TAU LAMBDA RHO
CIVIL ENGINEERING HONOR SOCIETY

Bylaws of
Tau Lambda Rho

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# Table of Contents

Object and Purpose of Tau Lambda Rho........................................................................................................ iii
The History of Tau Lambda Rho....................................................................................................................... iii

**Article I. Organization and Membership** .................................................................................................... 1
  - **Section 1.01 Membership** ....................................................................................................................... 1
  - **Section 1.02 Member Eligibility** ........................................................................................................... 1
  - **Section 1.03 Chapter Honor Membership** ........................................................................................... 3

**Article II. Government** ............................................................................................................................ 3
  - **Section 2.01 Government of the Chapter** ............................................................................................ 3

**Article III. Meetings** .................................................................................................................................... 5

**Article IV. Motto, Insignia, Ritual, Awards** ................................................................................................ 5
  - **Section 4.01 Moto** ............................................................................................................................... 5
  - **Section 4.02 Symbol** ........................................................................................................................... 6
  - **Section 4.03 Colors** .............................................................................................................................. 6
  - **Section 4.04 Ritual** ............................................................................................................................... 6
  - **Section 4.05 Awards** ............................................................................................................................ 6

**Article V. ARTICLE V Publications** .......................................................................................................... 6

**Article VI. Finance** ....................................................................................................................................... 7
  - **Section 6.01 Receipts and Disbursements** ........................................................................................... 7
  - **Section 6.02 Disposition and Investment of Funds** .............................................................................. 7
  - **Section 6.03 Financial Management** .................................................................................................. 8

**Article VII. Policy and Rules of Procedure** .............................................................................................. 8
Object and Purpose of Tau Lambda Rho

Dedicated to the purpose of maintaining and promoting the status of civil engineering as an ideal profession, Tau Lambda Rho was organized to recognize the characteristics of the individual civil engineering student deemed to be fundamental to the successful pursuit of an engineering career, and to aid in the development of those characteristics in the civil engineering student. Engineering, the application of scientific principles to the practical needs of society, is assuming a constantly increasing responsibility for the physical well-being of all people, and thus calling for competence of the highest order. This responsibility can be discharged only by a professional group whose members are possessed of good basic technical ability, intelligence, moral integrity, and effective social poise in their relationship with the larger community of which they are part. To contribute to the improvement of the profession, Tau Lambda Rho fosters the development and exercise of sound traits of character and technical ability among civil engineers, and its members, by precept and example, toward an ever-higher standard of professional service.

The History of Tau Lambda Rho

In the summer of 2017, students and faculty established a Tau Lambda Rho chapter at Boise State University. The Tau Lambda Rho Honor Society has been established as the first step toward becoming a fully installed member chapter of Chi Epsilon, the Civil Engineering Honor Society.
BYLAWS OF TAU LAMBDA RHO

Article I. Organization and Membership

Section 1.01 Membership

To become a member of Tau Lambda Rho, a candidate must participate in a formal initiation ceremony. The three levels of membership are Member, Chapter Honor Member, and National Honor Member. No one shall be eligible for National Honor Member who has not been previously initiated as a Chapter Honor Member.

Section 1.02 Member Eligibility

(a) Undergraduate Students. To be eligible for membership, an undergraduate must rank scholastically in the upper one-third of their class in a curriculum leading to a baccalaureate degree in Civil Engineering. The candidate must also satisfy the additional requirements specified in the Constitution, Article III, Section 3.03.

(b) Transfer Students and Second-Degree Students. A transfer student or a second degree seeking student may be eligible for membership provided they are ranked scholastically in the upper one-third of their class. The class standing should be based upon the grade point average earned at their current institution/degree plan.

Prior to consideration the candidate should have been registered in Civil Engineering or an allied curriculum for at least one academic year at the candidate’s current institution. The candidate must also satisfy the additional requirements specified in the Constitution, Article III, Section 3.02.

(c) Graduate Students.

• A graduate student who was initiated as an undergraduate may be an active member of the chapter at the school they are presently attending.

• A graduate student in civil engineering is eligible for membership provided the student has shown outstanding ability and has completed the equivalency of one academic year in the graduate program where the student is currently enrolled. The student must be nominated by a member of Tau Lambda Rho,
endorsed by two Civil Engineering faculty members, and elected by one-half of an election quorum.

- Graduate student members may be considered as inactive members at the discretion of the chapter. However, if inactive status is desired, cause must be stated and approved by the chapter president and the faculty advisor.

In addition to the above requirements outlined in subsections (a) through (c), each candidate must also adhere to the following:

1. Undergraduate candidates must be elected by at least one-half of active members in secret ballot as outlined in Article 1, section 2, subsection (f).
2. All candidates must submit a self-letter of recommendation which describes how they have conformed to the ASCE code of ethics. Recommendation letter will be signed by CE faculty
   a. Two signatures for seniors
   b. One signature for juniors
3. All Candidates must participate in at least one volunteer event
4. All Candidates must participate in at least one Tau Lambda Rho fund-raising event
5. All Candidates must complete a quiz on the constitution and bylaws prior to initiation

Above requirements may be waived by chapter officers for candidates due to mitigating circumstances.

(d) A Civil Engineering Alumnus from an institution which had no chapter of Tau Lambda Rho at the time of their graduation may be eligible for membership in that chapter or another, if they graduated in the upper one-third of their class, and fulfills all other requirements of an undergraduate candidate. If a student graduates and becomes eligible for membership at the same time, they shall be eligible for membership.

(e) Faculty. A faculty member may be elected as a member of Tau Lambda Rho by meeting the following requirements:

1. A one-half vote of a quorum as defined by Article II section 2.01(a) is required to recommend to the faculty advisors the conferring of chapter membership on an individual.
(f) Confirmation of potential candidates shall be by secret ballot of election quorum of the chapter, and shall be held within one month of the date when the list of eligible students shall become available. An election quorum shall consist of at least one-half of a chapter’s active membership.
  • Verification of ineligibility will be confirmed with faculty advisors.

(g) Alumni who were eligible for membership at graduation but were not initiated may be considered for membership at a later date.

Section 1.03 Chapter Honor Membership

Chapter Honor Membership may be granted to anyone who, by virtue of their professional accomplishments in the field of civil engineering, has attained a degree of eminence in the profession, and who exhibited experience and ability worthy of emulation by young civil engineers. Requirements shall be as follows:

(a) The candidate shall possess a minimum of ten years’ experience in the civil engineering profession as a licensed professional engineer, or otherwise be identified as an eminent civil engineer by the Tau Lambda Rho chapter.

(b) A one-half vote of a quorum as defined by Article II section 2(a) is required to recommend to the Tau Lambda Rho chapter the conferring of chapter honor membership on an individual.

(c) Approval of the faculty advisors prior to the notification and initiation of the candidate for membership is required.

(d) A Tau Lambda Rho member may be elevated to the position of Chapter Honor Member if the member meets the above three qualifications.

Article II. Government

Section 2.01 Government of the Chapter

(a) A quorum for the election of officers and/or members shall consist of at least one-half of the active membership of the chapter.
(b) The elected officers of the chapter shall consist of a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Marshal, and any other officers provided for in the chapter bylaws.

(c) For election to office, the candidate must receive a majority of votes cast. If no candidate receives the required number on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest number of votes shall be dropped from the list and a new ballot taken; this procedure being repeated until one candidate receives a majority.

(d) A Faculty Advisor, a member of Tau Lambda Rho, is to be elected by the chapter for a term of two years, and may be re-elected any number of times. They are to act in an advisory capacity to the chapter, and the Faculty Advisor is obligated to make the chapter officers aware of their duties.

(e) All officers shall be elected once a year, or at the discretion of the chapter.

(f) In the event of the resignation or death of any officer other than the President of the chapter, the chapter shall hold an election at the next business meeting to elect a replacement for the remainder of the term.

(g) No member shall be qualified to act as an officer in any meeting of the chapter until after taking the oath of office in accordance with the Master Ritual.

(h) The President shall have general supervision of all the activities of the chapter, shall preside at all meetings and shall carry out any disciplinary actions if such activities may be necessary.

(i) The Vice-President shall, in the absence or disability of the President, assume the duties of President. Upon resignation or death of the President, the Vice President shall become President.

(j) The Treasurer shall collect all fees, assessments, and all other money forthcoming to the chapter and act as custodian thereof, keep appropriate books and be prepared to report on finances of the chapter at each meeting; and audit, with the Faculty Advisor and the incoming Treasurer, the books and finances to insure proper order of the funds.
(k) The Secretary shall handle and keep a record of all transactions, business and correspondence; keep minutes of the chapter meetings to be presented to the chapter at the next meeting; maintain an active file of all members, addresses, and pertinent information; and inform all members of activities of the chapter.

(l) The Marshal shall arrange and direct all chapter initiations and ritual ceremonies, instruct the members in their parts, and act as program chairman for all chapter functions other than business meetings.

(m) At least two Chapter Trustees, members of Tau Lambda Rho, are to be appointed by the Faculty Advisor, with the advice and consent of the chapter, to serve under the Faculty Advisor as Chair. Chapter Trustees shall serve for two-year terms, or until replaced, staggered at the discretion of the chapter.

A Chapter Trustee, a member of Tau Lambda Rho, shall serve as a replacement for a chapter officer during an initiation ceremony in case of the absence or disability of an officer, or because of the lack of the membership in the chapter.

Article III. Meetings

(a) The first meeting of each school year shall be held within one month after the school year begins.

(b) Regular meetings shall be held to conduct chapter business as needed.

(c) Officer meetings are required to meet twice a month beyond the regular meetings to conduct chapter business as needed.

Article IV. Motto, Insignia, Ritual, Awards

Section 4.01 Moto

The motto of Tau Lambda Rho is Chi Tau Lambda Rho, which symbolizes our English motto: Conception, Design, and Construction.
Section 4.02 Symbol

The official symbol of Tau Lambda Rho shall be “ΔΧ” and the official badge of Tau Lambda Rho shall be made of white gold.

Section 4.03 Colors

The colors of Tau Lambda Rho are purple and white.

Section 4.04 Ritual

a) The Ritual ceremonies are performed by the chapter Officers, in person or by proxy.

b) The Ritual is a part of the Bylaws of Tau Lambda Rho and the authority to initiate members into Tau Lambda Rho is derived from the Constitution.

Section 4.05 Awards

The Certificate of Distinction may be awarded to two persons who have shown outstanding service to Tau Lambda Rho, and will be awarded by the chapter officers at initiation.

1. One for initiates
2. One for active members

Article V. ARTICLE V Publications

Publications of Tau Lambda Rho:

a) The Constitution of Tau Lambda Rho

b) Bylaws of Tau Lambda Rho

c) Minutes of chapter meetings

d) Chapter Web Page
e) Annual Chapter Report
f) Chapter Brochure
g) Initiate Sign-in Log
h) Initiate PowerPoint Presentation
i) Ritual of Tau Lambda Rho (initiation ceremonies)

Chi Epsilon Reference Documents:

a) Chi Epsilon website; www.chi-epsilon.org
b) Policy and Rules of Procedure (PAROP)
c) Handbook for Faculty Advisors and Chapter Officers

**Article VI. Finance**

**Section 6.01 Receipts and Disbursements**

Initiation fees to be paid to the treasurer by each candidate at least two months prior to initiation. Initiation fees may be adjusted dependent upon fundraiser activity conducted by candidate.

**Section 6.02 Disposition and Investment of Funds**

(a) Initiation fees shall be used to pay a portion of the proper expenses of Tau Lambda Rho. These fees will be deposited into the General Fund. The General Fund shall be used to defray expenses.

(b) All money received by the treasurer shall be deposited with ASBSU verified by the chapter officers.

(c) The fiscal year of Tau Lambda Rho shall be the calendar year.
Section 6.03 Financial Management

(a) The treasurer shall be responsible for the financial management of Tau Lambda Rho.

(b) The faculty advisor shall establish and initiate a model for the accounting procedures of Tau Lambda Rho. This model shall be included in the Policy and Rules of Procedure (PAROP).

Article VII. Policy and Rules of Procedure

a) Tau Lambda Rho shall maintain Policy and Rules of Procedure (PAROP) which shall be the official interpretation of the Constitution and Bylaws.

b) Recommended changes in PAROP shall be voted upon and amended by majority vote of active members and faculty advisors.