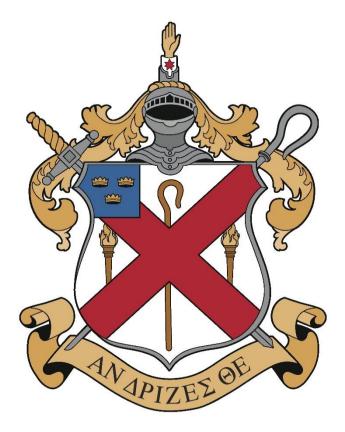
# NATIONAL FRATERNITY OF ALPHA CHI RHO GRADUATE CHAPTER MANUAL



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# **Introduction**

## <u>Purpose</u>

This manual serves as a guide for those establishing a Graduate Chapter or reorganizing an existing one by providing instrumental ideas on creation and consistency. The ideas and illustrated in this manual are examples of the best demonstrated practices from Graduate Chapters of Alpha Chi Rho.

## <u>Overview</u>

The manual contains samples of events, how to pay for them, and sample documents such as bylaws and newsletters are also included. Feel free to use these samples, or use them as a skeleton for your documents. Issues encountered and possible solutions will be shared as well where possible. In some instances, issues are never fully solved, but knowing in advance that you may face similar obstacles will be of a benefit to you.

## Why start a Graduate Chapter?

When you joined Alpha Chi Rho you pledged to support the fraternity in all its endeavors for life. You also gave your word to support your Chapter and school for its benefit and forming or supporting a Graduate Chapter is a great way to do so. You will be offering guidance to your undergraduate Chapter with wisdom, experience, and in some cases, financial support. This will lead them towards making less mistakes, and in some cases, to think before they act, knowing that the Graduate Chapter will require an explanation for ill-conceived behavior. If an undergraduate Chapter currently does not exist, the Graduate Chapter will be instrumental in maintaining relationships between Brothers from different eras. Activities that focus on the Graduate membership will be a major focus of the organization. Events such as dinners or sporting events should be used to foster the bond of Brotherhood away from the college/university environment.

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# Step 1: Contact & Build Interest

## 1.1 Build Interest with Graduate Brothers

To gain interest for a graduate chapter, you must initiate contact with other brothers from your chapter. Keeping in touch with your fellow Brothers may sound easy, but may prove to be daunting at times especially when you want to include Brothers from across various graduating classes.

#### $\rightarrow$ Start a Facebook Group & Invite Brothers

Chapters usually set up a Facebook group just for Graduate Brothers and close friends of the Chapter. A Facebook group is a great starting place to invite brothers you know on Facebook. The group itself will be instrumental for beginning and staying in contact with one another when starting a graduate chapter.

## 1.2 Speak with the National Office

You want to speak to the National Office at this point to inform them of your interest. They will be able to guide you through the process and provide graduate brother information lists. They will send out contact lists for an initial mailing. Their list may be a more complete mailing list of Graduate Brothers. Please see appendix 1.2 for a sample of one Graduate Chapter's newsletter.

# ★Goal: Enlist at least 6 core Brothers who are committed to starting the Graduate Chapter.

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# Step 2: Plan a Meeting to Elect Graduate Officers

### 2.1 Positions & Structure

Initially you will need to set up a meeting in person. You can take nominations for officers at your meeting, and then hold a vote. For Brothers unable to attend the meeting, suggest using Skype to allow for widespread participation and discussion.

The Officers of the Graduate Chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Undergraduate Liaison, and Undergraduate Chapter president.

**1. President** - The president shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and shall have all the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities thereof. The president shall chair all meetings of the Graduate Chapter and the Graduate Chapter Executive Board.

2. Vice President - The vice president shall serve as president if the president is absent and shall retain the office if the duly elected President cannot or will not complete his term of office. The vice president shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

**3.** Secretary – The secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all Regular, Special and Executive Board meetings. The secretary shall, with the help of other officers as necessary, produce and distribute a newsletter at least four (4) times per year. He shall also send articles and press releases to appropriate publications. (i.e. the Garnet & White).

**4**. **Treasurer** - The treasurer shall keep an accurate and up to date account of all financial records.

5. Undergraduate Liaison - The liaison shall have the primary job of serving as a liaison between the Undergraduate Chapter and the Graduate Chapter.

6. Undergraduate Chapter president - Responsible for ensuring that the Undergraduate Chapter is properly represented in decisions that impact the organization as a whole.

# ★Goal: Elect 5 Graduate Brothers to fulfill officer duties and communicate with the undergraduate Chapter president.

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# Step 3: Setup the Graduate Chapter

#### 3.1 Getting Started

#### 1. Determine Purpose

What is the purpose of the Graduate Chapter? Is it for reuniting old friends, helping the undergraduate members, and/or improving the community?

#### 2. Create/Modify Bylaws & Submit to National Office

Bylaws are vital to keeping order and structure, as well as, necessary for beginning a registered AXP Graduate Chapter.

#### 3. Obtain Tax ID # from National Office

Many financial institutions require the organization to have a Tax ID# prior to opening a bank account. Contact the National Office for this.

#### 4. Start a Bank Account

Financial institutions will often offer free checking accounts for non-profit organizations. Be sure to add the president, vice president, and treasurer on the account. Select a bank that is in a convenient location where everyone will have access to it. Many Chapters select banks near the undergraduate Chapter location.

#### 5. Get an Updated Graduate Brother List

The National Office will be able to provide a contact list of graduates from your Chapter.

★Goal: Once Brothers have been elected, try to complete the above tasks at the next graduate meeting. Keep the momentum going!

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# Step 4: The Next Steps of the Graduate Chapter

## 4.1 Communicate

Communicating with the rest of your Graduate Chapter is instrumental to maintaining interest especially with the obstacles of distance and time. Below are some suggestions for creating and keeping the lines of communication open.

- → Facebook- You can find and connect with brothers from all different graduation years and build a solid graduate chapter foundation.
- → Email/Phone- Once you have obtained your graduate chapter list from National, contact Brothers on the list.
- → Newsletter- Send a newsletter out via email or mail. It will let others know how the chapter is doing and will promote additional interest.
- → Skype- Allows graduate brothers unable to attend physical meetings by skyping into the meeting allowing for continued participation.
- → Regularly Scheduled Meetings- The best communication happens in person, but keep in mind, meetings need to run smoothly. Be aware that sloppy or uncontrolled meetings can do as much to tear down a chapter as organized ones can build them up. It is recommended that the Chapter adopt Robert's Rules of Order as its parliamentary.

## 4.2 Events

This is a major step towards cementing the foundation of your Graduate Chapter. Initially, focus on events where family is welcome. This could center on an existing event such as Homecoming or Founder's Day for the Chapter or National Fraternity. Your goal is to gain interest in the chapter, and for the most Brothers, the direct route is through their families. There must be a balance in the events planned. The Graduate Chapter demographics will require a variety of events to provide something of interest for everyone.

Examples:

- Major / Minor league sporting events
- Picnics
- Trips to amusement parks
- Adults only dinner (or formal)
- Graduate Brother sporting games like softball or basketball
- Tailgating a school sporting event

# ★Be sure to invite the undergraduate members whenever hosting events, this builds Brotherhood.

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# 4.3 Service

**Undergraduate Chapter**- See how the Graduate Chapter can help the undergraduate members. There are numerous things a graduate chapter can do to assist the undergraduate members. Sometimes the best policy is just asking them!

Examples:

- Help out with an undergraduate planned event
- Perform a service project together
- Start a scholarship program
- Establish a mentoring program to network and refer jobs

**Volunteer**- Setup or join an existing volunteer event, where the Graduate Brothers can offer their time to the event, and perhaps wear their letters while doing it. Many charitable organizations hold fundraising events, and will likely be able to use volunteers.

Examples:

- The American Cancer Society
- Habitat for Humanity
- Children's Wish Foundation
- Feed the Children
- Autism Society of America

# 4.4 "Spotlight" Your Undergraduates

You can advertise any event that your undergraduates hold to all of your Graduate Brothers and perhaps to other Graduate Brothers in the area from other chapters. The National Office will provide you with contact information. This could greatly increase participation and interest in the undergraduates' events. The Fraternity may be able to provide you with funding for the Graduate Brother portion of the event, (Please contact the National Office to discuss the specifics and eligibility requirements to receive financial assistance for graduate events). This type of activity can benefit the undergraduates, your Graduate Chapter, and the National Fraternity, as it will bring in various Brothers from the area, and increase their interest in the Fraternity after graduation, and in the Educational Foundation.

## 4.5 Chapter Housing Committee

This is a separate entity from the Graduate Chapter. This endeavor requires a separate board and officers since it requires a significant amount of time and effort.

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# Appendix I: Sample Bylaws for Gradate Chapters

## **ARTICLE I–NAME**

**SECTION1-** The name of this Graduate Chapter shall be the \_\_\_\_\_Graduate Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Chi Rho as authorized by the Ritual and Constitution of the Fraternity at the Chapter's Institution on the \_\_\_\_\_of \_\_\_\_, Two Thousand and \_\_\_\_\_.

# ARTICLE II-RITUAL AND LANDMARKS

SECTION1- The Ritual of the Fraternity of Alpha Chi Rho is the supreme rule of the Fraternity and is esoteric in nature.

**SECTION2-**The Landmarks of the Fraternity are statements of principle that the Fraternity and this Chapter will promote in all their undertakings. The Landmarks are four in number and read:

- 1. Membership from among those who are prepared to realize in word and deed the Brotherhood of all men.
- 2. The insistence on a high and clean moral standard.
- 3. The paramount duty of Brotherly love among members.
- 4. Judgment not by externals, but by intrinsic worth; no one is denied membership in Alpha Chi Rho because of race, creed, or nationality.

# **ARTICLE III-PURPOSE**

**SECTION1-** The\_\_\_\_\_Graduate Chapter of the Fraternity of Alpha Chi Rho, is an organization dedicated to the Ritual, Landmarks, Constitution, and Codes of the Fraternity of Alpha Chi Rho. The primary purpose of the Graduate Chapter is two-fold:

- **A.** To provide the Undergraduate Chapter and its members with academic and scholastic support in the form of scholarships and grants, also to advise the Undergraduate Chapter in all areas of Chapter operations to help promote the continuing and strong existence of the Chapter.
- **B.** To provide opportunities for social, service, and leadership development for members in good standing of the Graduate Chapter.

# **ARTICLE IV–MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION1-** The membership of the Graduate Chapter shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article II Sec.5of the National Constitution. Membership is limited to members of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ Undergraduate Chapter who are no longer matriculated at \_\_\_\_\_\_ University/College and are in good standing with the Undergraduate Chapter.

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**SECTION2-** To be considered a member in good standing of the Graduate Chapter, the following requirements must be met:

- A. All moneys owed to the Undergraduate Chapter must be paid.
- B. All dues and moneys owed to the Graduate Chapter must be paid.
- **C.** While payments of National Graduate dues are not mandatory, it is suggested for all members to fulfill their duties under the Ritual. Payment of these dues is mandatory for all officers of the Graduate Chapter.

#### **ARTICLE V. – OFFICERS**

**SECTION1-** The Officers of the \_\_\_\_\_Graduate Chapter shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Undergraduate Liaison, and Undergraduate Chapter President.

**SECTION2-** The Duties of the Officers shall be as normally assigned, and as listed here.

#### A. President:

- i. The President shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Chapter and shall have all the rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities thereof.
- ii. The President shall chair all meetings of the Graduate Chapter and the Graduate Chapter Executive Board.
- iii. The President shall have the power to appoint committee chairman and committee members with approval of the Executive Board.
- iii. The President shall chair the Bylaws Committee when needed.
- iv. The President shall attend the National Convention of the Fraternity as a Graduate Delegate with one other member in good standing.

#### **B. Vice President:**

- i. The Vice President shall serve as President if the President is absent and shall retain the office if the duly elected President cannot or will not complete his term of office.
- ii. The Vice President shall serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.
- iii. The Vice President shall serve as a liaison between the Graduate Chapter and the National Fraternity
- iv. The Vice President shall serve as a liaison between the Graduate Chapter and the Alpha Chi Rho Educational Foundation.

#### C. Secretary

i. The Secretary shall keep accurate minutes of all Regular, Special and Executive Board meetings, and shall cause them to be boundevery5years.

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- ii. The Secretary shall, with the help of other officers as necessary, produce and distribute a newsletter at least four (4) times per year. He shall also send articles and press releases to appropriate publications.(i.e. The Garnet& White)
- iii. The Secretary shall keep accurate membership records, including all relevant information.
- iv. The Secretary shall chair the awards committee for the determination of any and all awards to members of either Phi.

#### **D.** Treasurer

- i. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate and up-to date account of all financial records.
- ii. The Treasurer shall report quarterly to the members of the Executive Board, the National Office of the Fraternity, and the Resident Phi, as to the financial state of the Graduate Chapter.
- iii. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the Executive Board, shall propose a budget at the meeting of the Graduate Chapter closest to the Anniversary of the Chapter's Institution for approval of the membership.
- iv. The Treasurer shall have the power to appoint any Brother in good standing to assist him in the fiduciary matters of the Graduate Chapter, including a broker, with approval of the membership.
- v. The Treasurer shall cause a Dues Appeal Letter to be distributed to all Graduates of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, outlining the benefits of payment, each quarter.

#### E. Graduate Liaison

- i. The Graduate Liaison shall have the primary job of serving as a liaison between the Undergraduate Phi and the Graduate Phi.
- ii. The Graduate Liaison shall attend 75% of all Undergraduate Meetings and Councils including Special Councils. He shall also attend at least one Undergraduate Executive Board meeting per month.
- iii. The Graduate Liaison shall plan a Leadership Training Workshop for the Undergraduate Officers and new members in conjunction with the University/College, the National Fraternity and the Officers of the Graduate Chapter.
- iv. The Graduate Liaison shall plan an orientation seminar for graduating seniors, prior to graduation, to promote involvement in the Graduate Chapter.

#### F. Undergraduate President

- i. The Undergraduate President shall be a voting member of the Graduate Chapter Executive Board.
- ii. The Undergraduate President shall attend all Graduate Chapter and Graduate Chapter Executive Board Meetings, if he is unable to attend, he may send the Undergraduate Vice President or Ritual Officer, with prior notice given to the Graduate President.
- iii. The Undergraduate President shall serve, in conjunction with the Graduate Liaison, as a liaison between the Undergraduate Phi and the Graduate Phi.

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- iv. The Undergraduate President shall report on the State of the Undergraduate Chapter at the Annual Meeting of the Graduate Chapter.
- v. The Undergraduate President shall inform the Graduate Chapter of graduating seniors prior to graduation.
- vi. The Undergraduate President shall inform the Undergraduate Phi of the operations of the Graduate Chapter including awards. He shall also conduct any balloting necessary for the various awards given to the Undergraduate Brothers.

#### SECTION3- Elections and Appointments

All Officers of the Graduate Chapter shall serve two-year terms, with elections being held at the meeting closest to the Anniversary of the Chapter's Institution. Nominations will be accepted, in writing, to the Secretary after January 1, of the year of the elections. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor. All candidates must meet the requirements of Good Standing before being elected.

SECTION4-There shall be no term limits for any office of the Graduate Chapter.

## **ARTICLE VI -COMMITTEES**

**SECTION1-**TheStanding Committees for the Graduate Chapter will be the Executive Board, Fundraising, History and Records, Special Events, Scholarship and Undergraduate Steering.

#### SECTION2- Appointment, Composition, and Duties

All Standing Committees except the Executive shall be appointed by the President by the next regular meeting following the Elections of Officers. The chairman of each committee shall report on activities of the committee on at least a quarterly basis to the Vice President.

#### A. Executive Board

- i. The Executive Board shall include the officers of the Graduate Chapter as empoweredinArt.VSec.1of this document
- ii. The Executive Board shall meet as necessary to conduct business in the absence of the full membership.
- iii. Quorum of three (3) members of the Executive Board shall be necessary to conduct business.

iv. A3/4 vote of the Graduate Chapter can override a decision of the Executive Board, (including vetoes) providing that such action does not violate the Ritual, National Constitution and Bylaws, this document, Federal, State, or local laws. A vote to override the Executive Board shall be conducted by secret ballot.

#### **B.** History and Records Committee

i. The History and Records Committee shall keep and accurate and up-to-date history of the Chapter (both Phis) in both written and visual media format.

#### C. Special Events

i. The Special Events Committee shall plan and execute, in conjunction with the Undergraduate Chapter when applicable, special events such as Homecoming, National and Local Founders Days, Formals, the Annual Holiday Party, and any other event as mandated by the Brotherhood.

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#### **D.** Undergraduate Steering

- i. This committee shall be charged with advising and instructing the Resident Phi, so as to insure its continuing existence and adherence to the standards of Alpha Chi Rho.
- ii. This committee shall be chaired by the Graduate Liaison and comprised of at least 30ther alumni and two Undergraduates, one of which will be the Undergraduate Alumni Programming Chairman.
- iii. This committee is in no way to violate the sovereignty of the Undergraduate chapter, and will only serve in an advisory capacity.

#### E. Ad Hoc Committees

i. Ad Hoc, or temporary committees, shall be appointed by the President as needed or directed. They shall serve until such time as their duties have been fulfilled, after which they shall report and disband forthwith.

#### **ARTICLE VII - COUNCILS AND ATTENDANCE**

- **SECTION1-** The Graduate Chapter shall meet no less than four times per year with one meeting being held as the Annual Meeting the weekend closest to June 4, in remembrance of the Founding of Alpha Chi Rho.
  - A. The Annual Meeting shall be held so as to report on the State of the Fraternity. It shall be an open meeting and all Graduates and Undergraduates shall be invited. Open discussion on any relevant topics shall be entertained.
- **SECTION2-** Special Councils may be convened by the President, a majority vote of the Executive Board, or by petition of 3/4 of the Graduate Brothers in good standing, provided that 10 days notification of the time, date, and location of the meeting is given to all members.
- **SECTION3-** A quorum shall be considered to be present when 25% of all members in good standing are present with a minimum of 7 members in good standing. This is applicable to Special or Regular Meetings.
- **SECTION4-** For the purposes of Parliamentary Law, the Graduate Chapter shall consider its sessions to be 1 year starting 12:01 AM on June 4th.
- **SECTION5-** The Parliamentary Authority of the Graduate Chapter shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except where it is in conflict with The Ritual, National Constitution, or this document.

#### **ARTICLEVIII -FINANCES**

- SECTION1- The Fiscal year of the Graduate Chapter shall coincide with the calendar year.
- **SECTION2-** The Budget of the Chapter shall be submitted for approval at the meeting closest to the Anniversary of the Chapter's Institution for approval of the membership.
- SECTION3- Special assessments can be assigned and pro-rated by the Executive Board with approval of the Brotherhood.
- SECTION4-Graduate Dues shall be set by the Executive Board as part of the budget or at other times with approval of the Membership.

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SECTION5-Graduate Dues shall be due on January 1. They shall be considered late 30 days following the due date.

# **ARTICLEIX - MISCELLANEOUS**

- **SECTION1-** All Records not in present usage shall be kept in a secure and accessible place by the President or his duly appointed representative; the keeper shall be responsible for said items.
- **SECTION2-** Awards shall be given as deemed appropriate by the Graduate Chapter, and shall be chosen in accordance with the guidelines set out specifically for each award.
  - A A copy of these Bylaws shall be distributed to all Graduates and to all newly graduating seniors as part of their orientation.
  - **B** These Bylaws shall be revised every two years to reflect the changing needs and goals of the Graduate Chapter. This revision will occur in the non-election year.

## **ARTICLEX- AMENDMENT**

**SECTION1-** These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the Brothers in good standing and in attendance.

**SECTION2-** Amendments may by proposed by any member in good standing either in writing to the Secretary, prior to the meeting at which it is to be proposed, or from the floor at a Regular or Special Council. Action on amendments proposed from the floor will be delayed until the next meeting

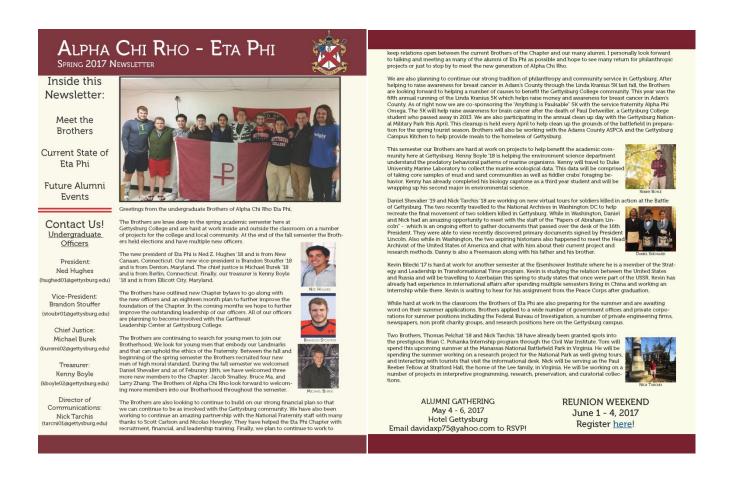
## **ARTICLEXI-ADOPTION**

**SECTION1-** These Bylaws shall become effective 48 hours after adoptionby3/4 of the membership and shall be binding to all Graduate Brothers of the \_\_\_\_\_Chapter.

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# Appendix II: Sample Newsletter

The Graduate Chapter can send all newsletter content to the National Office and a newsletter will be created for the Chapter to distribute. Content includes the text and images needed for the newsletter to be produced. Newsletters focus segments on both graduate and undergraduate Chapter news including recent achievements, life milestone, events, and other news to update Brothers.



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