ARTICLE XX

Housing Rules and Policies

Section 1. Living In. (See Bylaws Title II, Article X) Collegiate members are required to live in existing chapter housing when space is available and when it is not contrary to college or university rules. Failure to do so will result in probation or suspension from membership unless permission to do otherwise has been granted by the Alumnae Advisory Committee and the Corporation Board prior to the start of each school term. “School term” applies to all school year divisions (semester, quarter, trimester, etc.).

“Chapter housing” includes chapter house, lodges, and dormitory floors which have been designated for occupancy by members of Alpha Omicron Pi.

Section 2. Closing Hours. Alpha Omicron Pi has a strong obligation to assist its members and new members in their acceptance of college responsibilities. On campuses that have open hour housing (no curfew or similar restrictions), it is especially important for the chapter to guide its members and new members in the selection of sensible hours that each individual should maintain.

This maintenance of suitable personal schedules should be encouraged throughout the member’s college career. Accordingly, chapters having houses should be circumspect as to the effect its closing hours may be having on its members’ schedules.

Under no circumstances will a chapter house of Alpha Omicron Pi implement an hours policy that is less restrictive than that required in college or university housing. The chapter must have its own policy.

The chapter’s policy is authorized by unanimous vote of the Alumnae Advisory Committee and the Corporation Board upon the request of the chapter by a two-thirds secret ballot of the initiated members of the chapter. Such a policy must be reviewed and a vote taken by the chapter, Alumnae Advisory Committee and Corporation Board at least every school term.

Section 3. Male Visitation. No male visitors will be allowed in women’s bedrooms, dormitories, or individual study rooms in any Alpha Omicron Pi housing except as authorized by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Alumnae Advisory Committee, and a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Corporation Board and approval of the Network Director. A two-thirds (2/3) secret ballot vote of the initiated chapter membership shall be required to request such action.

Under no circumstances will a chapter house of Alpha Omicron Pi implement a male visitation policy that is less restrictive than that required in college or university housing. The chapter must have its own policy. Any change to the policy (local) needs to be adopted within the first month of the fall term and apply for no less than the full academic year.

If a policy allowing male visitation is adopted by a chapter, its Alumnae Advisory Committee and Corporation Board, the policy should be under constant scrutiny by all of the involved
parties. If, at any time, a policy of allowing male visitation creates disharmony within the chapter, the policy should be terminated immediately by the Alumnae Advisory Committee and the Corporation Board. The policy must be reviewed and voted upon by the chapter, Alumnae Advisory Committee and the Corporation Board at least every school term.

In the event that an amenable decision concerning male visitation is not reached among the chapter, Corporation Board and Alumnae Advisory Committee, then any party may petition their Network Director for a resolution.

Section 4. House Rules. House rules deal with the group living conduct of the chapter members and are decided upon by chapter vote and approved by the Alumnae Advisory Committee and the Corporation Board. The prior listed policies concerning closing hours, male visitation, alcoholic beverages, and drugs are minimal policies and may be made more stringent by agreement of the chapter, Alumnae Advisory Committee and Corporation Board.

All policies adopted by a chapter as house rules should be clearly outlined in written form and distributed to every new member, initiated member and parent. All house rules shall apply to any resident living in Alpha Omicron Pi housing as well as to members and new members not living in chapter housing and invited guests.

Section 5. Use of Candles. Alpha Omicron Pi prohibits the use of candles, incense, halogen lamps/lights, oil burning items, or any other open flame device on sorority property unless the candles are electric in nature or are used for Rituals, Ceremonies, and Services in public areas of the facility. Candles in public areas are never to be left unattended.

Section 6. Pets. All residents in chapter facilities are prohibited from having pets in their rooms or building, with the exception of fish that are in tanks no larger than 10 gallons. Fish are allowed provided that their presence, noise, odor, and waste do not constitute problems for other residents. Service dogs are permitted (as determined by the Office of Equal Opportunity) but not for training or companion purposes. Documentation must be provided to meet the service dog requirement.

 ARTICLE XXI

Firearms

Possession or use of firearms or guns, replicas, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, knives, other weapons, or dangerous chemicals on or in any property owned or operated by Alpha Omicron Pi or at any related activity is prohibited.