

**PHI SIGMA IOTA (PSI)  
BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
[For chapter advisors and students]**

**DEFINITIONS**

**1. Name:** The complete name of the honor society is: **PHI SIGMA IOTA INTERNATIONAL FOREIGN LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETY.**

The Greek letters are from: *Philotes* (Friendship), *Spoude* (individual research), and *Idioma* (zeal for language).

**2. The term “Foreign Language”** refers to any of the following academic programs (offered in an accredited institution of higher education): courses in language, literature, or culture other than English, including not only modern foreign languages, but Classics, Linguistics, Philology, Comparative Literature, Bilingual Education, Second Language Acquisition and other programs with an interdisciplinary major or minor with a major foreign language component.

**3. Purpose:** The purpose of Phi Sigma Iota Honor Society is to recognize outstanding ability and attainment in the study or teaching of any of the academic fields listed in paragraph 2.

**ELIGIBILITY**

**4. Invitation:** A person is *invited* into membership within a local chapter of PSI. Once inducted, an individual is an Active member until graduation. Following graduation (or leaving the college or university) an individual will then be required to pay annual dues and thus becomes an Alumni member. A person may choose to become a Life member by paying the specified dues (See current *Forum*.)

**5. Status/rank :** Students are eligible for invitation to membership who are currently taking college or university courses in any of the fields in para. 2 at an upper-level (i.e., 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> year or post graduate) and who are planning a major or minor in any of these fields. All teaching or research faculty in any of these disciplines are eligible to become members of the PSI chapter in their institution following at least one year of satisfactory service.

6. **Requirements for membership:** Students who are otherwise eligible as per paragraph 5 above, **must have an overall GPA of 3.0** (including any transfer credits) at the time of nomination and at least a 3.0 in disciplines covered in paragraph 2. In addition, to comply with the standards of the American Council of Honor Societies (of which PSI is a member), all students must be at the upper 35% of their class and have completed at least 3 semesters or 5 quarters of college-level coursework.

#### **LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP**

7. **Associate membership:** Students who are non-degree-seeking in the local institution may be eligible for associate membership in its chapter if they meet the requirements of paragraph 6. Examples would be national or international exchange students.

8. **Alumni membership:** Any person who continues to pay dues to the international office after leaving a local chapter will be an Alumni member of PSI.

9. **Honorary membership:** Local chapters may grant honorary membership to persons of distinction in any of the fields of para. 2 who are otherwise not eligible for regular student or faculty membership status.

10. **Life membership:** Following graduation an individual may become a Life member of PSI by paying the **current** life member dues (as printed in the *Forum*).

#### **OFFICERS**

11. **Chapter Officers:** Local chapters will annually elect a President, a Vice President, and a Secretary-Treasurer from among the current active student members. In addition, a faculty member at the local institution must accept the role of Advisor.

12. **Regional vice presidents:** Currently PSI has six regional vice presidents who coordinate chapters activities in their region of the U.S. (See the inside cover of *The Forum* for a list.)

13. **International officers:** The four current international offices are: President & Administrative Director, Vice President, Executive Secretary/Treasurer, and Editor/Webmaster.

**14. International Headquarters:** The international headquarters is located at the University of South Florida in Tampa, Florida. The PSI archives are housed in the Special Collections Department of the USF Library.

#### **INSIGNIA**

**15. The designs for the Key and Pin were adopted in 1935.**

**16. The Shield contains colors found in shields of several languages represented in paragraph 2.**

**17. Each PSI member receives a Certificate of Membership containing the official shield and the signatures of the international president and secretary as well as the local chapter president and faculty advisor.**

**18. The Colors of the society are purple and white.**

#### **SCHOLARSHIP AID**

**19. The international office will award scholarships to students on a competitive basis upon recommendation by their local chapter. The amount and number of scholarships awarded each year will depend on availability of funds. The competition deadline is announced in each fall issue of *The Forum*.**

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

**20. Phi Sigma Iota edits and publishes a bi-annual journal called The FORUM. This journal will print chapter news and announcements as space permits, a roster of chapters, and feature articles as they become available.**

**21. The International President will issue a Newsletter from time to time to local chapter advisors. Normally this newsletter will be distributed electronically as the database of e-mails is completed.**

#### **MEETINGS**

**22. Local chapters are encouraged to have monthly meetings as well as at least one new-member induction ceremony each academic year.**

**23. International and Regional officers will meet as need arises. Normally business will be conducted via the internet.**

**24. A convention of chapter advisors and presidents will be held every two years or as funding permits.**

#### **DUES AND FEES**

**25. An installation fee will be paid to the International Office when a new chapter is chartered.**

**26. Each new member of a local chapter will pay an initiation fee to cover active membership for up to three years. In addition, each new member receives a pin or key and a three-year subscription to *The Forum*. Any benefits above the cost of operation will be applied to the general scholarship fund.**

#### **CHARTER**

**27. New chapters may be chartered when an institution of higher education makes application to the International office. An application form is used for this purpose (available in hard copy or on the PSI web site). The executive board and regional vice president will determine if the institution meets the criteria for a chapter. When a new chapter is approved an installation ceremony is conducted, and the chapter is given a Greek name and becomes an active part of PSI International.**

#### **AMENDMENTS**

**28. The constitution provides for amendments by majority vote of local chapters.**

#### **OPERATIONAL BY-LAWS (Summary only)**

**1. The new chapter application fee is \$25 and may be increased as deemed necessary by the executive board.**

**2. Cost of installation of a new chapter shall be shared by the new chapter and by the international office. The chapter shall provide one nights lodging and meals for the installing officer. The international office will pay for roundtrip travel necessary by the installing officer.**

**3. A new chapter will open a dedicated account (off campus or within the institution's finance and accounting procedures) from which all official financial transactions will be made. Signatories on this account will be the faculty advisor and the current secretary/treasurer. No official PSI funds are to be mingled with any officer's personal funds.**

**4. Each chapter will send the International Office a fee of \$30 (as of 2002 and subject to modification) to cover the initiation of each new member. This will entitle the member to three years active membership, a pin or key, a certificate, and three years subscription to the *Forum*. FOLLOWING THE SPRING OF 2002, NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE GRANTED FOR THOSE LOCAL CHAPTERS WHO WISH TO GIVE INITIATES ONLY CERTIFICATES IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE FEE.**

**5. Chapters are encouraged to stay active by sponsoring events related to language and culture. These events may take many forms. Some of the more frequent are: mentoring programs, talks by students returning from study abroad, symposia, and lectures by visiting scholars.**

**6. Chapter meetings will normally be conducted in English as the language most likely to be common to all student members.**

**7. Chapters are encouraged to make the initiation ceremony for new members a solemn and inspiring meeting (perhaps a banquet) at which family members are invited.**

**8. Suggestions for a meaningful initiation ceremony are contained in the full version of the PSI By-Laws.**

