

Iota, Iota, Iota

(TRIOTA)

Phi Chapter

Constitution

The University of Nebraska at Kearney
Women's and Gender Studies Program
Adopted Spring 2004; Amended Fall 2021

Article I: Name of Organization

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be The University of Nebraska at Kearney, Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, *Iota, Iota, Iota*.

Article II: Purpose of the Organization

Section 1: The purpose of the organization shall be to encourage and support scholarship and excellence in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. It also seeks to empower students of any sex, gender, race, orientation, status, and ability; promote awareness of gender-related issues on campus, in the community; foster activism and advocacy, and dispel myths about what it means to be a feminist.

Article III: Qualifications for Membership

Section 1: Membership shall be open to minors in Women's and Gender Studies as well as any student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney who possesses a strong interest in Women's and Gender Studies and has completed at least three hours of Women's and Gender Studies courses. If a candidate does not meet this criterion, consideration will be given to potential members on an individual basis (e.g., a first-year candidate may not meet the minimum GPA requirement). Members should have a GPA of at least 3.0 in Women's and Gender Studies course work.

Section 2: Registered undergraduate students who meet the academic guidelines are invited to become members of this Women's and Gender Studies honor society without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, ability, socioeconomic class, or sexual orientation. *Iota, Iota, Iota* is committed to diversity and inclusion.

Section 3: The membership shall be divided into active and general members. Only active members may hold office, vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.

Section 4: *Iota, Iota, Iota* reserves the right to expel a member who is not following the policies of the organization with a two-third's vote of attending members.

Article IV: Officers of the Organization

Section 1: The elected officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers constitute the Executive Committee. In the event of a desire for equal leadership, Co-Presidents may serve in place of President and Vice President.

Section 2: The term of office shall be for the fiscal year from July 1 to June 30.

Section 3: Officers shall be elected from the active membership. No one officer shall serve more than 2 years in any given office.

Section 4: Elections shall be held during the spring semester prior to the end of the academic year.

Section 5: The Executive Board of the organization shall consist of the elected officers who constitute the Executive Committee and the Faculty Advisor. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to conduct any business approved by the Executive Committee by a simple majority vote.

Section 6: In the event that the President is unable to serve a full term in office, the Vice-President shall automatically assume the office of the President for the unexpired portion of the term. In the event that the Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer is unable to serve a full term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired portion of the term.

Article V: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings shall be held at least once a month for the months of September through May, at a designated location. Online options (Skype, Zoom, etc.) may be included to accommodate fully online members.

Section 2: Adequate advance notice must be given to all active members.

Section 3: Special meetings shall be announced by university e-mail by the President, Vice-President, Treasurer or Secretary at least two days prior to the special meeting.

Article VI: Quorum

Section 1: A simple majority of the elected officials and active members in attendance may transact business legally and shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII: Elections

Section 1: A call for nominations shall take place during the February meeting and will last until the April meeting. During this election period, active members may nominate themselves or other active members by e-mailing nominations to the Faculty Advisor.

Section 2: The election shall take place at the April meeting and shall be publicized in the weeks preceding it.

Section 3: Election Codes

(1) The active members shall cast secret votes, written ballots for the candidates of their choice. Each active member shall have one vote per ballot.

(2) If a simple majority (50% + 1) cannot be obtained, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be dropped from consideration, and the active members shall vote again.

(3) In the event of a tie, the ballot will be recast.

Section 4: All officers serve for a period of one year, from July 1 to June 30.

Section 5: No one officer shall serve for more than two years in any given office.

Article VIII: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments must be presented to the Executive Board for approval before they may be submitted to the organization for vote. Amendments must pertain to the purpose of Iota, Iota, Iota.

Section 2: Provisions for Notice shall be given to the membership at the first meeting of the organization at which a quorum is present following the approval of the amendment by the Executive Board.

Section 3: All amendments are subject to the approval of the Undergraduate Student Government Supreme Court/GSA Judiciary Committee.

Article IX: Parliamentary Authority

Section 1: Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, by Sarah Corbin Roberts, shall be used in all cases not covered by this constitution.

Article X: Accessibility

Section I: Copies of this constitution shall be made available upon request and it will be posted on the Women's and Gender Studies webpage.

Article XI: Enacting Clause

Section 1: This constitution shall become effective upon approval of the Undergraduate Student Government (USG).

By-Laws

By-Law I: Definition of Name

Section 1: The Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, *Iota, Iota, Iota*, is named for the goddesses **Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis**. Inanna was one of the primary deities of Sumer, a civilization that flourished from around 3500 BCE to 2500 BCE. She was known as queen of the land, the source of the earth's lifeblood. Ishtar (Star) was the great goddess of Babylonia from around 1800 - 1000 BCE. She was the light of the world, the lawgiver, and the queen of all men. Isis was the primary goddess of ancient Egypt, beginning around 3000 BCE. She was the goddess from who all else arose, the Creator, the giver of life, and the mother of all.

By-Law II: Description

Section 1: *Iota, Iota, Iota* shall be a non-secret, egalitarian national society of scholars dedicated to the ideals of excellence in Women's and Gender Studies and scholarship.

By-Law III: Membership

Section 1: The membership shall be divided into active and general members. (1) Only currently registered students are eligible for active membership. Furthermore, active status is defined as having attended two meetings per semester or participating in two non-meeting activities of the organization. (2) All others interested in furthering the purpose of *Iota, Iota, Iota*, shall be general members. Only active members may hold office, vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.

Section 2: Dues shall be determined by *Iota, Iota, Iota*; however, no one is declined membership based upon socioeconomic class.

By-Law IV: Officers

Section I: Officers of this society shall be four in number and shall be elected by active members at the April meeting. Officer positions may be combined to form two positions when membership numbers require such measures and when the simple majority (50% +1) of all members present vote in favor of this action. The officers of *Iota, Iota, Iota*, shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 2: Candidates for these offices shall be named by the general membership during the election period from February to April.

Section 3: Officers shall be qualified for their positions by being active members at the time of their candidacy and throughout their term in office.



Section 4: The duties of the officers shall be as follows:

A. The **President** is the spokesperson for the organization. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings of the organization. The President will represent *Iota, Iota, Iota* at University functions. The President shall serve as the organization's liaison to the UNK Women's and General Studies Advisory Committee. The President shall maintain contact with student organizations, university offices, and community members on matters involving *Iota, Iota, Iota*. The President shall coordinate the publicity efforts of the organization. In collaboration with members of the Executive Committee, the President shall provide the general membership and the Faculty Advisor with a brief written annual summary report of activity during the preceding year and for proposals for the ensuing year. If Co-Presidents are selected, duties will be split according to leadership preferences.

B. The **Vice-President** shall serve in the capacity of President during the absence of the President. The Vice-President shall be responsible for recruitment and selection of new members and for organizing orientation for new members.

C. The **Treasurer** shall administer the financial affairs of the organization and present the status of finances at organization meetings for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization. The Treasurer shall coordinate the fundraising efforts of the organization. The Treasurer shall also be responsible for an annual audit report of the *Iota, Iota, Iota* checking account and, with the Faculty Advisor, for filing Tax Form 990-N, "Annual Electronic Filing Requirement for Small Exempt Organizations" at the end of each fiscal year.

D. The **Secretary** shall keep the minutes of the organization's meetings and present the same for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization. The Secretary shall be responsible for the correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, of the organization. The Secretary shall maintain a record of the history of the organization and maintain the documents required for recruitment and new membership. The secretary shall distribute the minutes to the general membership and the faculty advisor by email within 3 days of the meeting.

Section 6: Additional officers desired by *Iota, Iota, Iota* shall be nominated and elected by the active membership.

Section 7: Removal of Officers

(1) An officer may be removed from office only for cause by a two-thirds vote of active members present and voting either in person or by proxy at a meeting where charges are studied by the membership. (2) Cause for removal from office shall consist of such matters as misuse of office or persistent failure to perform the duties of that office.

By-Law V: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to this Constitution and By-Laws may be proposed by active members or the Executive Committee of *Iota, Iota, Iota*. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the membership for study.

Section 2: Proposed amendments will be studied by the general membership for comments and shall be submitted to the active membership for ratification.

Section 3: Ratification of amendments to this Constitution and By-laws shall require a three-fourths vote of the active members casting ballots.

