

# CUM LAUDE SOCIETY CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE I

The name of this association shall be “**The Cum Laude Society Incorporated.**” Its object shall be to promote learning and sound scholarship in secondary schools.

## ARTICLE II

**SECTION 1.** The Society shall consist of Chapters established in public high schools and incorporated secondary schools which are not conducted for financial gain and which do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national and ethnic origin in the administration of their educational or admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs. New Chapters shall be constituted by the Board of Regents, in schools designated by the General Convention or by a majority of the Regents. Each charter shall be signed by the President General and the Secretary General of the Society, and attested by the seal of the Society.

**SECTION 2.** The General Convention shall have authority to revoke the charter of any Chapter by a two-thirds vote, provided that notice of the proposal of such action shall have been sent to the Chapter not less than thirty days before the date appointed for the meeting of the General Convention at which the proposal is to be presented. The Board of Regents shall have authority to suspend the activity of any Chapter at any time, but this suspension shall be valid only until the next meeting of the General Convention.

**SECTION 3.** Members of the Chapters shall be elected by ballot, and a three-fourths vote shall be necessary for election. The members shall be of four classes, as follows:

**CHARTER MEMBERS** shall be elected under authority given by the Board of Regents in granting charters, but the right to elect charter members shall not be extended beyond two years from the establishment of the Chapter.

**HONORARY MEMBERS:** Each Chapter may elect two honorary members each year.

**FACULTY MEMBERS:** Each Chapter may elect to membership teachers or administrative officers of the school who are members of Phi Beta Kappa, and other members of the faculty who in the judgment of the voting members of the Chapter have suitable qualifications. At no time should the number of active faculty members fall below three.

**STUDENT MEMBERS:** Each Chapter may elect as members those students of the senior class in the college preparatory curriculum who have had an honor record up to the time of election and stand in the first fifth of their class, choosing the whole number at the end of the senior year, or not more than the first tenth of the class at the end of the junior year or at any time during the senior year and the remainder at the end of the senior year. Each Chapter shall determine the method in which an honor record and class standing shall be ascertained. Any exception to the foregoing provisions as to the election of student members may be made by a Chapter only with the prior written consent of the District Regent.

Each member shall have one vote at the meeting of a Chapter, except student members, who may, however, by action of the Chapter be given the right to vote.

**SECTION 4.** The officers of the Chapter shall be regularly a president and a secretary. The president may be either a student member or a faculty member of the Chapter. The secretary shall be drawn from the active faculty members of the Chapter, with the responsibility for all records and communications with the Regents and the central office.

## ARTICLE III

**SECTION 1.** The supreme legislative authority of the Society shall be vested in a General Convention, to consist of the general officers of the Society, the Board of Regents, and delegates elected by the Chapters. Each Chapter shall be entitled to three delegates.

**SECTION 2.** Each Chapter shall have one vote in the General Convention. The general officers of the Society and the members of the Board of Regents shall have no vote, unless as delegates from their Chapters. Each Chapter may cast its vote in person (through a representative) or by proxy in writing filed with the Secretary General before being voted. Such proxy shall entitle the proxy named therein to vote at the meeting of the Convention designated in such proxy and at any adjournment thereof.

**SECTION 3.** The General Convention shall enact laws for the government of the Society; shall elect by majority vote the general officers of the Society and such District Regents and additional members of the Board of Regents as the General Convention shall deem appropriate; shall determine the insignia and the form of admission; and shall have jurisdiction over all matters not provided for in this Constitution.

**SECTION 4.** The General Convention shall meet at such times and places as may be fixed by the previous General Convention or the Board of Regents.

**SECTION 5.** At any General Convention, a majority of all the Chapters of the Society represented in person or by proxy shall constitute a quorum.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

**SECTION 1.** The general officers of the Society shall be a President General, a Deputy President General, a Secretary General, a Registrar General, and such other officers as the General Convention may determine. They shall hold office for three years, or until their successors shall be chosen.

**SECTION 2.** The Secretary General, under the direction of the Board of Regents, shall have supervision of the Chapters, and shall have charge of the correspondence, records, reports, and publications of the Society, except as otherwise provided.

**SECTION 3.** The Registrar General shall have charge of the membership roll of the Society, and shall be custodian of the seal. He shall issue to each member an official certificate, signed by the President General of the Society, the Registrar General, and the President of the Chapter, and attested by the seal of the Society, and this certificate shall be authority for initiation. The Registrar General shall be the Treasurer of the Society. He shall collect and hold the funds of the Society, and pay them out under the direction of the General Convention or the Board of Regents.

**SECTION 4.** The Secretary General and the Registrar General shall make a full and detailed report of their official acts to the General Convention.

**SECTION 5.** Any other officer shall have such duties and powers as may be designated by the General Convention or by the Board of Regents.

#### **ARTICLE V**

In the interval between meetings of the General Convention all the powers of the Society, except as otherwise provided, shall be lodged in the Board of Regents, which shall consist of the general officers of the Society, Regents-at-Large and such District Regents and additional members as the General Convention may determine. Each District Regent shall be in charge of the Chapters in a District. All Past Presidents General shall be Regents-at-Large with all privileges pertaining to the office of Regent. Each member of the Board of Regents shall be elected for three years, except that Regents-at-Large shall serve for an additional three years.

#### **ARTICLE VI**

**SECTION 1.** The General Convention shall have the authority to raise money by assessments upon the Chapters.

**SECTION 2.** No certificate of membership shall be issued nor shall a member-elect be initiated into the Society until there shall have been paid to the Registrar General a membership fee, the amount of which shall be fixed by the General Convention. Honorary members shall be exempt from this requirement.

**SECTION 3.** Each Chapter shall be responsible for the dues of its members to the general treasury, and shall determine its own dues.

## **ARTICLE VII**

Amendments to this Constitution may be adopted by the affirmative vote of not less than three-fourths of the Chapters represented in person or by proxy at any General Convention at which a quorum is present, provided that a copy of the proposed amendment shall have been submitted in writing to the Chapters at least thirty days before the Convention and that no amendment shall authorize or permit the Society to be operated or its assets to be expended otherwise than exclusively for and in furtherance of the purposes specified in ARTICLE VIII hereof.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

**Section 1.** The Society shall be organized and operated exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and shall not engage in activities not permitted to be carried on by an organization described in said Section.

Section 2. All of the assets of the Society shall be held and applied exclusively for charitable and educational purposes described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, and, upon dissolution, shall be disposed of only in furtherance of such purposes.