

# CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

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**UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA  
WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM  
DELTA KAPPA CHAPTER - IOTA, IOTA, IOTA  
CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name of Organization**

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be the University of Nebraska at Omaha Women's & Gender Studies Honor Society Iota, Iota, Iota (Triota).

**ARTICLE II**

**Purpose of Organization**

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage and support service, scholarship and excellence in Women's & Gender Studies at University of Nebraska at Omaha.

**ARTICLE III**

**Qualifications for Membership**

Section 1: Membership shall be open to any student at University of Nebraska at Omaha having a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0, a strong interest in Women's & Gender Studies, and having successfully completed either WGST 2010 or WGST 2020 and an additional 3 credit hours in any other WGST course.

Section 2: All who meet approved academic criteria are invited to become members of this Women's & Gender Studies academic society without regard to sex, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, religion, creed, (dis)ability, economic status, national origin, or any other protected status.

Section 3: Officers shall be elected from the general membership. No one officer shall serve more than 2 years and not more than one year in any given office.

**ARTICLE IV**

**Officers of the Organization**

Section 1: The elected officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice- President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 2: The term of office shall be for one year, providing continuity of management and planning between chapter members over the summer.

Section 3: Elections shall be held during the spring semester prior to the end of the academic year during an official meeting that has been announced at least one week in advance.

Section 4: Officers shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by UPFF-paying members. Nominations by peers as well as self-nominations are encouraged. UPFF-paying student members are eligible for positions of office.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings of the organization.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve in the capacity of President during an absence of the President.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to administer the financial affairs of the organization and to present the status of finances at organization meetings for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization.

Section 8: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the organization's meetings and to present the same for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, of the organization.

Section 9: The Executive Board of the organization shall consist of the elected officers who constitute the Executive Committee and the Faculty Advisor. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to pass any business which refers to the Executive Board by a simple majority vote.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Council**

Section 1: The governing body of this society shall be known as council.

Section 2: Council shall be composed of positions as follows: 1) President; 2) Vice-President; 3) Secretary; and 4) Treasurer.

Section 3: Meetings of council shall be open to all voting members of this society who shall be permitted to speak on any topic properly under discussion. Only the Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer members of council will have a vote.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Standing committees**

Section 1: This society shall have two standing committees as follows:

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Planning Committee

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Meetings**

Section 1: Meetings will be held once each month at the Women's & Gender Studies conference room, Arts and Science Hall room 311, unless otherwise specified.

Section 2: Special meetings shall be called by email by the Secretary of the organization at least one week prior to the special meeting.

Section 3: The annual members meeting shall be similarly called by the Secretary.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Quorum**

Section 1: A simple majority of the elected officers and members in attendance may transact business legally and shall constitute a quorum.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **Amendments**

Section 1: Amendments must be presented to the Executive Board for approval before they may be submitted to the organization for vote. Amendments must pertain to the purpose of the honor society.

Section 2: Provisions for Notice shall be given to the membership at the first meeting of the organization at which a quorum is present following the approval of the amendment by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Enacting Clause**

Section 1: This Constitution shall become effective upon approval of the Club and Organization Coordinator of The Office of Student Activities at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

## **BYLAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Definition of Name**

Section 1: The Women's & Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota is named for the ancient goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis.

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Description and Purpose**

Section 1: This organization shall be a non-secret, egalitarian national society of scholars dedicated to the ideals of excellence in service and Women's & Gender Studies scholarship.

Section 2: It shall be the purpose of this society to promote an interest in Women's & Gender Studies, service, research in social problems related to gender, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the condition of all people.

### **ARTICLE III**

#### **Membership**

Section 1: Those persons who have been approved for membership by a chartered chapter of this society and who have paid the initiation fee for membership shall be accorded the status of life member.

Section 2: Undergraduate members who maintain active status within the chapter shall be granted the status of voting member.

Section 3: Dues shall be determined by each respective chapter of Triota.

### **ARTICLE IV**

#### **Officers**

Section 1: Officers of this society shall be four in number and shall be elected by voting members by secret ballot. The officers of this society shall be as follows: 1) President; 2) Vice-President; 3) Secretary; and 4) Treasurer.

Section 2: Candidates for these offices shall be named by the nominating committee.

Section 3: Officers of this society shall be qualified for their positions by being voting members at the time of their candidacy for office and during their term of office.

Section 4: In the event that the President is unable to serve a full term of office, the Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of President for the unexpired portion. In the event that the Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer is still unable to serve a full term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired portion.

Section 5: The duties of the officers of this society shall be as follows:

a. The President shall act as Chair of Council at all meetings and perform all functions as Executive Officer of this society consistent with the policies of council. The President shall have sole power to appoint members of special purpose committees not otherwise specified in the constitution. It shall be the responsibility/duty of the president to communicate with heads of committees who will present reports to the president.

- b. The Vice-President shall chair the planning committee. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to receive auditor's reports and ensure their review by the planning committee.
- c. The Vice-President shall assume the chair of council in the absence of the President and shall fill the unexpired term of the President when that office is vacant, upon confirmation by council.
- d. The Secretary shall be archivist for the society, performing such duties as council may assign, including:
  - (1) Provide certificates of life membership to new initiates and maintain records of voting members by chapter affiliation for purpose of voting in the affairs of this organization.
  - (2) Prepare and receive secret ballots for the conduct of business of this society consistent with the policies of council.
  - (4) Record the minutes of meetings of council.
  - (5) Provide council with a brief written annual summary report of activity during the preceding year and for proposals for the ensuing year.
- e. The Treasurer shall be fiscal officer for the society performing such duties as council may assign including:
  - (1) Receive, disburse, and otherwise properly manage and record all financial transactions for this society consistent with policies of council.
  - (2) Provide complete records of the financial status of this organization.

Section 6: Additional officers desired by council shall be appointed by action of council.

Section 7: Removal of Officers:

- a. An officer may be removed from the office only for cause by a two-thirds vote of members of council present and voting either in person or by proxy at an annual meeting where charges are studied by council.
- b. Cause for removal from office shall consist of such matters as misuse of office or persistent failure to perform duties of office.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **Council**

Section 1: Official actions and policies of this society shall be set by a plurality of members voting when a quorum is present at annual meetings or at specially called meetings; except for proposed constitutional amendments which will require a two-thirds vote consistent with Article VIII. Voting privileges shall be extended to active members of the organization who are currently enrolled and

are UPFF-paying students at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Section 2: Council shall receive reports and proposed budgets from the planning committee, review the desirability of such recommendations, and vote their approval or rejection for implementation.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Standing Committees**

Section 1: This society shall have two standing committees, as follows:

- a.      **Executive Committee:** This committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President shall chair the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for the society between meetings of council; such actions must be ratified by a plurality of council at its next meeting in order to remain in force beyond that time.
- b.      **Planning Committee.** This committee shall consist of the Vice-President, who shall chair the committee, and three voting members appointed by the President. The function of this committee shall be to provide long range planning for the society and to make recommendations to council. Proposed plans shall be accompanied by a sufficiently detailed budgetary analysis to permit critical evaluation of feasibility, costs, and benefits.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Meetings**

Section 1: The annual members meeting will include discussion of inherent contradictions of elitism in honor societies vs inclusionary principles and values consistent with feminist/social justice ideologies.

Section 2: The monthly members meetings will include discussion of service work experiences and future opportunities, preparation for upcoming events, suggestions for future events, financial reports, current or upcoming elections, current or upcoming votes for amendments, and recommendations for future amendments.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendments**

Section 1: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by members of council or the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to council for study.

Section 2: Proposed amendments to this Constitution will be studied by council, and, if approved by a quorum vote of council, shall be submitted by ballot to chapter representatives for ratification on or before a date set by council.

Section 3: Ratification of amendments to this Constitution shall require a three-fourths vote of chapter representatives casting ballots.

Section 4: Following the conclusion of the executive review of the constitution they will present their proposed changes to the Office of Student Involvement. The office will notify the students on whether or not the constitution was adopted.