BY-LAWS OF THE GAMMA OMEGA CHAPTER
PI SIGMA ALPHA
NATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE HONOR SOCIETY

ARTICLE I

Name, Location and Authority

Section 1. This organization shall be known as the Gamma Omega Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society.

Section 2. This chapter shall be located at the California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA hereinafter).

Section 3. This document supercedes any previously approved Constitution or By-Laws.

ARTICLE II

Purpose of the Organization

The objectives of the organization shall be as follows:

1. To stimulate and support scholarship and publications in the field of Political Science;
2. to promote a better understanding of government
3. to promote curricular and extracurricular activities related to Political Science
4. to encourage minority outreach in the field of Political Science
5. to advertise and diffuse information about the discipline of Political Science
6. to organize and conduct seminars, conferences, research projects, and discussion groups on subjects relevant to Political Science
7. to facilitate communication and cooperation among students and faculty in the Political Science Department of CSULA.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1. Membership in this chapter shall be active, faculty, or honorary a detailed below.

Section 2. Primary qualifications of student candidates for active membership include high scholarship, manifested interest in Political Science, and promise of achievement in their chosen field. Election to active membership shall be from among such juniors, seniors, and graduate students who are majoring in Political Science at CSULA and who meet each of the following qualifications:

a. completion of a minimum 16 quarter hours of Political Science courses, at least one of which must not be open to student in their first two years of collegiate work (transfer students must have completed at least 8 of the 16 quarter hours, or its semester equivalent, at CSULA, with a GPA of 3.0 or better);

b. an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 for undergraduates and 3.5 for graduate students;

c. a minimum GPA in Political Science courses of 3.0 for undergraduates and 3.5 for
graduate students;
d. payment of the annual chapter dues and the one-time national chapter dues.

Section 3. Any member of the faculty of the Department of Political Science at CSULA may be elected to faculty membership. Faculty members shall possess all the privileges of active members.

Section 4. Any person of recognized ability and achievement in the field of Political Science, and who is deemed worthy of special recognition by the chapter for her/his contribution to the objectives for which this chapter strives, may be elected as an honorary member. No more than two such members may be elected in any one year. Honorary members shall possess all the privileges of active members except that of holding office. The election of an honorary member may take place at any general membership meeting throughout the year. In order to be elected, two-thirds of the membership present at that meeting must concur with the nomination of the honorary member. Officers, excluding the President, are allowed to vote. The President shall preside over the voting.

Section 5. Any person duly elected to membership (other than honorary) at another institution, and who subsequently enrolls as a student or serves as a faculty member at CSULA shall be deemed a member of this chapter.

Section 6. The Gamma Omega Chapter shall initiate new members at such time as deemed advisable by the chapter officers and the Faculty Advisor. Initiations must be conducted on an annual basis.

Section 7. A member of this chapter who earns a degree in Political Science shall assume the status of lifetime alumnus membership. Lifetime alumnus membership includes privileges of general membership with the exception of voting privileges.

ARTICLE IV

Officers and Committees

Section 1. Officers of this chapter shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. All officers shall be elected by a majority of those present and voting at the annual election meeting. The current President shall preside over the elections. Potential officers can nominate themselves, or can be nominated by other members of the Gamma Omega Chapter. Nominees may make brief speeches before the votes are cast. Votes shall be cast by secret ballot. The President shall cast a vote only in the case of a tie. Officers shall serve a term of one year. A copy of the minutes that document the election results by actual count shall be placed on file with the Center for Student Programs and Development. An officer of Gamma Omega Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha shall sign the minutes.

Section 3. The duties of the President shall be as follows:
   a. to provide leadership and administer decisions of the membership;
   b. to call special meetings of this chapter;
c. to appoint committees as she/he deems necessary;

d. to be ultimately responsible for coordinating chapter events upon approval of the 
   members at a general meeting, with the consultation of the Faculty Advisor;

e. to see to it that the chapter follows the general policy direction as set forth in Article II;

f. to conduct regular standing meetings;

g. to be ultimately responsible for submitting the final Annual Report to the Faculty Advisor 
   for submission to the National Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Section 4. The Vice President shall assist the President and Faculty Advisor in any way possible 
and fulfill the duties of the President in the President’s absence. She/he shall also assist the 
President in arranging speakers, programs, and entertainment for the meetings of this chapter.

Section 5. The Secretary shall handle all correspondence of the chapter, including, but not 
limited to, the following:

a. notifying members of the time and place of meetings;

b. keeping minutes of meetings;

c. submitting an Annual Report on chapter activities to the President;

d. organizing and maintaining a chapter bulletin board, advertisements, etc.;

e. acquiring appropriate signatures for membership certificates and distributing certificates 
   to members.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall collect and handle all dues, fees, etc., which pertain to this 
organization, and shall have primary responsibility for all fiscal matters, including the following:

a. maintaining financial accounts of the organization;

b. co-signing, with other officers, all checks for payment;

c. submitting an Annual Report on fiscal matters to the President;

d. forwarding all names and respective fees to the National Chapter before the national 
   deadline;

e. giving monthly reports to standing meetings concerning the chapter’s financial status.

Section 7. The Faculty Advisor of the Gamma Omega Chapter shall be selected by a committee 
consisting of the Chairperson of the Department of Political Science and the elected officers of 
the chapter, subject to the approval by the membership at a standing meeting. The duties of the 
Faculty Advisor are the following:

a. to facilitate better communication between chapter members and the CSULA faculty;

b. to facilitate planning and implementation of all chapter activities;

c. to serve as a liaison to the National Office of Pi Sigma Alpha;

d. to provide advice on matters related to rules and regulations governing CSULA campus 
   organizations;

e. to determine the academic standing and eligibility of current and prospective members of 
   Gamma Omega Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Section 8. Chairpersons of committees shall be nominated and elected by their respective 
committees. The committee chairpersons shall designate the meeting times and places for the 
members of their respective committees. Chairpersons must also submit an Annual Report of 
Activities to the President.
Section 9. Vacancies in any elected offices shall be filled by election of members in a standing meeting. The election must be held within two months of the vacancy or the next scheduled standing meeting, whichever comes sooner. The President may temporarily appoint a person to fill the duties of the vacancy until such election occurs.

ARTICLE V

Fees and Dues
Section 1. To be initiated into this chapter, an applicant must submit a valid membership application (subject to verification of academic standing and eligibility by the Faculty Advisor) and pay the Treasurer the annual dues of this chapter as well as a one-time national membership fee.

Section 2. Payment of the annual chapter dues and national chapter dues will be required for participation in chapter activities.

Section 3. No other dues or fees shall be assessed or collected by the officers of this chapter except by majority resolution of those present and voting at any standing meeting. Such fees shall be payable to the Treasurer.

ARTICLE IV

Meetings
Section 1. Notice of the time, place and proposed agenda of a standing meeting shall be posted by an officer of the chapter at least five (5) working days prior to the date of said meeting.

Section 2. Special and/or emergency meetings may be called at any time when deemed necessary by the President of the chapter.

Section 3. All chapter meetings shall be conducted in accordance with accepted Parliamentary rules of order, and members shall observe proper decorum during all session of the chapter and its various committees.

Section 4. At least 15% of the current membership constitutes a quorum. A vote to change meetings to an off campus location must be recorded in the minutes of a regular meeting, and a copy of those minutes shall be placed on file with the Center for Student Programs and Development.

ARTICLE VII

Amendments
Section 1. The members of this chapter shall have the power to amend this Constitution in a manner not inconsistent with the word and spirit of the National Constitution of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Section 2. Amendments shall be adopted by the favorable concurrence of not less than two-thirds
of those members present and voting, provided that such amendment/s shall have been read in full to the chapter. A copy of the minutes of the meeting that documents the approval of the changes in this Constitution shall be placed on file with the Center for Student Programs and Development. An officer of Gamma Omega Chapter shall sign the minutes.

Section 3. This Constitution, containing amendments to the original Constitution of 1979, shall be ratified by no fewer than two-thirds of the members present and voting at the standing meeting of March 28, 2005.

The actions and opinions of the membership of Gamma Omega Chapter, Pi Sigma Alpha do not necessarily reflect those of the students, faculty, staff or administration of CSULA.