

Bylaws of the Michigan State University Chapter of Triangle

Updated 9-25-2012

Section 1 – Refer to Officer Manuals provided by Triangle Nationals

Section 2 – Refer to Officer Manuals provided by the Chapter.

Article II – Standing Committees

Section 1 – Standing Committees may be appointed by the Executive Council. The Executive Council may remove any member from any appointed committee at its discretion by a majority vote of said council.

Article III – Special Committees

Section 1 – The President may create or dissolve any necessary special committees at his discretion.

Article IV – Meetings

Section 1 – The order of business at the regular meetings shall provide for recitation of the Triangle Oath, opening roll call, reports of officers and any committees, unfinished business, new business, Brother of the Week, and general questions/concerns/announcements.

Section 2 – All regular meetings shall be conducted in accordance with *Robert's Rules of Order* wherein the same do not conflict with the Michigan State Chapter Constitution, its Bylaws, or its standing motions.

Article V – Funds

Section 1 – Each Active Brother of the Chapter is required, each semester, to pay dues of \$410, hereinafter referred to as Active Dues. Any non-Active Brother is not required to pay said dues.

Section 2 – Payment dates for Active Dues shall be determined by the Chapter Treasurer. The first date will require half of the total amount in payment and one quarter of the total payment on each of the following two dates. Past due bills not discussed and agreed upon with the Chapter Treasurer shall accumulate interest at a rate of one and one-half percent per month.

Section 3 – Each Active Brother of the Chapter not residing in the Chapter House is required, each semester, to pay Parlor fees determined by the Alumni Board Treasurer. Any non-Active Brother is not required to pay said fees.

Section 4 – A Brother may be deemed delinquent in his account by the Executive Council if he has not paid his bill by one week after the due date. A delinquent Brother shall then have no vote in regular meetings nor will said brother be allowed to bring any motion to the floor. Any Brother having a delinquent account shall not be permitted to eat House Meals, vote, or bring a motion to the floor until said bill is paid or an agreement has been made with the Treasurer.

Section 5 – Each New Member of the chapter is required to pay dues as determined by the chapter Treasurer and a two-thirds majority agreement of the present quorum. Hereinafter these shall be known as New Member Dues.

Section 6 – Dates of New Member Dues payments shall be determined by the Chapter Treasurer. Half of the total amount shall be due upon the first date and the remaining half upon the second. Delinquent dues shall fall under the jurisdiction of the Executive Council

Section 7 – Regular Chapter bills shall be changed only upon a favorable vote of three-fourths of the voting members present at a regular meeting.

Article VI – House Rules

Section 1 – The President may require reasonable and appropriate dress on such occasions as he sees fit.

Section 2 – Possession and use of narcotics is forbidden within the Chapter home and anywhere on the Chapter property. Punishment for the first infraction will be determined after a hearing by the Executive Council. Any subsequent infractions will result in an expulsion and eviction hearing.

Section 3 -

I - As for the matter of parking, the house lot shall be limited to members of Triangle Fraternity, consisting of Brothers and Alumni only for long-term parking, and to friends of Triangle Fraternity for short-term parking.

Long-term parking consists of parking for a period of greater than 2 hours, while short-term parking consists of parking for a period of 2 hours or less.

II – Cars may only be parked in designated spots in the lot. These are the 8 marked spots on the east edge of the lot, 2 marked spots alongside the house, and a space next to the dumpster designated for compact or sub-compact cars. Use of the space next to the dumpster is allowed so long as use of the space does not impede the normal motion of traffic in and through the driveway or the operation of the garbage truck on designated trash days as outlined in sub-section IV. Cars that are not parked in a designated spot are subject to being ticketed and towed at the owner's expense.

III - Brothers of Triangle with designated spots have the option to have a guest park in their designated spot, provided the Brother moves his own personal vehicle out of the house lot for the duration of the guest's visit.

IV – Cars parked in the 2 spots alongside the house and in the spot by the dumpster must be removed from the lot no later than 6:00 AM on the morning of trash pickups. If the car is not moved by the specified time, it may be towed at the owner's expense. Cars may again park in the designated spots after checking with the Administrative Vice President.

V – The eight most senior Brothers living in the house who have cars for the duration of the semester are to receive the designated and marked spots. Should another Brother bring a car up for the semester during the time period, there will be a grace period of not less than one week and not more than two weeks, to allow parking arrangements to be made, and the eight spots will be reorganized as per the previous statement.

Section 4 -

I – Room selection for the upcoming year shall be conducted on Contract Night, the date to be determined by the Administrative Vice President and Alumni Board, based on the seniority as determined by the points system described in Bylaws Article VIII.

II – Those who cannot make that night can declare their intent to live-in to the Administrative Vice President and Alumni Landlord and be included in this selection with full seniority privileges. Those who wish to live-in and do not declare intent to do so by Contract Night waive their seniority privileges and may select a room after those involved in Contract Night.

Section 5 – Exceptions to the above policies can be made at the determination of the Administrative Vice President.

Section 6 – There shall be two House combinations. One shall be changed each semester and given to Active Brothers only. The other shall be for people who have been given a 2/3 vote of approval by the house at a regular Chapter meeting and must be changed at least once a semester. This combination may also be changed at any time an Executive Council member deems necessary. Any person in possession of the preceding combination will need a yearly vote for approval.

Section 7- All private Brother's rooms and their common areas shall be cleaned, including smoke or

smell buildup, at the end of the housing term, as covered in the individual contracts of housing agreements.

Article VII – Greek Week

Section 1 – Before every semester that Greek Week will take place, a vote shall be taken to determine whether or not the house will participate. Should a majority of Brothers present vote in favor, Greek Week shall be mandatory.

Article VIII – Fines

Section 1 – Unexcused absences at designated work sessions, consisting of projects announced at least two weeks ahead of time, will result in a twenty-five dollar fine per session missed.

Alternatively, the active may opt to complete a five hour project approved by the Administrative Vice President before the end of the semester. If an excuse is approved by a majority vote of the Executive Council then the fine and/or project requirement is waived.

Section 2 – A fine determined jointly by the Chapter Caterer and the Chapter Treasurer shall be imposed on any person taking food or drink out of the refrigerator or any food storage area that has explicitly been stated to be off limits by the Caterer.

Section 3 – All Active members shall attend any activity declared by the President as a house function. A five-dollar fine will be imposed for each unexcused absence.

Section 4 – All Active members shall attend all events designated as recruitment events by the Recruitment Chair and approved by the Executive Council. Events falling outside of ‘Rush Week’ must be announced two weeks ahead of time and approved by the Executive Council. A ten dollar fine will be imposed for each unexcused absence.

Section 5 – All Active members shall be required to attend each I-Week activity. All Brothers that do not receive approval for excuses submitted to the Recruitment Chair and the Chapter President shall be fined ten dollars per activity missed. Alternatively, the Active may choose to perform a two hour work session established by the Administrative Vice President.

Section 5 – All Active members shall complete their house duties to the satisfaction of the Administrative Vice President or be fined up to five dollars for each incomplete duty.

Section 6 – Guests shall be signed in at least twenty four hours in advance of a Chapter meal. Any person failing to do this is liable to a fine of one dollar.

Section 7 –

I - A fine of one hundred dollars shall be imposed on any person who deliberately tampers with the fire protection equipment.

II - If fire alarm is activated due to smoking, a fine of \$50 will be applied to the following, if applicable:

- a. The Brother(s) that had the smoking registered room, set off the alarm themselves or due to those persons the Brother(s) gave permission to. If the alarm is activated in the common space between the Brother's personal rooms, a fine of \$25 is applied to each.
- b. The Brother who smoked in a room without permission.
- c. The Brother who's guest smoked in a room without permission.

If a Brother of a registered room knows of someone smoking in their room, permission is then assumed

to the person smoking. It is then said Brother's responsibility.

In case (a.), smoking privileges in the room where the alarm was activated will be revoked for 30 days upon first offense. Upon a second offense, smoking privileges will be taken away for 60 days or the remainder of the semester, whichever may be longer. If the smoke alarm goes off in the common space between rooms, the privileges are taken away from the entire apartment instead of just the room. If a fire alarm is found to be faulty by a Fire Department official, fines will be dropped and smoking privileges will not be revoked.

Section 8 -

I - Smoking is defined, but not limited to, tobacco products such as; cigars, cigarettes, pipe tobacco, and hookah.

II - Smoking is not allowed in the following conditions:

- a. During an IFC registered event--throughout the house. Violation of this will result in a fifteen dollar fine to the individual, excluding a majority vote of the Executive Council prior to the event.
- b. In any house common space.
- c. In any private room, or private common room, not registered to the Executive Council, with completion of an Executive Council member walk-through.

III - Any person smoking in any public area in the house, including the; Attic, Main Living Room, Honors Room, Conference Room, Conference Room Bathroom, Basement, first and second floor hallways, Chapter Room/Dance floor, Laundry Room, Tool Room, Lounge, Kitchen and Basement Bathroom, will receive a fine of fifteen dollars. A Brother may smoke in a private room if that Brother submits a request form to the Executive Council and an Executive Council member has completed a walk-through of the area. Said area must meet the requirements on proper fire safety when using, leaving, or disposing of smoking material. Once this has been completed, that Brother is allowed to smoke in the room requested, however no coals or other large sources of flame for smoking are allowed to be lit within the building. Flame source for lighting must not be able to set off the fire alarm. For the common room between private rooms, both Brothers must submit a joint request form to the Executive Council and complete a walk-through. Requirements set by the Executive Council must align with those of the East Lansing Fire Department on smoking. The walk-through can be granted by one member of the Executive Council but may be voted to revoke privileges at any time, if requirements of fire safety are not being met, by a majority vote of the Executive Council.

IV - All smoking must be contained within a registered smoking area, except for smoke exiting the room to the outside through any window. The smoking area must also be well ventilated and allow the smoke to flow outside, and to not strongly accumulate within the registered area. Any smoke or smell of smoke detected outside of the smoking area, under the discretion of the Administrative Vice President, is in violation of this Bylaw and the fines are as such:

First offense: A warning

Second: A ten dollar fine

Third: A ten dollar fine, and the Executive Council may revoke smoking privileges for 30 days

Fourth: A fifty dollar fine, and smoking privileges are revoked for 60 days or the remainder of the semester, whichever may be longer. If the 60 days extends beyond the end of the semester and a housing contract, the 60 days probation will be considered null and void.

V - If smoking occurs in a Brother's room where smoking privileges have been revoked, another fine of fifty dollars will be given and another 30 days will be added, with the possibility of an Executive Council vote to revoke smoking privileges for the remainder of the semester or 60 days, whichever may be longer.

VI - All fines imposed for smoking can be exchanged for house work, five dollars per hour, as assigned by the Administrative Vice President. If no action is taken to paying or working off the fine within a week, the fine will be doubled.

Section 9 – Each Active Brother is permitted one unexcused absence from a regular or special

meeting. Each unexcused absence after the first shall merit a fine of five dollars. Notification of such absence shall be given to the Administrative Vice President 24 hours prior to the start of the meeting, with the exception of family or personal emergencies.

Section 10 – The Administrative Vice President shall distribute written and/or electronic notification of all fines. Receipt of electronic notification must be verified within one week and confirmation via written notification must be granted upon request. Said fines double in value if not paid within one week of written notice unless an agreement is reached with the Executive Council prior to the end of the one week grace period.

Section 11 – All fines levied by the Administrative Vice President may be appealed to the Executive Council and will be considered excused upon the favorable vote of a majority of said Council. Fines upheld by the Executive Council may be appealed to the Active Organization and will be considered excused upon the favorable vote of a majority of the members present at a house meeting at which quorum is met.

Article IX – Seniority

Section 1: Determining Seniority

Seniority shall be decided based upon a point system, to be explained below. It shall be used to determine all decisions in which Seniority is a determining factor.

Section 2: Awarding Points

Points shall be awarded at the end of each semester. Points will be given for positions held in the house, semesters spent as an Active member of Triangle as determined by the National Constitution, as well as semesters lived in the house. Points shall only be given during the fall and spring semesters.

Each semester, an evaluation of positions shall be given. All Officers with a rating of 60% or above shall receive points. A rating of below 60% shall be referred to the Executive Council. At this time, either the Executive Council or the Officer may bring the matter up at the next Active meeting. A simply majority of members may decide to award the Officer their points.

Each semester, evaluations will be based upon a 1 to 5 scale with 5 being extremely satisfied and 1 being extremely dissatisfied.

Section 3: Point Values

There shall be several levels of points given for Officer positions. 6 points shall be awarded for the position of Chapter President. 5 points shall be awarded to the Administrative Vice President and Executive Vice President. 4 points shall be awarded to the Chapter Treasurer and Chapter Secretary. 3 points shall be awarded to the Recruitment Chair, Member Educator(s) and any Brother who is on the Interfraternity Council. 2 points shall be awarded for the Risk Management Chair and all appointed positions as defined in the Constitution of the Michigan State Chapter of Triangle Fraternity.

1 point shall be awarded for each Active semester. 1 point shall be awarded for each semester lived in the Chapter home. 1 point shall be awarded for each semester in which an Active Brother, at the time in which grades are submitted, is a University defined full time student and receives at least a 3.5 semester GPA.

Section 4: Tiebreaking

All ties in point value shall be settled by Order of Initiation.

Article X – Academic Guidelines

Section 1 - Definition of Academic Standing

To remain in good academic standing with the Chapter, both Actives and New Members must have a 2.60 or higher cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) or have two consecutive term GPAs of 2.60 or higher. If a member's GPA falls below a 2.60, the Active member will be placed on academic probation as described in Section 2 of this Article.

Section 2 – Requirements of Probation

If a member is on academic probation he must meet with the Academic Chair and develop an academic plan to regain good academic standing within the Chapter. This meeting must occur within one week of the start of the current academic semester. The start of the semester shall be defined as the date of the first Active meeting at which an Academic Chair holds office. Failure to show improvement or meet with the Academic Chair shall be dealt with as defined in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 3 – Enforcement and Reprimands

Failure to develop and/or follow a prescribed academic plan shall result in varying degrees of reprimands, meant to guide the individual back towards academic success.

First Offense: The first failure to respond to the Academic Chair shall be met with a verbal warning by said Chair.

Subsequent Offenses: Continuing failure to develop and/or follow a prescribed academic plan shall result in a hearing before the Executive Council and Academic Chair. Further punishments shall then be decided if a Brother continues to ignore the Academic Chairman's guidance.

Section 4 – Appealing Probationary Status

If a member on academic probation feels he has reason to appeal his probationary status, he may take his case to the Executive Council for appeal. Additionally, punishments handed down may be appealed to the Chapter at a regular Chapter meeting.