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CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE NEBRASKA CHAPTER OF GAMMA SIGMA DELTA, THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE

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**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS
OF THE
NEBRASKA CHAPTER OF GAMMA SIGMA DELTA,
THE HONOR SOCIETY OF AGRICULTURE**

ARTICLE I

Name and Organization

Section 1. The name of the Chapter shall be the Nebraska Chapter of the Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta.

Section 2. This Chapter accepts in full the provisions in the Constitution of the International Honor Society of Agriculture, Gamma Sigma Delta.

ARTICLE II

Object and Purpose

Section 1. The object of this Chapter is to encourage high standards of scholarship and proficiency in all branches of the agricultural sciences, natural resources, and family and consumer sciences, hereafter referred to as professional areas, and a high degree of proficiency in the practice of these pursuits.

Section 2. The purpose of this Chapter shall be implemented by conferring membership, as an honor, on senior and graduate students whose studies are directly related to the professional areas and who have shown exceptional abilities in their academic studies. Membership shall also be conferred upon alumni and faculty members who have rendered outstanding service in the professional areas. All rules of this Chapter shall be in harmony with this purpose and shall be promulgated to emphasize and promote the honorary character of this society.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. There shall be two classes of membership in the Nebraska Chapter:

a. **Active members.**

1. Individuals initiated by the Nebraska Chapter and paying Chapter dues.
2. Individuals initiated by other Gamma Sigma Delta Chapters having requested affiliation with the Nebraska Chapter and paying Chapter dues.
3. Nebraska Award of Merit recipients who are exempt from Chapter dues.
4. Retired individuals having indicated a desire to retain active status and who are exempt from Chapter dues.

b. **Inactive members** are those individuals initiated or affiliated with the Nebraska Chapter but have elected **not** to pay Chapter dues.

Section 2. Criteria for election to membership in this Chapter are as follows:

a. **Senior undergraduate students** at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with grade point averages in the upper 15% of the total members of the respective senior classes in the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources (CASNR), AAFCS accredited departments of the College of Education and Human Sciences (CEHS), and those in the upper 15% of the senior class in the College of Engineering and Technology when majoring in Biological Systems Engineering or Agricultural Engineering.

b. **Graduate students** in the professional areas who meet all of the following requirements:

1. Show superior ability to carry on research and/or advanced study in the professional areas or in other sciences where the individual student's area of study or research is directly related to agriculture.

2. Show promise making worthwhile contributions in the professional areas.

3. Have completed 2/5 of the required credit hours for the advanced degree being sought, either the Master's or Ph.D.

4. Have attained a grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale in their graduate courses.

c. **Faculty and managerial/professional staff** within the professional areas who are outstanding or exceptional as educators, investigators, or administrators and meet all of the following requirements:

1. Have been University of Nebraska faculty/staff member for at least three years.

2. Have been engaged in work in the professional areas or related sciences for at least three years.

d. **Alumni** who meet **all** of the following requirements:

1. Have shown outstanding work or service in the professional areas.

2. Have graduated from the University of Nebraska or an institution with a Gamma Sigma Delta Chapter.

3. Graduated at least five years prior to election to membership.

e. **Honorary** membership may be awarded to an individual not qualified for the above categories but who has furthered the professional areas. Such membership is a prestigious award and limited to one per year for the Chapter. Individuals so honored need not be directly involved in the professional areas nor have an academic degree, but should be leaders at the university, community, state, regional, or national level.

Section 3. Election of individuals to be invited to join the Nebraska Chapter shall be made at the Annual Meeting of the Chapter. Election of members shall be by a two-thirds favorable vote of members present at the meeting with quorum rules in effect.

Section 4. Membership is life-long and is attained by accepting the Chapter invitation and remitting Chapter and International initiation fees. Membership becomes official with the issuance of a certificate signed by the International Secretary and the Chapter Secretary.

ARTICLE IV

Offices and Governance

Section 1. The executive officers of this Chapter shall include a President, President Elect, Immediate Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Coordinator and Historian, and they shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Chapter. The duties of each of the offices shall be those common to those offices and those reporting duties required by the International Society of Gamma Sigma Delta. In addition,

a. The President shall issue letters of invitation to those invited to membership in the Nebraska Chapter and arrange for a speaker at the Annual Meeting, if agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

b. The President Elect shall be responsible for publishing the Chapter Newsletter twice yearly.

c. The Secretary shall issue letters of invitation to the, Initiation and Awards Banquet to all active members, new initiates and award recipients.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall be elected by the active members of the Chapter from at least two active members nominated by a Nominating committee. A secret ballot shall be distributed to the active membership, and votes counted prior to the Annual Meeting where the results will be announced. The term of office shall be for one year beginning January 1.

Section 3. Officers shall move to the next office in sequence by affirmation at the Annual Meeting. The sequence of succession shall be: Treasurer to Secretary to President Elect to President. In the event of a vacancy in any office, the Executive Committee shall appoint an active member to fulfill the remainder of the unexpired term of office.

Section 4. The Membership Coordinator shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The term of office of the Membership Coordinator shall be at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Historian shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. The term of office of the Historian shall be at the pleasure of the Executive Committee.

Section 6 The Executive Committee shall have full power to act upon all matters pertaining to the interests of the Chapter during the interim between meetings of the Chapter. The Executive Committee shall appoint members to the Standing Committees and a delegate to represent the Chapter at the International Meeting of The Society.

Section 7. A special meeting of the Chapter may be called at any time by the President, by the Executive Committee, or at the request of 5 of the active members.

Section 8. The members of the Chapter attending the Annual Business Meeting shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 9. An Annual Business Meeting shall be held in September.

ARTICLE V

Fees

Section 1. A Chapter membership fee shall be required of all new initiates. A change in this fee shall be made by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 2. Changes in the annual Chapter dues shall be made by a vote of the membership at the Annual Meeting. These dues are as required by Article III. Section 1.

ARTICLE VI

Committees

Section 1. All Standing Committees shall have three active Chapter members, unless otherwise noted below. Each year the Executive Committee shall appoint a new member to each committee and reaffirm the previous appointments. A Committee member shall serve as Chair of the Committee the last year of their term. In the event of vacancies, the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy.

Section 2. Each Standing Committee shall maintain a written set of responsibilities and procedures. When these responsibilities require updating or modification, such revisions shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

Section 3. The Standing Committees and their primary responsibilities shall be:

a. **The Membership Committee**, the primary responsibilities include:

1. Securing a list of academically qualified seniors from the respective Deans or Head of the academic units specified in Article III, Section 2.a. and presenting those qualified for acceptance at the Annual meeting.

2. Sending the nomination forms and criteria to the Secretary for distribution to the active Chapter members prior to August 1 each year and receiving nominations for presentation to the Annual Meeting.

b. **The Auditing Committee**, consisting of two members, shall audit the Treasurer's record upon completion of the Treasurer's term of office and report the results of the audit to the Executive Committee.

c. **The Officer Nominating Committee** shall nominate at least two active members for the Office of Treasurer prior to August 1 each year, prepare a ballot and submit it to the Secretary for distribution, receive the ballots and report the results to the Annual Meeting. The Committee shall also prepare the slate of officers for affirmation at the Annual Meeting.

d. **The International Award for Distinguished Service Committee** shall review Chapter members as candidates for the International Award and prepare such nominations.

e. **The Chapter Award of Merit Committee** shall solicit the Chapter active membership for nominations and maintain the list of past recipients. Nominations submitted to the Committee must be accompanied by supporting information. No nominations may be made from the floor at any meeting of the Chapter. In the event no nominations are received, the Committee may propose candidates.

1. Not more than two Award of Merit candidates shall be selected by the Committee. These candidates shall be submitted to the Executive Committee for approval.

2. A maximum of two Awards of Merit may be made each year. This does not preclude one award or no award in any particular year.

f. **The Teaching Award Committee** shall include an active student member whenever possible. The Committee shall solicit the active membership for nominations for the Teaching Award and maintain a list of past recipients. The Committee shall receive the nominations and select one recipient for a particular year.

g. **The Extension Award Committee** shall solicit the active membership for nominations for the Extension Award and maintain a list of past recipients. The Committee shall receive the nominations and select one recipient for a particular year.

h. **The Research Award Committee** shall solicit the active membership for nominations for the Research Award and maintain a list of past recipients. The Committee shall receive the nominations and select one recipient for a particular year.

i. **Initiation and Awards Banquet Committee** shall include an active student member whenever possible. The Committee is responsible for making arrangements for the banquet, setting the charge to the membership, and arranging for a speaker.

j. **The Undergraduate Scholarship Committee** shall also include Ex Officio members from the Office of Dean CASNR and CEHS and the Chapter Historian. The Committee shall select the Gamma Sigma Delta Outstanding Underclassperson and Outstanding Senior, identify the top 10% of the juniors and seniors in each of the colleges and develop an appropriate recognition of these students. The committee shall include an active student member whenever possible.

Section 4. Ad Hoc Committees. The Executive Committee shall appoint Ad Hoc Committees to meet the special needs of the Chapter.

ARTICLE VII

Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Nebraska Chapter in all cases to which they apply, and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and Bylaws and any special rules of order of this Chapter.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

This Constitution and Bylaws may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the active membership by a mail ballot or by two-thirds vote at the Annual Meeting. The proposed amendments or revisions shall have been submitted to the active membership of the Chapter in writing at least one month before the mail ballot due date or the Annual Meeting.

Adopted: September 19, 1997

Amended: September 18, 2003

September 17, 2004

September 22, 2009