

Constitution of the Kappa Tau Alpha Society

Article I. Name and Purpose

1. This Society shall be known as Kappa Tau Alpha, national society honoring scholarship in journalism and mass communication. It is organized for the recognition and encouragement of scholarship and good character among students of journalism in American colleges and universities in which there are properly conducted schools and departments of journalism and mass communication.

Article II. Government and Officers

1. The authority of the united chapters shall reside in the National Council of the organization.

2. The National Council shall consist of the faculty advisers of chapters in good standing and such other members of the society as they may select.

3. The National Council shall meet on call of the president or the Executive Committee or in conjunction with the meetings of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. The latter meeting shall be referred as the annual meeting of the National Council. The council shall conduct business between meetings by mail ballot and correspondence. It shall elect a president, vice-president, and executive director, who also serves as treasurer and chief of the Central Office. These officers shall exercise the powers ordinarily associated with their offices.

These officers, together with the immediate past president, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the society. They shall be elected biennially by polls of the entire National Council conducted through the Central Office. The polls of the council for election of officers shall be taken in May of each alternate year, and those elected shall take their offices immediately following the next annual meeting of the National Council. The executive director-treasurer of the national Council Central Office of the United Chapters shall be permanently located at the School of Journalism, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO.

4. In the event of resignation or death of any officer before his or her term expires, the Executive Committee shall appoint a successor for the unexpired portion of the term.

5. The national president shall report to the council members from time to time and shall recommend for consideration such matters as he or she may deem proper. The executive director shall conduct routine business, provide an annual financial report and shall record mail ballots and report on them to the society.

6. Any chapter that fails to initiate in two consecutive years shall be placed on the inactive list.

Article III. Chapters and Elections

1. New chapters shall be established only at four-year, degree-granting institutions

accredited by the appropriate regional agency, that is, the New England Association of Colleges, the Middle States Association, the North Central Association, the Southern Association, the Northwest Association and the Western Association.

2. The constitution of each chapter must conform to this constitution. The national provisions shall take precedence over local regulations in all cases.

3. Elections shall be based on no other considerations than scholarship and character. Students may not vote on new members; they will be chosen by the faculty and alumni affiliated with the chapter. A two-thirds vote of those present shall elect. The following regulations constitute the minimum requirements for membership. Local chapters can increase these requirements.

a. Undergraduates who have completed at least five semesters or eight quarters of college/university work, who rank in the upper ten percent of their class are eligible for membership but not more than ten percent of the total junior-senior group may hold membership at one time.

b. No student shall be considered for membership until he or she has at least nine hours of credit in professional courses in journalism/mass communication.

c. In the computation of averages the GPA for all college courses shall be counted. In addition, the initiate shall have at least a 3.00 (B) average in upper-division journalism/mass communications courses.

d. Grades in journalism/mass communication courses earned before a student enters the school or department of journalism/mass communication may be counted in computing averages.

e. Masters students in journalism/mass communication who rank in the top ten percent of those who have completed the equivalent of two semesters of full-time coursework in their graduate degree program. Doctoral students who have received no more than two course grades of B in their Ph.D. program, with A grades in all other courses, and who have completed all requirements for the degree but dissertation (ABD).

f. Alumni who were graduated before the chapter was established may be initiated if their grades justify it.

g. Chapters may elect on the basis of scholarship and character members of the faculty in their various journalism/mass communication programs. Students may not vote on them.

4. Applications for charters shall be made to the executive director. They shall contain information, in form suitable for distribution to all members of the National Council, on the standing of the institution and the journalism/communications unit, the enrollment, and history and plans of the unit and shall be accompanied by printed announcements stating standards of admission and graduation courses of study, etc. Such data should be condensed from the catalog. Petitions must be supported by an institutional administrator. Charters shall be granted on majority vote of the National Council.

5. The National Council may revoke charters for cause. Chapters may expel members for cause.

Article IV. Honorary Members

1. Chapters may elect honorary members at their discretion from among persons whose scholarly qualities have distinguished them in media.

Article V. Reports

1. Reports in connection with chapter business, such as initiation, payment of fees, and officers' reports shall be given attention and necessary acknowledgements made. Each chapter shall meet to conduct business bearing on the various reports, initiations, elections, etc.

Article VI. Amendments

1. Amendments may originate with any member of the National Council, who shall have the privilege of asking for a mail ballot on a proposal at any time. If submitted to the annual meeting of the National Council, such a proposal shall be given to the executive director six weeks before the meeting, and the executive director shall promptly furnish copies of the proposal to council members. A question voted on once may not be submitted again without the consent of the Executive Committee. A two-thirds vote is necessary to pass an amendment.

Bylaws

1. No person shall be initiated before paying his or her national fees. Fees also must be paid for faculty and honorary members. Each chapter will determine who pays, the honorees or the chapter. These fees shall be collected and proper forms filled out before the initiation starts. Each member paying the fee is entitled to privileges of membership, a membership card, an engraved certificate, the current Newsletter, and other services and benefits of the society.

2. The chapter adviser may authorize a chapter to remain active and elect members during a summer term.

3. Each fall the national president shall appoint a committee of five, including himself or herself and the executive director, to select the best book of original and independent research published that year, whose author shall receive a plaque and a cash award from the society as the recipient of the Frank Luther Mott-Kappa Tau Alpha Research Award. The committee shall report its choice not later than the following March 15 to the executive director, who shall arrange for the presentation by some chapter within a reasonable time. The winner is asked to submit a brief report on his or her research for publication in the Newsletter.