

**CONSTITUTION  
OF UNITED CHAPTERS OF ALPHA KAPPA DELTA:  
INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGY HONOR SOCIETY**

**ARTICLE I**

Name

The name of this organization shall be United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta: International Sociology Honor Society, hereafter referred to as the Society.

**ARTICLE II**

Description and Purpose

**Section 1. Description.** This organization shall be a non-secret, democratic, international society of scholars dedicated to the ideal of Anthropon Katamanthanein Diakonesein or “to investigate humanity for the purpose of service.”

**Section 2. Purpose.** It shall be the purpose of this Society to promote excellence in scholarship in the study of sociology, research of social problems, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the human condition.

**Section 3. Dissolution.** The tax exempt status of this Society shall be maintained by strict adherence to the following procedures:

**a.** No part of the income of this Society shall inure to the benefit of or be distributed to its members, trustees, officers or other persons, except that the Society shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered in performance of the educational and scientific purposes of the Society.

**b.** No part of the activities of this Society shall involve the carrying on of propaganda or otherwise

attempting to influence legislation or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution, this Society shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization exempt from Federal income tax under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or by an organization, contributions to which are deductible under Section 160 (c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

**c.** In the event of dissolution of this Society, the Officers shall, after making provision for the payment of all liabilities of the Society, dispose of the remaining assets exclusively to such organization or organizations which operate exclusively for educational or scientific purposes and shall at the time qualify as an organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

## **ARTICLE III**

### **Membership**

**Section 1. Life Members.** Life Members shall be those persons who have been initiated into membership by a chartered chapter of this Society and who have paid the initiation fee for membership.

**Section 2. Voting Members.** Voting Members shall be those Life Members who pay dues and fees as determined by Council.

**Section 3. Eligibility.** Eligibility for membership in this Society will be determined by the chapters according to criteria that meet or exceed the following minimum requirements or their equivalent:

**a.** For students classified as undergraduate students:

(1) Shall be an officially declared sociology major or demonstrate a serious interest in sociology within an official program of the host institution.

(2) Shall be at least a **junior** (third year) by standards of the host institution.

(3) Shall rank in the top 35% of their class in general scholarship. If class rank is not readily available to a chapter representative, in lieu of class rank, students shall have accumulated the equivalent of an overall grade point average of at least 3.3 by a four point scale where: A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0.

(4) Shall have maintained the equivalent of a 3.0 grade point average in sociology courses taken at the host institution prior to initiation.

(5) Shall have completed at least four regular courses in sociology prior to initiation (exclusive of extension of courses graded pass/fail).

**b.** For students classified as graduate students (those officially admitted to graduate study in sociology at the host institution), the following specific requirements shall have been met prior to the time of initiation: completion of one-half year of graduate study in sociology (i.e., one semester, two quarters, or the equivalent academic unit) with a graduate grade point average of 'B' or better, and continued matriculation in a program of study leading toward a graduate degree in sociology at the host institution.

**c.** For staff members of the host institution, formal conferral of the Ph.D. in sociology or employment as a sociologist are required prior to initiation, provided they meet the other requirements set forth above.

**Section 4. Nondiscrimination.** Neither the United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta nor any of its affiliated chapters on any campus are in any way permitted to impose any other than purely academic performance criteria for selection of new members. All who meet approved academic criteria and exhibit high personal and professional standards are cordially and enthusiastically encouraged to join this academic honor society without regard to race, national origin, sex, physical or economic characteristics, nor with regard to any religious, ideological, or theoretical orientation.

**Section 5. Resignation.** A member desiring to resign from the Society shall submit such resignation in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer.

**Section 6. Reinstatement.** Any member having resigned from membership may be reinstated upon application to the Secretary-Treasurer and upon meeting such uniform terms and conditions as may be established by Council.

**Section 7. Transfers.** Members of any chapter may transfer affiliation from that chapter to another only by approval of the receiving chapter.

**Section 8. Dues and Fees.** The amount of any national fees or dues for any class of membership in the Society shall be established by Council.

## ARTICLE IV

### Officers

**Section 1. Officers.** The officers of this Society shall be the President, President-elect, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry*, and Representative to the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS).

**Section 2. Eligibility.** Officers of this Society shall be Voting Members at the time of their nomination and during their terms of office. No member may be a candidate for more than one office at a time. Candidates shall be proposed by the Nominating Committee.

**Section 3. Terms.** The terms of office for all officers of this Society, except Secretary-Treasurer, ACHS Representative, and Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry*, shall be two years or until their successors are elected or appointed. The President-elect and Vice-President shall be elected in even-numbered years by e-mail ballot of the voting members. The Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry* shall be appointed by Council in odd-numbered years. The Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry* shall be appointed for one four-year term. The Secretary-Treasurer and the ACHS Representative shall be appointed by Council to three-year terms.

### **Section 4. Limitations on Service.**

**a.** The President-elect shall serve a two-year term followed by a two-year term as President and a two-year term as Past-President. A former President shall not be eligible for election to any office until after a two-year term as Past-President.

**b.** The Vice-President shall serve no more than three consecutive two-year terms.

**c.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall normally serve no more than two consecutive three-year terms. However, upon a two-thirds vote of the Council a Secretary-Treasurer may serve additional terms.

**d.** The Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry* shall serve a four-year term and shall not be eligible to serve consecutive terms. The ACHS Representative shall serve a three-year term and shall be eligible to unlimited consecutive terms.

**e.** A member having served more than half a term shall be deemed to have served a term.

**Section 5. Vacancies.** In the event that the office of President becomes vacant, the Vice President shall automatically become President for the unexpired term. In the event that the offices of Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Regional Representative, or Representative to ACHS become vacant, the President shall, after consulting with the Executive Committee,

appoint a replacement for the unexpired term. In the event that the office of President-elect becomes vacant, the President shall initiate the process of nomination and election immediately. If the office of Past-President becomes vacant, it shall remain vacant. If in the event that the office of SI Editor(s) becomes vacant, the President, upon consultation with the Executive Committee, shall appoint an Acting Editor(s) for the unexpired term.

**Section 6. Resignation.** Any officer may resign by submitting that resignation in writing to the Council. If any officer is unable or unwilling to perform the duties of office, he or she shall be deemed to have resigned, and the vacancy shall be filled as specified above.

**Section 7. Removal of Officers.** Any elected or appointed officer or representative may be removed for just cause. Sufficient cause for such removal may be violation of this Constitution and Bylaws or any lawful rule, practice, or procedure adopted by the Society or other conduct deemed by the Council to be prejudicial to the best interest of the Society. For removal for cause, it shall be necessary for the Council to hold a formal hearing. A statement of the charges shall be sent by registered mail to the last recorded address of the Officer/Representative, accompanied by notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges are to be considered. At least thirty days notice shall be given, and the Officer/Representative shall have the opportunity to appear in person or to be represented by counsel and to present any defense to such charges before action is taken. Council shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure due process to the Officer/Representative. The decision for removal shall be by a three-fourths vote of Council.

## **ARTICLE V**

### Finance

**Section 1. Management of Funds.** Funds of this Society shall be managed in such a manner as to provide the most secure protection reasonably to be expected consistent with standard business practices. The Secretary-Treasurer shall be responsible for fiscal management consistent with policies of Council.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Council

**Section 1. Composition.** Council shall be composed of the President, President-elect, Past-President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry*, Representative to the Association of College Honor Societies, one Regional Representative for each of ten regions of the United States.

**Section 2. Powers and Duties.** The governing body of this Society shall be known as Council. Council is vested with full power to conduct all business of the Society. The duties of Council shall include: provide for and maintain office facilities for the Society; be responsible for all property, real and personal, owned or held by the Society and cause to be bonded all officers and employees entrusted with such property; cause the financial reports of the Society to be examined annually and at the time shall determine what level of examination is needed; adopt a budget and report budget policy and financial status to the members; review the reports of

officers and committees and any recommendations or resolutions; and adopt rules and regulations for the conduct of the affairs of the Society.

**Section 3. Meetings.** Meetings of Council shall be held annually in connection with meetings of the American Sociological Association. Special meetings of the Council may be called by the President. Three days notice shall be given and business shall be limited to that which is stated in the call. Special meetings may be conducted via electronic media and actions may be taken via electronic ballot.

**Section 4. Open Meetings.** Meetings of the Council shall be open to all Voting Members of this Society who shall have the privilege of speaking on any topic properly under discussion. Only members of Council shall have a vote.

**Section 5. Voting.** Official actions and policies of this Society shall be set by a plurality vote of the Council at annual meetings or at special meetings or electronically except as otherwise specified in this Constitution and the Bylaws.

**Section 6. Quorum.** A majority of the voting members of Council shall constitute a quorum.

## ARTICLE VII

### Executive Committee

**Section 1. Executive Committee.** This Committee shall consist of the President, President-elect, Vice-President, Past-President, Secretary-Treasurer, ACHS Representative, and Editor(s) of *Sociological Inquiry*. The President shall Chair the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for this Society between meetings of Council; such actions shall be ratified by a plurality of Council at its next meeting in order to remain in force beyond that time.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Chapters

**Section 1. Eligibility.** A charter for a chapter of this Society may be established and maintained only in colleges and universities that are accredited by one of the following accrediting agencies: the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Northwest Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, and U.S. Department of Education, and that offer a program or coursework leading to baccalaureate and/or graduate degrees in sociology, provided that the following standards are maintained:

**a.** At least two instructors shall devote their full time to the teaching of sociology, and at least one shall agree to become a Voting Member of this Society. There shall be at least two PhDs in sociology in that department.

**b.** At least ten (10) semester courses (or the equivalent of thirty (30) semester hours) shall be a regular part of the curriculum (exclusive of extension course offerings). At least one course in methods of sociological research and at least one course in sociological theory shall be required.

c. A chapter charter may be granted to a consortium of several participating departments of sociology from several academic institutions geographically close to each other, but where no more than one is individually able to meet criteria for establishment of a chapter. Provided that collectively the participating qualified institutions meet criteria for a chapter, such a consortium may be granted a charter at the discretion of Council.

d. In the case of academic institutions outside the United States, equivalences for the above standards as well as for grading equivalents shall be determined by Council.

**Section 2. Chapter Charter.** Charters for new chapters shall be granted on a three- fourths affirmative vote of Council voting in a meeting or in an e-mail ballot distributed by the Executive Office.

**Section 3. Revocation of Chapter Charters.** An institution failing to maintain the above standards may have its chapter charter revoked by a two-thirds vote of Council at an annual meeting.

**Section 4. Annual Reports.** Each chapter shall make an annual report to Council.

**Section 5. Chapter Representatives.** Each chapter of this Society shall have at least one chapter Representative who shall be both a faculty member of the host academic institution and a Voting Member of this Society and who has been approved by Council.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Regions

**Section 1. Regions.** The Society shall be divided into regions. Regions shall be defined by the Council by a two-thirds vote.

**Section 2. Regional Representative.** A Regional Representative shall be elected from among the Chapter Representatives in each region.

a. The Nominating Committee shall nominate two Chapter Representatives from each region as candidates for election to a three-year term as Regional Representative. No Regional Representative shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

b. Regional Representatives shall be elected by a plurality vote of the voting members in their region voting by e-mail ballot distributed by the Secretary-Treasurer.

c. Regional Representatives shall be elected to three-year terms according to a rotation system that provides for election of approximately one third of the Regional Representatives each year.

## **ARTICLE X**

### Committees

**Section 1. Establishment of Standing Committees.** Standing Committees of the Society shall be established by the Council. The Chair and members shall be appointed by the President unless otherwise specified in the Constitution and Bylaws. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all standing committees except the Nominating Committee.

**Section 2. Standing Committees.** The Standing Committees of the Society shall be:

**a. Nominating Committee.** The President shall appoint three voting members, at least two of whom must be Council members and who are not current officers, to the Nominating Committee. These members shall select one of their number as Chair. The Committee shall nominate at least two candidates for each office to be filled by election or appointment and for each Regional Representative position to be filled. The Committee shall verify the willingness of candidates to be nominated and to serve if elected.

**b. Elections Committee.** The Chair of the Elections Committee and at least two other faculty members from his/her institution shall count and tally all election ballots.

**c. Planning Committee.** The Planning Committee shall consist of the President-elect, who shall Chair the Planning Committee, and three Voting Members. This committee shall provide long-range planning for the Society and make recommendations to Council. Proposed plans shall be accompanied by a sufficiently detailed budgetary analysis to permit critical evaluation of feasibility, costs, and benefits. Major consideration shall be given to ways and means of encouraging undergraduates to become involved in sociological research.

**d. Awards Committee.** The Awards Committee shall consist of five voting members, at least four of whom shall be Council members. This Committee shall, from time to time, recommend to Council that outstanding individual contributions to the discipline and to the Society be recognized in an appropriate manner.

**e. Undergraduate Scholarship Committee.** The Undergraduate Scholarship Committee shall consist of three voting members, all of whom shall be Council members. This Committee shall, in accordance with Council policies, conduct the Undergraduate Paper Competition and make recommendations to Council.

**f. Graduate Scholarship Committee.** The Graduate Scholarship Committee shall consist of three voting members, all of whom shall be Council members. This committee shall, in accordance with Council policies, conduct the Graduate Paper Competition and make recommendations to Council.

**g. Distinguished Lecture Committee.** The Distinguished Lecture Committee shall consist of five voting members, all of whom shall be Council members. This Committee shall select the speaker for the Distinguished Lecture Series and make recommendations to Council.

**h. Finance Committee.** The Finance Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, and Secretary-Treasurer. This Committee shall manage the funds of the Society in such a manner as to provide the most secure protection reasonably to be expected consistent with standard business practices and make recommendations to Council.

**Section 3. Special Committees.** Special committees shall be established by the President. The Chair and members shall be appointed by the President.

**Section 4. Vacancy.** A vacancy in any committee shall be filled by the President.

## ARTICLE XI

### Voting Other than in a Meeting

**Section 1. E-mail Ballot.** Any questions may be submitted in writing to the Council, a committee, or other established body of the Society for determination in lieu of a meeting. A report of any action taken by e-mail ballot shall be verified and made a part of the minutes of the

next meeting of that body.

**Section 2. Procedures.** Specific procedures not in conflict with this Article for conducting any voting by e-mail shall be determined by the Council.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution, the Bylaws, and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

## **ARTICLE XIII**

### Amendment of Constitution

**Section 1. Proposal of Amendments.** Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed in writing to the Secretary-Treasurer by members of Council, the Executive Committee, or by a petition from at least three chapters acting jointly. The petition shall be endorsed by two-thirds of the Voting Members affiliated with each of the petitioning chapters.

**Section 2. Council Action.** Proposed amendments approved by a two-thirds vote of Council shall be submitted by e-mail ballot to the Chapter Representatives for adoption.

**Section 3. Adoption.** Adoptions of amendments to this Constitution shall require a three-fourths vote of those Chapter Representatives returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the e-mail ballot.

**Section 4. Notification.** The Secretary-Treasurer shall notify chapters within thirty days of the return date for ballots whether an amendment has been adopted. Amendments shall take effect sixty (60) days after the chapters have been notified. Any amendment to this Constitution shall become the law of the chapters without further notice.