



βΨΩ
Beta Psi Omega
Boston University
Constitution



I. Name

- A. Title: The name of this professional fraternity is “Beta Psi Omega at Boston University”.
- B. Identity: Beta Psi Omega at Boston University is the Kappa (10th) Chapter of Beta Psi Omega. The official colors of Beta Psi Omega are green and gold.

II. Purpose

- A. Mission: Beta Psi Omega Kappa Chapter’s mission statement is focused on volunteering, developing professional skills, and creating a community of like-minded students interested in the biological sciences to create leaders and scholars that will have a positive impact on the world.
- B. Pillars: The five core values/pillars of Beta Psi Omega are Intellect, Service, Unity, Diversity, and Proactivity.

III. Membership

- A. Requirements: Those able to participate in Beta Psi Omega at Boston University must be an undergraduate, full-time student at Boston University. In accordance with University policies, there will be no discrimination on the basis of race, religion, political views, sexual orientation, nationality, handicap, sex, etc. The fraternity is open to students of all majors, but ideal candidates should express an interest in biology or the sciences.
- B. Fees & Dues: A certain organization due will be collected from each member each term to finance fraternity projects, as well as to pay dues to nationals. The membership dues will be proposed by the Treasurer and voted on by the executive board each term. A term consists of one semester. The Treasurer shall also propose payment plans as an option for members. New members begin paying dues the semester they are initiated.
- C. Roster: The official roster of the student group will be held by the Historian and Secretary, but will be accessible to every member. The Academic Supervisor will also have access to the Beta Psi Omega student roster of Boston University.
- D. Offenses: Any member may be suspended or expelled from the organization for conduct contrary to the Constitution of the organization or for conduct impairing the rights of fellow members to enjoy the benefits of the organization. The offense committed must be in writing and submitted by a fraternity member. After the offense is submitted to the organization, the offending member has the right to a twenty-four hour notice of a hearing before their peers at a regular meeting. The

offending member may be suspended or expelled by a 2/3 majority affirmative vote of the voting members present.

- E. Anti-Hazing Policy: Hazing is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. In Chapter 269: Section 17 of the General Laws of Massachusetts, hazing is defined as “any conduct or method of initiation into any student organization, whether on public or private property, which willfully or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health of any student or other person. Such conduct shall include whipping, beating, branding, forced calisthenics, exposure to the weather, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or other substance, or any other brutal treatment or forced physical activity which is likely to adversely affect the physical health or safety of any such student or other person, or which subjects such student or other person to extreme mental stress, including extended deprivation of sleep or rest or extended isolation.”
- F. University Anti-Hazing Policy: Boston University expressly prohibits any form of hazing. Hazing is against the law, incorporates other serious crimes, and violates University policy. Reports of hazing will be investigated immediately by the Boston University Police Department, other University administrative offices, outside law enforcement agencies, or any combination of the three. In addition to criminal penalties under Massachusetts law, students or employees are subject to University disciplinary action for organizing or participating in hazing or failing to report persons in danger in conjunction with hazing.

IV. Recruitment Process

- A. Open Rush: To become an official member of Beta Psi Omega, students must participate in the rushing process, including an information session, open rush, and closed rush. The recruitment process will occur at least once every academic year. To attend open rush events, students must submit an “intent to rush” form, which includes an acknowledgement statement of exclusivity. This statement indicates that the candidate may not rush for other professional fraternities. The open rush occurs for roughly one week, during which the candidates must attend a total of 2/4 majority of the provided social events. At the end of this period, candidates will be informed of whether they received an invitation to closed rush. To accept this invitation, candidates must submit an application for consideration to continue into closed rush.
- B. Closed Rush: A recruitment fee is required for each candidate who receives an invitation into closed rush. The fee is subject to change at the discretion of the executive board. The events of closed rush are to be more formal than those within open rush. Closed rush will last for the remainder of the recruitment week, and conclude with bid night. Only selected individuals from closed rush will be chosen to attend bid night and continue on with the new member process.
- C. Selection: Candidates who best exemplify the five pillars of Intellect, Service, Unity, Diversity and Proactivity, as well as display exceptional leadership, will be selected as members. The ultimate admission of a member is at the discretion of the executive board and standing members. Admission of a member is based on an almost unanimous vote (greater than or equal to 75%). For candidates that receive an approval rating of 70-75%, any executive board member may petition for another vote among the officers for a final acceptance decision. In this case, the

candidate must receive a 2/3 majority affirmative vote by the executive board in order to be selected. Each member that read the application receives a singular vote. Each member that observed the interview receives a 2/3 vote. All remaining standing members count as a 1/3 vote. If members fall into multiple categories, they will receive the highest value vote, not a summation of the votes. Once a pledge class is chosen, the newest Beta Psi Omega members will be initiated.

- D. Policies: Once a student has become a full member, they agree to all policies and requirements asked of by Beta Psi Omega. This includes attending mandatory weekly Chapter meetings, completing the required minimum community service, academic, and social hours every semester, while maintaining a cumulative 3.0 GPA. Members of Beta Psi Omega can join other types of fraternities or sororities. However, membership within Beta Psi Omega restricts members from joining other professional fraternities.

V. Point System

- A. **Points**: Beta Psi Omega will partake in a point system where certain events account for points. In order to be in good standing, each member must achieve fourteen points every semester, consisting of four social points and four academic points, four service points and two points that can be made from any category. Failure to achieve the required points will lead to probation. Points are available to be viewed through the Anonymous Points Tracker.
1. **Service Points**: A member can earn service points by attending service events planned by the Service Chair. Attending service hours displays the pillar of service. Members may also earn service points through outside service events at the discretion of the Service Chair. One service hour is equivalent to one service point.
 2. **Social Points**: A member can earn social points by attending social events planned by the Social Chair. This includes attending fraternity fundraisers, information sessions, and other indicated events. Attending social hours displays the pillars of unity and diversity. A member is required to attend at least four social hours every semester to uphold the pillar of unity. One social hour is equivalent to one social point.
 3. **Academic Points**: A member can earn academic points by attending academic events planned by the Academic Chair. This includes tutoring others, bringing in a speaker, and other indicated events. Attending Academic hours displays the pillars of intellect and proactivity. A member is required to attend at least four academic hours every semester to uphold the pillars of intellect and diversity. Only two of the academic points may be earned by attending a scheduled study hour with guidelines proposed by the Academic Chair. One academic hour is equivalent to one academic point.
 4. **Active Leniency**: Qualifying upperclassmen are required to complete only ten points: four social, four service, and two flexible points. All other members are required to complete fourteen points in total: four social, four academic, four service points, and two flexible points. To qualify for active leniency, the member must be a junior who has been active for two semesters or a senior who has been active for one semester.

- B. Point Deductions: Points can be deducted if members fail to uphold the standards of the fraternity or miss a regularly scheduled meeting without a twenty-four-hour notice and a viable reason. If a member fails to attend a service/social event previously committed to, one point will be deducted.
1. **Tardiness**: Having an unexcused tardy (more than 10 minutes late) to a mandatory event that does not give points, such as Chapter, will result in one strike. When a member collects three total strikes, they will have to pay a monetary \$5.00 fine. In all other events that do give points, there will be a one point deduction due to an unexcused tardiness or absence. Any absences at Chapter meetings will be made up through a review quiz.
 - a) Chapter Absences: Everyone has to take the quiz including E-Board. The Quiz must be completed by Wednesday midnight after Chapter. Chapter Correspondent/Historian creates the Chapter Quiz.
 2. **Points Probation**: If an active member fails to obtain their required points by the conclusion of the semester, they will be placed on probation during their next active semester. All missing points will be recorded and tracked by the Secretary. The members with missing points will be notified that they have been placed on probation at the beginning of the following semester. While on probation, a member is unable to vote and must make up the points missed in the previous semester. Members must make up these missing points in addition to the required points for the following semester by the end of the probationary semester. Failure to do so will result in a Judicial Hearing to decide the consequences, and may lead to expulsion from Beta Psi Omega.
- C. Scheduled Meetings: Points will not be given for attending regularly scheduled meetings, such as E-Board and Chapter.
- D. Leave of Absence: For any reason, a member may take a leave of absence (LoA) for the duration of one term. The member will remain in good standing with the fraternity and is not responsible for attending Chapter meetings or earning points during this period. Any member can take a LoA once without penalty, as long as the executive board is informed. If a member would like to take an additional LoA, they MUST have a valid reason, and the decision must be approved by the executive board by a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority. Studying abroad is considered a LoA. If an LoA is taken, members will not have access to social events (formal, retreat, mixers) unless the event is open to the public. Taking an LoA does not guarantee communication about future events. If a LoA is taken during their final semester before graduation, all merchandise must be paid for out of pocket by the graduating member.

VI. Meetings

- A. Attendance: Chapter meetings will be held weekly and attendance is mandatory for all members. The executive board will meet weekly in addition to the mandatory chapter meeting. A legitimate excuse must be given to an executive board member twenty-four hours prior to the meeting for the absence to be excused. An unexcused absence will result in a one-point deduction from the member's term points.

- B. Opening/Closing: The President is responsible for opening and closing the Chapter meetings. At each Chapter meeting, every executive will have an opportunity to report on recent and upcoming events.
- C. Special Meetings: Any member of the brotherhood can petition to hold a special meeting, pending the approval of the President.

VII. Executive Board Structure

- A. Members: Fifteen positions comprise the Executive Board: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Chapter Correspondent/Historian, Treasurer, Service Chair, Academic Chair, Social Chair, Recruitment Chair, Recruitment Coordinator, New Member Educator, Webmaster/PR, Alumni Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Judiciary Chair.
 - 1. **President**: The President has one of the most influential positions with responsibilities that include, but are not limited to, ensuring all other executive board members are completing their tasks by addressing the public of any event, contacting nationals, carrying out disciplinary measures, and implementing new ideas.
 - 2. **Vice-President**: The Vice-President is the right hand of the President. They are responsible for internal and external affairs, which includes but are not limited to, creating committees for various projects, coordinating with other clubs, collaborating with others to provide more opportunities, establishing social support, helping with Beta Psi Omega related events, planning a Founder's Day event with the Historian, organizing social events with the Social Chair, organizing service events with the Service Chair, and representing the overall fraternity to the best of their ability. The Vice-President also serves as the liaison to nationals.
 - 3. **Secretary**: The Secretary is accountable for taking notes at meetings, responding to emails, taking and keeping track of attendance at all events, creating calendars of all events, accounting for the point system, informing the President about member infractions, ensuring all events have secured locations, and counting ballots during elections. In addition to this, they are responsible for corresponding with the Social Chair and Vice President to help plan socially enriching events.
 - 4. **Chapter Correspondent/Historian**: The Chapter Correspondent/Historian is responsible for creating a yearly report, which includes detailed notes about events held, as well as any changes made to Beta Psi Omega over the course of the year. This yearly report is to be submitted to nationals. They must count ballots along with the Secretary during election voting, and count votes with the Recruitment Chair during recruitment voting. The Chapter Correspondent/Historian collaborates with the Public Relations Chair to develop posters and other promotional media for events. They are responsible for informing the public about fraternity events on all social media pages. The Chapter Correspondent/Historian is also tasked with taking pictures at events, as well as planning a Founder's Day event with the Vice President.

5. **Treasurer:** The Treasurer has the duties of tracking expenses, overseeing fundraisers, collecting dues, and managing all financial aspects of Beta Psi Omega at Boston University. The Treasurer will propose the budget and membership dues each semester to be voted on by the executive board.
6. **Service Chair:** The Service Chair has the task of planning service events throughout the year and monitoring the service hours for each member. The service chair will network with local charities, hospitals, and service organizations to provide members opportunities to help the community.
7. **Academic Chair:** The Academic Chair works in close contact with the Vice-President, monitors the whole fraternities' academic progress, organizes academic enrichment events, and establishes group study hours. Each semester, members must submit their unofficial transcript to the Academic Chair to ensure they are in good standing. If a member is below the minimum GPA requirement, they must schedule a meeting with the Judicial Board within the first two weeks of the semester. The Academic Chair is responsible for developing a study plan and tutoring sessions as recommendations to the Judiciary Board should a member fall beneath the minimum GPA requirement. The Academic Chair reports to the Judicial Board about the progress of the member's GPA at the end of the semester, even if the improved GPA does not make it above the 3.0 benchmark. The Judicial Board decides the course of action going forward if the member does not achieve the minimum GPA requirement.
8. **Social Chair:** The Social Chair's primary responsibility is to develop socially enriching events. They plan the social events that potential members may attend. The Social Chair acts as the liaison between the Student Activities Office and the fraternity. Throughout the course of the year, the Social Chair is responsible for corresponding with the Secretary to plan social events for Beta Psi Omega members.
9. **Public Relations/Webmaster Chair:** The Public Relations/ Webmaster Chair is responsible for maintaining relations with other organizations and Beta Psi Omega. They are responsible for publicizing fundraisers to other groups via email , informing the fraternity about local events, and reaching out to other organizations to stay in good standing. They are also responsible for holding design competitions for merchandise, including apparel, for the members. They are also responsible for designing, editing, and updating the website. The Public Relations/Webmaster Chair works closely with the Alumni Chair to maintain the Alumni pages.
10. **Recruitment Chair:** The Recruitment Chair oversees the recruitment process. They must work with the Historian to count recruitment votes, as well as plan all recruitment events. This position will be elected only for terms during which recruitment will be held.
11. **Recruitment Coordinator:** The Recruitment Coordinator splits the work of the Rush process with the Recruitment Chair. They may choose their responsibilities based on their strengths, and work with the Recruitment Chair to meet role expectations. In the absence

of the Recruitment Chair, the Recruitment Coordinator takes the lead in any event or activity relating to Rush.

12. **New Member Educator:** The New Member Educator helps acclimate new members into the organization's culture, informs new members of upcoming events, and reviews the constitution with new members. Essentially, the role of the New Member Educator is to bridge the gap between the new and existing members. The New Member Educator reserves the right to enforce any rules surrounding new member activities and events. Additionally, the New Member Educator will hold a constitution review activity for the e-board before the first chapter meeting.
 13. **Judiciary Chair:** The Judiciary Chair oversees and conducts the selection process for the Judiciary Committee, which is made up of active members. They implement the decisions made by the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Chair is also responsible for updating and following the Constitution and the Judicial Handbook. They also make sure the members are informed of any proposed changes prior to the Chapter vote. The Judiciary Chair collaborates with other organizations to promote Diversity/Social Change. Another responsibility of the Judiciary Chair is to supervise monthly Community Circles.
 14. **Alumni Chair:** The Alumni Chair oversees and conducts the sign up process for Alumni Representatives. They plan Alumni/Member events, with a mandatory event held in Boston during either Summer or Winter Break. The Alumni Chair also works closely with the Treasurer to discuss funding for events or other expenses to unite the alumni network to current members. They are also responsible for creating Alumni newsletters that are sent semesterly, yearly, or none, depending on the subscription preferences of the alumni. They must also communicate opportunities between alumni and members throughout the year. The Alumni Chair reserves the right to change expectations or qualifications of the Alumni Representatives. Alumni Representatives are chosen by the Alumni Chair.
 15. **Fundraising Chair:** The Fundraising chair collaborates with the Alumni Chair to reach out to Alumni or Partner Organizations for fundraising. These funds/donations can be used for specific events. They also work with PR to organize campus wide fundraisers. Fundraising Chair and New Member Educator work with pledges to raise funds with specific goals in mind. The Treasurer and Fundraising Chair also should work together to come up with budgeting goals for the semester. The Fundraising Chair should also be responsible for creating fundraising events every month.
- B. Study Abroad: Students at Boston University cannot be on the executive board if they plan to study abroad during the semester in which they would serve on the executive board.
- C. Multiple Positions: No member can hold more than one executive position at a time.
- D. Impeachment: For infractions involving the negligence of officer duties or member requirements by an executive board officer, the executive board will discuss the severity of the infraction and determine on a case by case basis whether there should be a warning issued, or whether the

officer in question should be relieved of their duties. In the latter situation, the board must come to a decision. A 2/3 majority affirmative vote by the executive board is needed to approve impeachment. If this decision is reached, the officer will be asked to submit their resignation, but may continue to serve Beta Psi Omega as an active member.

- E. Vacancy: If an Executive officer is unable to fulfill or maintain the duties of their position and either resigns or is dismissed, they will be replaced by means of general election. As a temporary solution, the Vice-President will take on the responsibilities of the vacant officer position(s). Should the situation arise where the Vice-President is absent, the President will oversee the duties of the vacant position(s).
- F. Absences: All executive officers are allowed a total of 2 absences for executive board meetings in the semester term. If an executive officer misses a third meeting, they will be deducted two points. However, if a fourth meeting is missed by an executive officer, the position will be up for reconsideration.

VIII. Executive Board Elections

- A. Time Frame: All executive positions can be served for a maximum of two semesters each, in consecutive semesters or not, per person. The election for the fall term will be held at the end of spring and the election for the spring term will be held before winter break. Elections will take place over the course of two days. The candidate with the highest number of votes for a specific position wins. For positions with more than two candidates, ranked choice voting will be used to determine who wins.
 - 1. The Following Positions have 1 Year Terms: Treasurer, PR/Webmaster, Recruitment Chair, Academic Chair, Judiciary Chair, Alumni Chair, and Fundraising Chair
 - 2. The Following Positions have 1 Semester Terms: President, Vice President, Secretary, Chapter Correspondent/Historian, Service Chair, Social Chair, Recruitment Coordinator, and New Member Educator
- B. President: If a member would like to be considered for the position of President, they must have served on the executive board for at least one term, however, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the sitting President; one term is one full semester at Boston University. To be eligible for all other executive board positions, members must have been involved with Beta Psi Omega for one term.
- C. Campaigning: Any person who has been a member of Beta Psi Omega for at least one semester is allowed to run for an executive board position. Any member can also nominate another member for an E-board Position. The member must announce whether they are running by filling out a form, and can choose to run for a maximum of three positions. The following Chapter meeting, those who are running will give a maximum two-minute speech explaining their qualifications and goals as a potential officer. The E-Board must also ask at least one question to candidates. Voting will commence the same night. If candidates run for more than one position, members must rank them for preference in case they win multiple positions.

- D. Vote Counting: The Historian and Secretary are accountable for conducting the elections each spring and fall. If they are both running in the election, an E-Board member who either 1) ran uncontested or 2) is not participating in the election filters the votes and gives Historian and Secretary anonymous ballots. They count the ballots and announce the newly elected executives once the election has concluded.
- E. Election Recall: To recall an election, there must be a petition by a 2/3 majority vote of the total number of members. The offense must be stated in writing and submitted by a member. After the offense is submitted to the organization, the offending officer has the right to a 48-hour notice of a hearing. A recall election will be conducted as a “Special Election.” Recall requires an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the voting total membership.

IX. Student Group Advisor

- A. Advisor: The advisor has the responsibility of being the University liaison for Beta Psi Omega. They must meet with the Academic Chair at least once a semester, promote the fraternity and its accomplishments to faculty and staff, facilitate communication between professors, and connect with the career center.
- B. Liaison: The liaisons to the advisor will be the President, the Vice-President, and the Academic Chair.

X. Amendments

- A. Suggestions: If a member within Beta Psi Omega has concerns regarding the constitution, they are permitted to suggest a reasonable change to the constitution during Chapter meetings. If an issue should arise in which there is no solution stated in the constitution, a vote will be held during a Chapter meeting.
- B. Amendment Vote: In order to ratify a suggested change, a member’s suggestion must have a majority vote of 2/3 during the Chapter meeting. The Historian and Secretary are tasked with counting the votes of all members.