**CONSTITUTION**

**FLORIDA CHAPTER**

**OF**

**THE FRATERNITY OF ALPHA ZETA**

**ARTICLE I. NAME OF ORGANIZATION**

The name of this organization is The Florida Chapter of Alpha Zeta. This organization will utilize the acronym AZ in all publicity materials and correspondence. AZ is affiliated with The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta operating in St. Louis, Missouri. The website of The Fraternity of Alpha Zeta is [www.alphazeta.org](http://www.alphazeta.org/).

**ARTICLE II. ORGANIZATION AFFILIATION**

As outlined in the RSO Classification Policy, Alpha Zeta is considered a University Sponsored Student Organization. As a USSO, this organization is considered an extension of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and operates within the scope and function of it. As such, Alpha Zeta is governed by and under the jurisdiction of internal University policies, standards, and business practices as well as gains access to exclusive university resources through our sponsoring University unit. University-sponsored student organizations are not eligible for Student Government funding.

**ARTICLE III. PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of Alpha Zeta Fraternity is to bind together a group of men and women interested in the continued advancement of agriculture and to foster and develop high standards of scholarship, character, leadership and a spirit of fellowship among its members.

The objectives of this fraternity shall be:

(a) To foster and commend high standards of scholarship, character, leadership and a spirit of fellowship among all members;

(b) To strive for breadth of vision, unity of action and accomplishment of ideals;

(c) To render service to the students and agricultural divisions of the University of Florida;

(d) To promote the profession of agriculture.

**ARTICLE IV. COMPLIANCE STATEMENT & UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS**

Upon approval by the Department of Student Engagement, Alpha Zeta shall be a registered student organization at the University of Florida. Alpha Zeta shall comply with all local, state and federal laws, as well as all University of Florida regulations, policies, and procedures. Such compliance includes but is not limited to the University’s regulations related to Non-Discrimination, Sexual Harassment (including sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking), Hazing, Commercial Activity, and Student Leader Eligibility.

**Section A. Non-Discrimination**

Alpha Zeta agrees that it will not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations, genetic information and veteran status as protected under the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act. Discrimination on the basis of the protected classes described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non-Discrimination/Harassment/ Invasion of Privacy Policies) is prohibited.

**Section B. Sexual Harassment**

Alpha Zeta agrees that it will not engage in any activity that is unwelcome conduct of sexual nature that creates a hostile environment. Behaviors that could create a hostile environment include sexual harassment (which could include inappropriate sexual comments), sexual misconduct, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking and repeated instances of cyber abuse. Sexual harassment as described in University of Florida Regulation 1.006 (Non- Discrimination/Harassment/Invasion of Privacy Policy) is prohibited.

**Section C. Hazing**

Alpha Zeta agrees that it will not initiate, support, or encourage any events or situations that recklessly, by design, or intentionally endanger the mental or physical health or safety of a student for any purpose including but not limited to initiation or admission into or affiliation with any student group or organization. Hazing as defined in the University of Florida Regulation 1.0081 (Prohibition of Hazing; Procedures and Penalties) and 4.040 (Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code) is prohibited. If found responsible for hazing, sanctions may be imposed against the organization, its leaders and/or members.

**Section D. Responsibility to Report**

The University of Florida identifies Responsible Employees and Campus Security Authorities to support the health, safety, and wellbeing of campus. If Alpha Zeta becomes aware of any such conduct described in this article, they are encouraged to report it immediately to staff in Student Engagement, the Director of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, the University’s Title IX Coordinator, or to their Student Organization Advisor, who are identified as mandated reporters.

**Section E. Officer Eligibility**

Alpha Zeta understands, acknowledges, and agrees to uphold and abide by the specific minimal requirements regarding officer eligibility as defined in the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

**ARTICLE V. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership in this organization is open to all enrolled students at the University of Florida. Non-enrolled students, spouses, faculty, and staff are prohibited from holding membership, office or voting powers. All members are free to leave and disassociate without fear of retribution, retaliation, or harassment.

**ARTICLE VI. BYLAWS FOR ALPHA ZETA**

Alpha Zeta may elect to maintain separate bylaws document to outline the day-to-day operations of the organization and to clarify policies and procedures otherwise not included in the previous articles. Bylaws and/or other guiding documents may not take precedence over the requirements sent forth by local, state, and federal laws, the university of Florida’s regulations, policies, and procedures, and the Student Engagement constitution requirements. Amendments and changes may be made to the bylaws and shall be consistent with the Student Engagement approved constitution on file and student engagement’s constitution requirements. Should the organization transition leadership, all bylaws and guiding documents will be transitioned to new student organization leaders and/or advisor(s). Alpha Zeta agrees to provide all unaltered bylaws and guiding documents and/or clarify its procedures in writing to any University of Florida student, faculty, or staff upon request.

**ARTICLE VII. STUDENT ORGANIZATION ADVISOR**

Each registered student organization must have an eligible student organization advisor. The student organization advisor must be a full-time, salaried faculty or staff member not on extended leave for 4 consecutive weeks or longer during their advisor term. The advisor and College of Agricultural and Life Sciences holds the responsibility to oversee the day-to-day functions and operations of Alpha Zeta, including the management of its finances, the selection of its members, and ensuring the organization adheres to University and department policies.

Alpha Zeta shall establish a Student Organization Advisory Committee consisting of a minimum of one and maximum of three college or university faculty or staff members holding alumni or associate memberships in the Fraternity to assist and provide guidance to the Chapter in fulfilling its obligations to the Fraternity. Advisors on the committee shall serve continuous terms from year to year. However, in the event that an advisor chooses to retire, active members of Alpha Zeta will recruit an eligible faculty replacement and appoint the new advisor based on a majority vote of active members. In the event the advisor must be replaced, the executive board will appoint an interim replacement until a vote may take place by the members to replace the interim advisor with a replacement confirmed by a majority vote of the members.

Dr. Natalie Coers, as a Faculty member at the University of Florida, will serve as the Student Organization Advisor to The Florida Chapter of Alpha Zeta.

**ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS**

Registered student organizations are required to have a minimum of a President, Treasurer, and Vice President as elected officers. These officers must abide by the Registered Student Organization Classification and Officer Eligibility Policy.

The elected officers of Alpha Zeta shall be President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. At no time should one person hold more than one of these positions.

**Section A. Officer Titles**

Alpha Zeta does not have any appointed officer titles. The following officer titles are elected positions:

1. President (Chancellor)
2. Vice President (Censor)
3. Treasurer
4. Secretary (Scribe)
5. Pledgemaster
6. Jr. Pledgemaster
7. Chronicler
8. Service Chair
9. Social Chair
10. Outreach Chair
11. Sentinel

**Section B.** **Term of Office**

Each elected officer will serve in their position for one year and until their successors have been elected and installed. Elections will take place at the end of Spring semester each year.

**Section C. Impeachment Procedures**

Any officer of the Chapter may be removed from office at any time upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of said chapter following a written request by at least three voting members of the Chapter to be submitted to either the Chancellor, Censor, or Treasurer.

**Section D. Officer Vacancies**

In the event of officer vacancies, a special provision may be granted to the remaining officers to appoint an interim replacement until an election may be held.

**ARTICLE IX. ELECTIONS**

**Section A. Officer Eligibility**

Those nominated and seeking an officer position in Alpha Zeta must be in good standing with the chapter and must meet the full-time registration and academic standing requirements in accordance with University Policy. Members in good standing achieved active membership (met point requirements) in the previous semester and has 13 out of their 15 points completed from the current semester, with the ability to complete or pay $5 per point for the remaining hours, with a cap of 2 points before the semester ends.

A member must hold an officer position of equal or lower status in order to run for the position of Chancellor, Censor, or Treasurer.

Nullification Clause: This law may be overlooked only in the instance where there are no qualified predecessors available who have met this requirement.

A member must be active for at least one semester in order to run for the position of Pledgemaster.

**Section B. Nomination procedures**

Nominations for all officers will take place annually, no sooner than one month (30 days) before elections. Any member may nominate any other voting member, including himself or herself, who is in good standing. Nominations may also be made during the election meeting prior to closing of nominations.

**Section C. Election Timeline**

Elections will be held no sooner than 30 days before the last day of classes of the spring semester.

**Section D. Balloting Procedures**

For elections, a ballot is created with all nominees and each active member present at elections will fill out a ballot for their votes. The current presiding Chancellor will tally the votes.

**Section E. Election Rules & Procedures**

The margin of victory will be one vote for the election of each officer position. Each active member of the chapter will have one vote to cast in the election of each officer position, including Chancellor, Censor, and Treasurer. The current Chancellor will not vote for any officer positions unless there's a tie.

**Section F. Run-off Procedures**

In the event of a tie in which a small majority vote cannot be reached, the Chancellor will cast a tie breaking vote, so the margin of victory will be one vote.

In the absence of clear direction on election, amendment, and /or voting procedures, Alpha Zeta agrees to follow the guidance and instruction of Robert's Rules of Order for the election or amendment process.

**ARTICLE XI. FINANCE**

As a University Sponsored Student Organization, Alpha Zeta does not receive any funding or resources from Student Government, rather, this organization is eligible to be funded by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and/or:

Membership fees:

1. All Chapter dues, fees, and assessments shall be collected and paid out as the Chapter sees fit, exclusive of those that are paid to the National Office, by the Treasurer.
2. Chapter assessments, as necessary, may be levied at any time by a 75% vote of the student members present.
3. Each candidate for membership, upon his/her initiation, shall pay the Alpha Zeta National Office the current national Initiation fee. This sum includes the Initiation fee, National Office application fee, and one year of annual national student dues.
4. Each student member shall pay the Alpha Zeta National Office their annual national student membership dues in order to maintain their status as a member of Alpha Zeta in good standing.
5. The National Office of Alpha Zeta requires that all members of Alpha Zeta pay dues by October 31st. The dues will not exceed $80 each academic school year. This fee covers the cost of events held by Alpha Zeta as well as to supplement travel costs to leadership conferences.

As a USSO, Alpha Zeta will comply with UF Finance and Accounting policies on purchasing, funding and fundraising.

**ARTICLE XI. DISSOLUTION OF ORGANIZATION**

Upon dissolution, student organizations are prohibited from leaving their organizational assets to any individual or any other student organization. Rather, student organizations may designate a specific charity that will receive such organizational assets. At the time of dissolution, after all outstanding debts are paid, Alpha Zeta will leave any assets and outstanding funds to the Ronald McDonald House of Gainesville.

**ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

Student Engagement has established a process through which constitutions may be amended, reviewed, and approved. Student organizations wishing to amend their constitutions must utilize their constitution on file listed on GatorConnect to make amendments and submit those changes to Student Engagement.

**Section A. Amendment Procedure**

1. Any member of the Florida Chapter of Alpha Zeta may propose an amendment to the Florida Chapter Constitution or Bylaws. After the initial proposal the document must be edited in red with the desired language. If it is proposed to remove existing language from the document then the language must be struck through. The proposed document changes will then be presented and explained to members of the Chapter. Members will have until the next Chapter meeting to reflect on the proposed changes, at which point a simple majority vote will determine if the changes are adopted.
2. Prior to voting, the membership shall have the option to review the proposed amendment for a set amount of time, no less than one week.

**Section B. Member Approval**

1. The Constitution and By Laws of the Florida Chapter of Alpha Zeta can be amended by a two-thirds vote of the active membership (general body) provided there is a quorum present.

All amended constitutions must be submitted directly to Student Engagement for review and approval.