a yearly census of the portraits of the Societies and 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.
- g. The duties of the Historian shall be as follows:
- i. 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.
 - ii. To prepare a paper on the activities of the Societies during their term of office, to be delivered before the Societies.
 - iii. To be responsible for maintaining order in the Societies' papers and archives with recent additions.
 - iv. To research and propose a resolution for the Societies' Centennial and Bicentennial Debates.
 - v. To prepare for the Mangum Medal competition and the Margaret Evans Lerche Lecture.
 - vi. To lead a tour of the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, the Friday immediately preceding Halloween as well as an equivalent historical event in the Spring semester.
 - vii. To turn over to the University Archivist all records no longer needed for current business for deposit with the Societies' archives.
 - viii. The Historian may appoint a member to serve as Genealogist of the Societies. The Duties of the Genealogist of the Societies shall be as follows.
 1. To maintain the Societies' genealogical records.
 2. To assist the Historian with their duties as assigned.
3. The positions that can be appointed by elected officers other than the President shall be known as the deputy offices.
- a. Elected officers shall not be eligible for appointment as deputy officers.

- b. The officer who can appoint a deputy officer shall be known as the appointing officer of that deputy officer.
 - i. Appointing officers may appoint an active member of the Societies' to serve as a deputy officer.
 - ii. The Societies must be notified of appointments of deputy officers so that they may be approved.
 - iii. If an appointing officer does not appoint a deputy officer, the duties of that deputy office shall be duties of the appointing officer.
 - iv. Appointing officers shall assist their deputy officers with their responsibilities as needed.
 - c. Deputy officers may be asked to assist with any of the duties of their appointing officer.
 - i. Deputy officers shall fill in for their appointing officer in the event that their appointing officer is absent at a meeting of the Joint Senate.
 - 1. They shall not assume the place of their appointing officer in the line of succession.
4. The Joint Senate President and the Treasurer are required to be fee-paying students at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Article IV. Committees

- 1. The standing committees of the Societies shall be the Executive, Membership, Diversity, Programs, Social, Finance, Constitutional and Alumni Committees. There shall be a chair and at least two other 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.
 - a. The Executive Committee of the Societies shall be chaired by the President Pro Tempore and composed of all officers of the Joint Senate, together with the presidents of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies as representatives of the two Societies.
 - i. It should meet at least once every month during the collegiate year at a time apart from the regular meeting of the Societies.
 - ii. 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.

- b. The Membership Committee shall be charged with finding prospective members and making them acquainted with the purposes and goals of the Societies as well as the qualifications for membership.
- c. The Diversity Committee shall be charged with increasing the accessibility and inclusivity of DiPhi through initiating actions and discussions concerning underrepresented groups.
- d. 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.
- e. The Social Committee shall be charged with strengthening the bonds of amity by coordinating social events and gatherings.
- f. 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.
 - i. All proposals for expenditures greater than \$100 by the Societies shall be referred automatically to the Finance Committee before consideration by the Societies.
 - ii. 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.
 - 1. All information and records must have been surrendered to the Finance Committee Chair at least three days prior to the date of the audit. The audit shall include the monetary dealings of the Societies over the previous two regular sessions.
- g. The Constitutional Committee shall be chaired by the President Pro Tempore, and shall be charged with handling constitutional matters for the Joint Senate in situations such as the following:
 - i. Keeping members supplied with current copies of the Constitution and Statutory Code of the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies.
 - ii. Discussing and reporting on all proposed amendments to the Constitution and Joint Senate Rules submitted or referred to it.
 - iii. Proposing from time to time such amendments as may be necessary.

- iv. 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.
- v. It shall pass all papers and records on to the succeeding committee.
- h. The Alumni Committee shall be charged with maintaining the Societies' relations with their alumni. The Alumni Committee shall communicate regularly with the body of Alumni and call upon Alumni for added help.
- i. The President may appoint Special Committees of the Societies at their 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. The Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote may suspend the powers, authority, and responsibilities of any Officer for no longer than two (2) regular and/or special meetings to permit the Joint Senate a reasonable opportunity to consider and act upon a bill relating to the reinstatement, further suspension, or impeachment of such person.
2. The Joint Senate shall have the power to impeach and remove from office Officers upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
 - a. Grounds for the impeachment of officers shall consist of nonfeasance, misfeasance, or malfeasance of duty.
3. The Joint Senate shall have the power to expel a member of the Societies upon a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
 - a. Grounds for expulsion from the Societies shall consist of extravagant breaches of decorum, gross neglect of duty, or any overt act or attitude reprehensible to the interests of the Societies.
4. The details of disciplinary actions shall be regulated by the Statutory Code of the Joint Senate.
5. The Statutory Code may describe further forms of discipline not expressly stated in the Constitution.
6. If the Joint Senate President is the subject of a disciplinary bill the President-Pro Tempore shall preside. In all other cases, the Joint-Senate President shall preside.
 - a. The Joint Senate President shall retain the privilege of yielding the Chair to any other Senator for the duration of the disciplinary hearing. Such Senators shall not be the subject of the disciplinary bill.

7. All documents related to disciplinary action shall be kept secret and all meetings related to disciplinary actions shall be conducted in executive sessions.

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 DiPhi Code) shall supplement the Constitution and be second to the Constitution. All statutes shall have no fixed duration and shall be incorporated into the DiPhi 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. This presiding officer 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. Proposed Amendments to the Code or Constitution shall first be referred to the Constitutional Committee who shall put them forth at their discretion.
 - a. Only the Constitutional Committee can bring forth amendments to the Joint Senate.
2. Proposed amendments shall be provided to the Societies at least one week before the regular meeting at which they are to be first voted on.
 - a. It is the responsibility of the Constitutional Committee to distribute the amendments and confirm that they have been received by all active senators.
3. During the business in which the amendments are to be voted on, the primary author of the amendment shall read the title of the amendment and give a short summary of the bill, followed by queries from the floor.
 - a. Proposed amendments may be debated immediately after the query section.
4. A two-thirds majority vote of all members present at two consecutive meetings shall be necessary for the adoption of an amendment.
 - a. If an amendment is proposed at the final regular meeting of the semester, it is not required to be voted on at a second meeting.
 - b. If an amendment fails it shall return to the Constitutional Committee to either be rewritten or dropped.
5. No other method of amendment shall be permitted.

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. Any provision of this Constitution may be temporarily suspended by the Joint Senate, under unanimous vote of present members during any regular meeting.