

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION OF *GAMMA NU ETA*
- NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY -

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this society shall be Gamma Nu Eta, hereinafter referred to as GNH. The founding chapter of this society shall be the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) chapter, located in Troy, New York.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of GNH shall be:

1. To recognize and encourage excellence in the field of Information Technology among students.
2. To offer knowledge and services to its members' schools and surrounding communities.
3. To play an active role in the application and evolution of Information Technology within society.

Colleges and universities which grant baccalaureate or advanced degrees that support this mission may establish chapters or individual membership affiliations with the Society. Undergraduate and graduate students and professionals of sound scholarship and character who support this mission may be elected to membership.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Membership is based upon academic excellence in the field of Information Technology.

Section 2. Membership shall be composed of active members who pay annual national dues. They will be classified in three different categories: collegiate, alumni and professional members.

Section 3. Collegiate members shall be members enrolled in the institution represented by the chapter, have a 3.5 GPA and rank in the top 15% of their class. Membership for undergraduate students will not be considered prior to the completion of a prospective member's third semester. Membership for graduate students will be not considered until one of the following scenarios has been fulfilled: Completion of one semester and a cumulative 3.5 GPA or higher in their undergraduate degree or completion of three semesters.

Section 4. Alumni members shall be those members who, by reason of graduation or other reasons, are no longer collegiate members.

Section 5. Chapters may select persons to be professional members in their chapters. To qualify to be a professional member one must have made a distinctive contribution to the IT profession and earned one or more degree in IT or related field with a 3.2 GPA as an undergraduate or a 3.5 GPA as a graduate student.

Section 6: It is the policy of this organization to provide equal opportunity to all qualified individuals without regard to race, sex, color, religion, national origin, age, sexual preference, or handicap.

Section 7: Gamma Nu Eta is committed to the promotion of safety, and, therefore, is opposed to any reckless or intentional endangerment to health or forced consumption of alcohol for the purpose of initiation or affiliation.

Section 8. Privileges of Membership

Active members shall have the right to vote, hold office, be elected or appointed to committees of the Society and the chapters to which the members belong. Chapters have the authority to define criteria for maintaining active membership within chapter by-laws.

Section 9. The amount of any national dues/fees shall be established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV: NATIONAL OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall have control of all matters and affairs pertaining to the National Society, as a whole, but shall not interfere with the internal affairs of any chapters in good standing.

Section 2: National Conferences shall be held annually at a time and place appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall include the following national officer positions: Chair, Chair-elect, First Vice Chair, Second Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Student National President. To be eligible for nomination to national officer positions except that of Student National President, a candidate shall have previous service as a member director, committee chair, committee member, chapter adviser, alumni chapter officer or collegiate chapter officer and shall have been an active member of Gamma Nu Eta for a minimum of twelve months prior to nomination. The Board of Directors shall establish procedures for the nomination of additional members to the board. Additional members of the board shall be elected by the active membership as defined in Article IV Section 5.

Section 4: There shall be three elected collegiate Student Board Members. The terms for these Student National Board members shall be one year. Regional diversity is strongly encouraged.

Section 5. Officers shall be elected by mail/email ballot. Each active member shall be eligible to vote.

Section 6. Officers shall hold office for the following terms or until their successors are elected. The Chair-elect shall be elected biennially in even years to serve a one-year term as Chair-Elect and followed by a two-year term as Chair. The First Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years to serve two-year terms. The Second Vice Chair shall be elected in odd-numbered years to serve a two-year term.

Section 7: Any elected officer or Student Board Member may be removed for just cause for such removal may be violation of this Constitution or any lawful rule, practice, or procedure adopted by the Society or other conduct deemed by the Board of Directors to be prejudicial to the best interest of the Society. For removal of an elected officer/Student Board Member for cause, it shall be necessary for the Board of Directors to hold a formal hearing. A statement of the charges shall be sent by registered mail to the last recorded address of the officer/Student Board Member, accompanied by notice of the time and place of the meeting at which the charges are to be considered. At least thirty days notice shall be given, and the office/ Student Board Member shall have the opportunity to appear in person or to be represented by counsel and to present any defense to such charges before action is taken. The Board of Directors shall adopt such rules as may be necessary to assure due process of the office/Student Board Member. The decision for removal shall be by two thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 8: Should the office of Chair become vacant, the Chair-Elect shall become Chair automatically, to serve the unexpired term and for the term immediately following. Should the office of Chair Elect become vacant, it shall be filled by the First Vice Chair. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by the Board of Directors.

Section 9: If the Student National Vice President and the Student National Secretary are not otherwise members of the Board of Directors, they shall be non-voting members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE V: DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Section 1: The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by this Constitution and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Society.

Section 2. The Chair shall preside at all meetings.

Section 3. The Chair-Elect shall preside in the absence of the Chair and fill any vacancy in the office of Chair.

Section 4. The First Vice-Chair shall fill any vacancy in the office of Chair-Elect and Chair in even years.

Section 5. The Second Vice Chair shall have such other duties as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 6. The Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings and all decisions made by mail ballots.

Section 7. The Treasurer shall oversee the financial affairs of the organization.

Section 8. The Student National President shall serve as fully participating members of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI: MEETINGS

Section 1. The meetings of the Society shall be held at a time and place the Board of Directors determines and at which time the Assembly of Delegates meets.

Section 2. The Assembly of Delegates shall be the policy-making body of the Society subject to this Constitution and the laws of the State of New York. The voting members of the Assembly of Delegates shall consist of the voting members of the Board of Directors and one delegate from each collegiate chapter. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the registered voting delegates.

Section 3. Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be called by the Chair or by any three members of the Board.

Section 4. A majority of the voting members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Committees shall be established by the Board of Directors. The Committee Chair and members shall be appointed by the Board of Directors. To be eligible for service on a national committee, a candidate shall have been an active member for the preceding twelve months prior to appointment.

ARTICLE VIII: CHAPTERS

Section 1: A collegiate chapter of the Society may be established in a college or university in the United States offering a baccalaureate or advanced degree as defined in Article II. The institution shall be fully accredited by its regional accrediting agency, and the program shall meet uniform criteria determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: An alumni chapter of the Society may be established in association with an existing collegiate chapter or within a geographical region where multiple alumni from existing college chapters reside.

Section 3: Any group who wishes to begin a chapter must petition the GNH Board of Directors. Institutional support for the chapter must be submitted with the application (not required for alumni chapters). The qualifications of the group will be reviewed by the Board. A 3/4 majority vote will authorize establishment of the new chapter.

Section 4: Petitioning chapters must contain a minimum of five members. The group must have members willing to assume the roles of President, Vice President, and Secretary. A faculty advisor must also be in place (not required for alumni chapters). This advisor must attest to the eligibility of all petitioning members.

Section 5: Upon acceptance as a chapter into the society, the new chapter must provide the Board of Directors with a set of bylaws. These bylaws must not conflict with this Constitution. They will be reviewed by the Board of Directors. If approved, the chapter is fully accepted into the society. If not approved, they will be returned with suggestions.

Section 6. A chapter in good standing shall comply with the Constitution, shall have filed all required reports with the Board of Directors and shall be current in all financial obligations to the Society. The Board of Directors shall apply uniform criteria to determine those chapters which are not in good standing. Only chapters in good standing shall be eligible to vote in a mail ballot or to have their delegate vote as part of the Assembly of Delegates.

Section 7. Any elected officer of the Chapter may be removed for cause. Three or more officers/members must bring the petition for removal to the attention of the President of the Chapter. Sufficient cause for removal includes, but is not limited to: violation of the Chapter Bylaws or Society Constitution; violation of a rule, practice, or procedure adopted by the Chapter; any conduct deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the Chapter. Prior to a vote on the matter or removal of an elected officer, the Chapter shall hold a formal hearing. At least thirty (30) days in advance of the hearing, the Chapter shall send by registered mail to the last recorded address of the officer a statement of the charges and notice of the time and place of the hearing at which the charges will be considered. The officer shall have the opportunity to personally appear at the formal hearing or to be represented by counsel. The officer may present any defense to the charges before action is taken. The Chapter shall adopt rules to ensure due process to the officer. The Chapter may recommend removal to the Society Board of Directors upon a two-thirds affirmative vote. The Society Board of Directors shall adopt the recommendation of the Chapter either at the next meeting or through an electronic meeting.

ARTICLE IX: PUBLICATIONS

Section 1. Publications may be authorized by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of the Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE XI: AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION

This constitution may be amended in any one of the following ways:

Section 1. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by majority vote may be adopted by the Assembly of Delegates by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the chapters 120 days before the meeting.

Section 2. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote may be adopted by the Assembly of Delegates by a three-fourths vote without notice to chapters.

Section 3. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote may be submitted to the chapters by mail ballot to be voted upon by each individual member at a regular or special meeting of each chapter. Adoption shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members of those chapters returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the mail ballot.

Section 4. An amendment approved by the Board of Directors by a majority vote and by the Assembly of Delegates by a two-thirds vote without notice to chapters may be submitted to the chapters by mail ballot to be voted upon by each individual member at a regular or special meeting of each chapter. Adoption shall be by a two-thirds vote of the members of those chapters returning ballots by a date clearly specified on the mail ballot.