



Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity
Tau Chapter
The University of Alabama

Official Bylaws

Article I: Purpose

Section 1 - General

1. The name of this social fraternity shall be Sigma Alpha Mu; its chapter designation is Tau. The purpose of these bylaws is to govern the affairs of Tau in accordance with the rules of the Blue Book, to provide regulations to allow the organization to function properly and efficiently, and to act as a manifestation of the values inherent in members of the chapter. In the event of a conflict between these bylaws and the Blue Book, the Blue Book shall govern.

Article II: Membership

Section 1 - Limitations

1. Membership in Sigma Alpha Mu, Tau shall be limited to persons officially affiliated with The University of Alabama as full-time students, part-time students or alumni.
2. Membership in Sigma Alpha Mu, Tau shall not be limited to persons based on their race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, or veteran status.

Section 2 – Definitions

1. The following are terms for these bylaws and are defined as the following:
 - A. Member – A brother or candidate.
 - B. Brother – A person who has been initiated.
 - C. Candidate – A person who is participating in training and education.
 - D. Fine – A stipulated amount of money.
 - E. Disciplinary Action – A non-monetary punishment.
 - F. Dues – a stipulated amount of money to be paid by every active member each semester.
 - G. Full-time Student – A person who is taking no less than 12 semester credit hours, or as otherwise defined by the University.
 - H. Part-time Student - A person who is taking less than 12 semester credit hours, or as otherwise defined by the University.
 - I. Committee – A number of members chosen by a chairman to assist him in his duties
 - J. Chairman – The head of a committee.
 - K. Good standing – The default status of a member.
 - L. Bad standing – The status of a member who has broken certain rules and regulations stipulated herein. Bad standing is accompanied by penalties.
 - M. Chapter – Tau.
 - N. Sigma Alpha Mu – The national governing body.
 - O. University Council – The governing body operated and maintained by the University, to which the chapter belongs.
 - P. Public – A person or organization that is not directly affiliated with the chapter.
 - Q. General assembly – The assembled chapter members at a regularly scheduled chapter meeting.
 - R. Blue Book – The official rules of Sigma Alpha Mu.
 - S. Octagon – The governing board of Sigma Alpha Mu.

Section 3 – Eligibility

1. A brother shall be considered an active member if he is a full-time or part-time undergraduate student at The University of Alabama and is a member in good standing in accordance with these bylaws.

2. A candidate shall be eligible for consideration by the chapter if he is a full-time undergraduate student who has never taken an oath to or pledged allegiance to any other social collegiate fraternity.

Article III: Organization

Section 1 – Officers

1. The officers of the chapter shall be elected from the active membership.
2. To be eligible for a chair or an Executive Council position, a brother must not be on academic warning or probation and he must be in good standing.
3. If a chairman or councilman is placed on academic probation or warning, that officer must resign his position immediately and his position will be filled as soon as possible.

Section 2 – Executive Council Positions and Duties

1. Executive Council Member duties are as follows:

A. Prior

1. Must call for meetings on a weekly basis unless deemed unnecessary by the Executive Council.
2. Shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter.
3. Shall remove from office those chairmen who are negligent in carrying out the duties of a particular office.
4. Shall be member ex-officio of all committees with the right to vote but not required to do so.
5. Shall have one vote as an active member of the Chapter and another in the case of a tie.
6. Shall have the power necessary to order any member to do that which may benefit the chapter, pursuant to Blue Book.
7. Shall be responsible to the Octagon for the welfare and actions of the Chapter, and its adherence to the regulations of The University of Alabama and the Blue Book.
8. Shall preside over all induction and initiation ceremonies.
9. Shall be responsible to communicate to the national office.
10. Shall attend all affiliated university council meetings (IFC, UGC, etc.) or appoint a representative to do so.

B. Vice Prior

1. Shall be the acting Prior in absence of the Prior
2. Shall supervise all committees.
3. Shall have membership on each committee with the right to vote but not required to do so.
4. Shall assist the Prior in carrying out policies and measures.
5. Shall oversee and maintain all chairs of committees.
6. Shall stand as the Risk Manager in all circumstances.

C. Exchequer

1. Shall collect and keep in trust all funds belonging to the chapter.
2. Shall co-sign all fraternity checks with another member of council.
3. Shall prepare a budget on an annual basis.
4. Shall maintain and update all fraternity financial books and records.
5. Shall prepare a monthly report to the National Headquarters.
6. Shall make any financial book, record, or report available to any active member who is in good standing.
7. Shall be empowered to enforce collection of all debts.
8. Shall prepare a complete financial report including a balance statement and shall distribute it to the chapter each semester along with a complete explanation. This report shall be published after the beginning of fall semester.
9. Shall be responsible for overseeing actions on the OmegaFi online payment system and be responsible for maintaining all online financial records for active members.

D. Recorder

1. Must take minutes at every meeting, or delegate an assistant to record the minutes at any meeting that the Recorder might not be able to attend.
2. Must make available to all brothers the minutes of the previous chapter meeting within 24 hours of its occurrence.
3. Must maintain all fraternity rosters.
4. Must maintain all records pertaining to candidates for affiliation and the records of all candidates who have signed biographies.
5. Must ensure that proper work of all initiations of candidates completed and corresponds to the standards as prescribed in the Blue Book.
6. Prepare the monthly Recorder's report for the National Office.
7. Take role call at each meeting.
8. Shall be responsible for the orderly maintenance of the files with respect to motions passed by the chapter, and its correspondence.
9. Shall oversee the Alumni Recorder and Historian.
10. Shall prepare the Chapter Performance Report to be sent to the national office.
11. Shall inform all brothers of meeting times and places.

Section 3 – Committees

1. All Chairmen have the authority to organize a committee to work under them as they see fit.
2. Chairmen are the leaders of their respective committees.
3. All Chairmen can nominate a vice-chair with a majority vote of approval by the assembly.
4. All Chairmen are elected or otherwise appointed according to the present needs of the organization.
5. All committees must abide by the rules of The University of Alabama, Sigma Alpha Mu and all applicable laws.

Section 4 – Committee Positions and Duties

1. Committee duties are as follows:

A. Athletic Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Athletic Chairman.
2. Registers and captains all intramural events, and has full discretion over game time decisions such as strategy and line-ups.
3. Performs captain's duty towards team as defined by The University of Alabama Recreation Center policies.
4. Schedules inter-fraternity events when opportunities are deemed appropriate.

B. Recruitment Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Recruitment Chairman.
2. Organizes recruitment in order to grow the chapter.
3. Shall follow policies and regulations outlined in Article VII.

C. Candidate Education Committee

1. Shall be co-chaired by the Candidate Educator and the Ritual Chairman.
2. The Candidate Educator is responsible for the execution of the candidate program.
3. The Candidate Educator is responsible for the coordination of the big brother program.
4. The Candidate Educator shall be empowered to bar any member or alumnus, except the Prior, from a candidate function.
5. The Ritual Chairman is responsible for the coordination and execution of the ritual program.
6. The Ritual Chairman shall be empowered to bar any member or alumnus, except the Prior, from a ritual function.
7. Both chairmen must obey all rules and regulations regarding hazing as defined by The University of Alabama and Sigma Alpha Mu.

D. Brotherhood Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Brotherhood Chairman.
2. Shall oversee the brotherhood activities of the fraternity; plan events, and take such other action they see fit to promote the fraternal spirit of the organization.
3. Shall work to increase brotherhood among members.

E. Social Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Social Chairman
2. Responsible for planning social events, acquiring the necessary materials for social events, and relaying important information and instructions to attendees.

3. Responsible for following all applicable rules and regulations regarding social events.

F. Chapter History Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Historian.
2. Responsible for organizing fraternity composites.
3. Responsible for the documentation of events and the creation of a scrapbook.

G. Constitutional Oversight Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Constitutional Oversight Committee (COC) Chairman
2. Responsible for reviewing and amending the fraternity Constitution upon successful vote of the chapter.
3. Responsible for upholding the Constitution and the Blue Book in the event of a conflict regarding bylaws.

H. Philanthropy Committee

1. Shall be co-chaired by the Philanthropy Chairman and the Community Service Chairman.
2. Responsible for pursuing volunteer, community service, and fundraising activities.
3. Has the right to declare activities for philanthropy or community service as mandatory.
4. Will promote and organize activities in support of Sigma Alpha Mu's national philanthropy.
5. Shall seek to involve members in the philanthropy events of other Greek organizations, the University community, and local charities.
6. Shall have the authority to set policy regarding the compulsory number of hours required by each member.
7. Shall tabulate and record the amount of each member's service hours and report the data to the Executive Council.

I. Alumni Relations Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Alumni Relations Chairman
2. Shall produce at least one newsletter per semester in order to inform alumni of the activities of the chapter.
3. Shall maintain and update the database of living alumni.
4. Responsible for organizing alumni outreach events.
5. Responsible for organizing alumni fundraising events and donation requests.

J. Council Delegation Committee

1. Shall be composed solely of the Council Delegate

2. Shall represent the chapter at all University Council functions and shall serve on any and all applicable sub-committees.
3. Responsible to report to the Executive Council and the general assembly on issues regarding University Council regulations and actions.

K. Public Relations Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Public Relations Chairman.
2. Shall maintain the website and all social media accounts.
3. Shall have the authority to develop posters, t-shirts, flyers and other communicative media that represent the chapter.
4. All written communication must be approved by the Prior before being released to any public.

L. Scholarship Committee

1. Shall be chaired by the Scholarship Chairman
2. Shall follow policies and regulations outlined in Article IX
3. Shall promote and support scholarship among the chapter

Article IV: Finances

Section 1 – Dues

1. Shall be determined by the Exchequer with the assistance of the Executive Council on a semester-to-semester basis.
2. The Exchequer shall use forecasted budgets and the previous year's expenses to determine dues.
3. Dues may not be changed mid-semester without a 3/4 vote of the general assembly.
4. Any member that does not pay his dues by the predetermined deadline shall be considered in bad standing.

Section 2 – Checks

1. All checks must be signed and approved by the Exchequer and the Prior.

Section 3 – Budget

1. The Exchequer shall have sole discretion over the budget of the chapter and of each committee.
2. The balance of the chapter's various accounts will be mentioned to the general assembly at each meeting.

Section 4 – Expenses and Reimbursements

1. Reimbursement requests must be submitted in writing via the Expense Reimbursement Request Form.
2. It is implied and understood that the discretion of handling expenses is given to the officers of the Executive Board, most specifically to the Exchequer, via the vote of the individual to office.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1 – Procedure

1. The order of business during regularly scheduled meetings shall be:
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Creed
 - C. Reading of the minutes of the previous meeting
 - D. Officer Reports
 - E. Committee Reports
 - F. Old business
 - G. New business
 - H. Good and Welfare
 - I. Adjournment
 - J. Fast and Firm
2. The meetings shall be open to all brothers or alumni. If a vote is held, only active brothers in good standing shall have a vote.
3. All proposed motions shall be voted on immediately, unless the motion involves changing a bylaw. In such case, the motion shall be tabled for one (1) week.
4. All members shall be civil and shall obey all reasonable orders.

Section 2 – Absences

1. All active members are required to attend chapter meetings.
2. Each brother is allotted two unexcused absences from chapter meetings per semester.
3. At the occurrence of the third, and each subsequent absence, he will incur a \$20.00 fine.
4. Brothers may be excused from meetings by notifying any member of the executive board twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
5. Excused absences will be granted for class attendance, major academic projects, illness with a doctor's note, and mandatory extracurricular activities such as ROTC, Varsity Athletics, etc.

Section 3 – Discipline

1. If a brother has more than two unexcused absences from scheduled meetings, he will lose his vote for the remainder of the semester.
2. After one warning, the Prior may eject a brother from a meeting for misconduct.

Section 4 – Dress Code

1. All brothers shall dress properly when attending chapter. Members may not wear cargo shorts, gym or athletic shoes, t-shirts, hooded sweatshirts, hooded sweaters or sweat pants.

2. Any member who does not abide by the dress code will be removed from the meeting and will be marked as absent for that day.
3. Any member who wears something that is not included in this list but would generally be considered in bad taste will be removed from the meeting and marked as absent with a 3/4 vote of the Executive Council.

Article VI: Elections

Section 1 – Nominations

1. Nominations must occur at least one (1) week prior to the date of the election.
2. All nominees must meet the qualifications stated in the Blue Book.
3. Once a nominee has been nominated, his nomination must be seconded by a member.
4. All nominees have the ability to accept or decline their nomination.

Section 2 – Election Rules

1. Elections shall be held no later than the first week of April.
2. Elections shall be held during a regularly scheduled chapter meeting.
3. Elections shall not be held during the period designated as “dead week,” or any other prohibited time.
4. A transition period of at least two (2) weeks shall occur, allowing for the training of new officers and chairs.
5. Nominees shall be allowed to address the chapter for a predetermined period of time prior to a vote.
6. Nominees shall be voted on by a secret ballot.
7. Nominees must win by a 2/3 majority. If this majority is not reached, the two nominees receiving the most votes will enter a run-off with a simple majority winning the election
8. Only alumni or a body deemed neutral shall count votes.

Section 3 – Election Order

1. The election order shall be as follows:
 - A. Prior
 - B. Vice Prior
 - C. Exchequer
 - D. Recorder
 - E. Constitutional Oversight Committee Chairman
 - F. Candidate Educator
 - G. Ritual Chairman
 - H. Recruitment Chairman
 - I. Brotherhood Chairman
 - J. University Council Delegate
 - K. Scholarship Chairman
 - L. Philanthropy Chairman
 - M. Community Service Chairman
 - N. Social Chairman
 - O. Public Relations Chairman
 - P. Athletic Chairman
 - Q. Alumni Chairman

Section 4 – Special Elections

1. Upon the vacation of any Executive Council office, a special election will be held during the next regularly scheduled chapter meeting. The procedure shall be the same as outlined in Section 2.
2. Upon the vacation of any chairman's seat, the Executive Council shall appoint his replacement by a 3/4 vote of the council.

Section 5 – Line of Succession

1. Upon the incapacity, death, resignation of the Prior, the line of succession follows that of the election order as designated in Section 3

Section 6 – Impeachment

1. Any Executive Council member may be impeached.
2. Any active member may bring documented charges of constitutional trespass to the COC Chairman.
3. The accused shall have the opportunity for a trial in front of the general assembly.
4. The accused shall have the opportunity to answer questions and plead his case in front of the general assembly.
5. The decision regarding removal from office will occur with a 3/4 vote of the general assembly.

Article VII: Recruitment

Section 1 – Rules

1. The Recruitment Chairman shall follow all of the applicable rules and regulations of Sigma Alpha Mu and The University of Alabama regarding the duration and length of the recruitment process.
2. The open recruitment period shall be held at the discretion of the Executive Council and the Recruitment Chairman.
3. All recruitment events shall be organized and administered by the Recruitment Committee.
4. Bids may be handed out at any time during the recruitment period by any member of the Recruitment Committee, with the approval of the Recruitment Chairman.

Article VIII: Constitutional Amendments

Section 1 – Rules

1. Bylaws may be amended at any time.
2. Members desiring a change shall draft text of a potential amendment and bring the issue to the general assembly.
3. Upon a 3/4 vote of the general assembly, the COC Chairman will amend the Constitution.

Article IX: Scholarship

Section 1 – General

1. The Scholarship Chairman will procure an official grade report from the Office of Greek Affairs at the conclusion of each semester for each member.
2. The Scholarship Chairman will procure an official midterm grade report from the Office of Greek Affairs as soon as the document becomes available.
3. The GPA on the grade report will be the member's official GPA.

Section 2 – Minimum GPA

1. The minimum required GPA per semester shall be 2.50.
2. Any frater not meeting this requirement shall become a member in bad standing.

Section 3 – Discounts and Incentives

1. Any member or candidate who achieves a GPA of 3.75 or higher for a given semester shall receive a discount off of the following semester's dues.
2. The discount shall be determined by the Executive Council at the beginning of each semester.
3. Discounts may not be redeemed for any other purpose.

Section 4 – Candidate GPA

1. All candidates shall be required to fill out a midterm grade report for all of his registered courses and deliver a copy to both the Candidate Educator and the Scholarship Chairman.
2. Candidates who are in danger of not meeting the chapter's minimum GPA requirement can be rejected from the candidate program at the discretion of the Candidate Educator, the Scholarship Chairman, and the Executive Council.
3. The decision to reject a candidate will be made during a hearing between the candidate, the Candidate Educator, the Scholarship Chairman and the Executive Council.

Section 5 – Discipline

1. Active members who do not meet the GPA requirement for one non-consecutive semester shall be placed on academic warning.
2. Active members who do not meet the GPA requirement for two consecutive semesters shall be placed on academic probation and shall be considered a member in bad standing.
3. Active members who do not meet the GPA requirement for three or more consecutive semesters shall be placed on chapter-defined Special Alumni Status.

Section 6 – Academic Warning

1. Members placed on academic warning shall be required to regularly meet with the Scholarship Chairman to discuss their academic progress
2. Members placed on academic warning shall be required to schedule mandatory study hours.
3. Academic warning does not constitute bad standing.

Section 7 – Academic Probation

1. Members placed on academic probation shall be required to regularly meet with the Scholarship Chairman to discuss their academic progress.
2. Members placed on academic probation shall be required to schedule mandatory study hours.
3. Members placed on academic probation shall not be allowed to attend any brotherhood or social events held by the fraternity, regardless of location.

Article X: Bad Standing and Special Alumni Status

Section 1 – Bad Standing

1. A member who is considered in bad standing shall not attend any brotherhood or social events held by the fraternity, regardless of location.
2. A member may also be subject to additional punishments as determined by the COC Chairman and Executive Board during a hearing.

Section 2 – Reasons for Bad Standing

1. Members will be considered in bad standing for any of the following reasons, including, but not limited to:
 - A. Unpaid debt
 - B. Unpaid fines
 - C. Breach of constitutional bylaws
 - D. Poor academic performance as denoted in Article IX
 - E. Inappropriate behavior as defined by The University of Alabama Student Handbook
 - F. Forgery of any official or unofficial fraternity document
 - G. Violations of University policy
 - H. Grievously unprecedented situations

Section 3 – Chapter-Defined Special Alumni Status

1. Repeated offenses and violations of rules and regulations can result in a member being considered in special alumni status
2. Chapter-defined special alumni status is the revocation of all of the member's privileges and rights until the member meets certain outlined criteria.

Article XI: Fines

Section 1 – General

1. Fines may be levied by the rules described in Article XIII.
2. The Executive Council shall have sole discretion in assessing fines.

Section 2 – Mandatory Events

1. All active members are required to attend mandatory events.
2. Events shall be designated as mandatory on the official fraternity calendar at least seven (7) days in advance.
3. It is the responsibility of each member to verify what is on the official fraternity calendar.
4. The Executive Council has sole discretion in defining events as mandatory.
5. Absence from a mandatory event will result in a \$20.00 fine.
6. Members may be excused from mandatory events by notifying any member of the executive board twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
7. Excused absences will be granted for class attendance, major academic projects, illness with a doctor's note, and mandatory extracurricular activities such as ROTC, Varsity Athletics, etc.

Section 3 - Initiation

1. Each brother, regardless of activity status, is required to attend initiation.
2. Absence from initiation will result in a \$500 fine.
3. It is each brother's responsibility to verify the date, time and location of initiation through the official fraternity calendar.
4. Brothers may be excused from initiation by notifying all four (4) members of the Executive Board seven (7) days in advance.
5. Excused absences will be granted for class attendance, major academic projects, illness with a doctor's note, and mandatory extracurricular activities such as ROTC, Varsity Athletics, etc.

Article XII: Inactivity Status

Section 1 – General

1. Members wishing to become inactive for a given semester must notify the Executive Council of their decision no less than forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the semester.
2. Exceptions will only be made for grievously extenuating circumstances.
3. Inactive members shall be allowed to attend house parties.
4. Inactive members shall not be allowed to attend any theme parties, regardless of location.
5. Inactive members shall not be allowed to attend any date parties/swaps/formals, regardless of location.
6. Inactive members shall be allowed to attend tailgates as long as they do not partake in food or drink that the fraternity procured.
7. Inactive members shall not be allowed to attend brotherhood events.
8. Inactive members shall be required to attend initiation.
9. Inactive members shall not be allowed to utilize candidates unless there is an active present.

Article XIII: Revision History

Section 1 – General

1. The Recorder shall update and amend this page as revisions are made to the document.
2. Revision History shall always be the final section in the constitution.

Section 2 – Revision History

1. Nicholas D'Addabbo – January 12, 2012
2. Matthew Lesser – December 17, 2013
3. Matthew Lesser – February 5, 2014