

Alpha Sigma Mu

the international professional honor society for materials science and engineering

The details of the objectives, organization, and procedures of the society are clearly shown in its Constitution and By-laws as follows:

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF ALPHA SIGMA MU

Article I NAME AND OBJECT

Section 1. Name

The name of the International Professional Society for Materials Science and Engineering shall be Alpha Sigma Mu, designated by the Greek letters

Section 2. Object

The object of this *society* shall be to recognize and promote high scholastic, scientific, and professional attainment in the study, experimental investigation, manufacture, design, selection and use of engineering materials.

Section 3. Incorporation

The *society* shall be incorporated, not for profit, under the general corporation laws of the state of Ohio.

Section 4. Colors

The colors of the *society* shall be silver and gold.

Section 5. Insignia

(a) The badge of the *society* shall be a rectangular gold or silver insignia on the face of which is engraved a picture of a c-curve and the Greek letters Alpha, Sigma and Mu, and on the reverse side of which is engraved the owner's initials and the year of election.

(b) The official badge shall be worn only by members of the *society*.

Section 6. Seal

The seal of the *society* shall read: "**Seal - Alpha Sigma Mu**" encircled by "**International Professional Honor Society for Materials Science and Engineering**".

Article II DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the *society*, The Board of Trustees shall transfer the net assets remaining, after payment of all debts and obligations to **ASM International** which are exempt from the payment of Federal income tax under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 or of corresponding provisions of subsequent Internal revenue Codes.

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Classes

There are three classes of membership: Regular, Honorary and Distinguished Life Member.

Section 2. Regular Members

- (a) A Regular Member, at the time of election. Shall be either an outstanding undergraduate student or graduate student, possessing the qualities of integrity, leadership and initiative, at a recognized college or university. and in a curriculum which is approved by the Board of Trustees of the *society*, or
- (b) one who has attained high stature in the field of materials science and engineering, either through outstanding scholarly activity, research, or service to the profession.

Section 3. Honorary Members

An Honorary Member shall have achieved exceptionally high standing in the materials science and engineering profession.

Section 4. Distinguished Life Members

Distinguished Life Member shall have achieved and maintained, throughout a long career, a distinguished international standing in the materials science and engineering profession, either through academic, research or industrial activity.

Section 5. Eligibility of Undergraduate Students for Election

- (a) To be eligible for election as a Regular Member an undergraduate shall be of junior or senior status, shall have completed *at least nine semester credit hours, or the equivalent* in his/her major area, and shall have attended the approved college or university for at least two full quarters or one semester.
- (b) He/she shall be in the cumulative upper one-third (1/3) scholastically of all students working toward a degree in the pertinent curriculum or *degree-granting unit*.
- (c) He/she shall be recommended to the Secretary of the *society* by unanimous action of the local chapter or, if no local chapter exists, by a faculty member who is a member of the *society*.

Section 6. Eligibility of Graduate Students for Election

- (a) To be eligible for membership as a Regular Member, a graduate student shall be recommended to the Secretary of the *society* by unanimous action of the local chapter or, if no local chapter exists, by a faculty member who is a member of the *society*.
- (b) He/she must have completed at least nine semester hours or the equivalent at the graduate level and must meet the qualities listed in Section 2(A) of Article III.
- (c) He/she shall be in the upper one-third (1/3) scholastically of all students working toward a graduate degree in the pertinent curriculum or degree-granting unit, or must have demonstrated exceptional promise as a researcher.

Section 7. Eligibility of Other Persons for Election as a Regular Member

- (a) To be eligible for membership as a Regular Member, a person should be well-known and respected nationally or regionally for his/her contributions to science or engineering in fields related to materials science and engineering.
- (b) Materials science and engineering faculty who are not Honorary Members of the *society* may be elected to Regular Membership upon nomination by a member of the *society*, upon nomination by an active chapter or by action of the Board of Trustees.

Section 8. Election of a Candidate

- (a) A candidate may be elected to Regular Membership by an active chapter if he/she meets the qualifications listed in Sections 4, 5 or 6. Election requires a three-fourths 3/4 affirmative vote of the members present at a chapter meeting called for the purpose of electing new members and must include unanimous vote of all faculty members present who are themselves members of the *society*.
- (b) Regular or Honorary Members are elected by a majority affirmative vote of the Board of Trustees (or by action of an officer or trustee designated by the Board of Trustees for this duty), after their nomination by any member of the *society*. Honorary Members may be nominated by active chapters, in which case additional weight is given the nomination

over nominations made by individuals. This chapter privilege is limited to one nominee per chapter per year. Nomination of an Honorary Member by a chapter requires the approval of the faculty advisor and a three-fourths (3/4) affirmative vote of all members present at a chapter meeting called for the purpose of electing new members. Nomination to Honorary Membership is usually limited to an individual who is already a Regular Member and who meets the qualifications outlined in Article II, Section 3 of this Constitution. The nomination of an Honorary Member must be transmitted to the International Secretary of the *society* by the Chapter Secretary at least one month prior to the annual meeting of the *society*. All nominations must be accompanied by a detailed description of the nominee's qualifications. Usually qualifications can be submitted in the form of an up-to-date curriculum vitae.

- (c) A Distinguished Life Member may be nominated by the unanimous action of a chapter with supporting documentation submitted to the Board of Trustees through the International Secretary one month prior to the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting, or by a member of the Board of Trustees at an Annual Meeting. Election of a Distinguished Life Member shall be by the unanimous action of the members of the Board of Trustees in attendance at an Annual meeting of the Board.
- (d) Election to any level of membership becomes final when the elected member is initiated by a chapter and he/she has received his certificate of membership.

Section 9. Expulsion of Members

- (a) Any member of the *society* shall be subject to expulsion if his/her behavior is not in keeping with the principles and ideals upon which the *society* is based.
- (b) Expulsion shall be only by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Board of Trustees of the *society* after due notice and an opportunity to be heard in his own defense before the Board of Trustees shall have been given to the member.

Article IV BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Section 1. Board of Trustees

- (a) All affairs of the Society shall be managed and directed by the Board of Trustees consisting of eight (8) or nine (9) members, including the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, secretary, treasurer (or secretary/treasurer) and four (4) trustees.
- (b) Any five (5) members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the *society* shall hold an annual fall meeting. The annual meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be followed by the Annual Meeting of the Society which is open to all members of the *society* for the consideration and action of all business proposed by the Board of Trustees or brought before the membership of the *society* for consideration and action by a motion from the floor.

Section 3. Specific Responsibilities

- (a) The Board of Trustees shall act on all matters concerning the welfare of the *society*, its chapters and its members.
- (b) It shall approve the eligibility of colleges and universities to have chapters of the *society*, shall approve curricula or academic programs from which members can be elected, and shall see that a list of these is kept, subject to periodic review.
- (c) It shall determine the acceptability of nominees for Honorary Membership and may elect those it deems qualified.
- (d) It may elect members-at-large to the *society* when no local chapter exists.
- (e) It shall approve and charter, or disapprove, petitions for new chapter in eligible colleges and Universities.
- (f) It shall review and approve the annual reports of its elected or appointed officers and committees and take appropriate action.

- (g) It shall determine all financial affairs of the *society* including the amounts of fees and dues to its members and its chapters.
- (h) It shall approve all budgets and make all appropriations.

Section 4. Action Without a Meeting

Any action which might be authorized or taken at a meeting of the Board of Trustees may be authorized or taken without a meeting if it is in writing and is approved, by all the members of the Board of Trustees who would be entitled to notice of a meeting for such purpose. Any such properly approved authorization or action shall be entered into the records of the *society*.

**Article V
OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY**

Section 1. Officers

The officers of the *society* shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Past-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and four (4) Trustees. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer, may be combined by action of the Board of Trustees and confirmed by a majority vote of the members of the *society* present at an annual meeting.

Section 2. President

- (a) The President shall assume office after serving one (1) year as President-Elect.
- (b) He/she shall preside at the annual meeting and at all other meetings of the Board of Trustees, and shall perform such other duties as requested by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) He/she shall have the power to appoint, by and with the approval of the Board of Trustees, all committees deemed advisable, including ad hoc committees and a nominating committee.

Section 3. President-Elect

- (a) The President-Elect shall be elected by majority vote of the members of the *society* after having been duly nominated by the nominating committee or by written petition submitted from the floor and signed by more than twenty-five (25) members not more than five (5) of which shall be from any one active chapter.
- (b) He/she shall perform the duties of the President in case of absence of the President or the inability of the President to act and shall perform such other duties as requested by the Board of Trustees.
- (c) The president-elect shall serve one (1) year after which he/she will assume the office of President.

Section 4. Past-President

The immediate past president of the *society* shall serve for one (1) year after the expiration of his term as President, and shall perform such duties as requested by the Board of Trustees.

Section 5. Secretary*

- (a) The Secretary shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the *society* at the annual meeting after having been duly nominated by the nominating committee or by written petition from the floor and signed by more than twenty-five (25) members not more than five of which shall be from any one active chapter. He/she shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election on the completion of any given term.
- (b) He/she shall act as recording and corresponding secretary of the *society* and shall keep, or cause to be kept, full and complete records of the *society*.
- (c) He/she shall act as secretary at the annual meeting and at all meetings of the Board of Trustees and shall perform such other duties as requested by the Board of Trustees.

Section 6. Treasurer*

- (a) The Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of the members of the *society* at the annual meeting after having been

duly nominated by the nominating committee or by written petition submitted from the floor and signed by more than twenty-five (25) members not more than five of which shall be from any one active chapter. He/she shall be elected for a term of two years and shall be eligible for re-election to that office.

- (b) He/she shall be the financial officer of the *society*, shall keep or cause to be kept, a complete record of all money received and dispersed by, or on behalf of the *society*, and shall secure proper receipts for all monies dispersed.
- (c) He/she shall report the financial condition of the society to the annual meeting and to the Board of Trustees whenever requested, and shall perform such other duties as requested by the Board of Trustees.

***At the option of the Board of Trustees, one person may simultaneously hold the offices of the Secretary and the Treasurer under the title of Secretary/Treasurer.**

Section 7. Trustees

Two (2) trustees shall be elected each year by a majority vote of the members of the society at the annual meeting after having been nominated by the nominating committee or by written petition from the floor signed by more than twenty-five (25) members not more than five of which shall be from any one active chapter. The Term of office for a trustee shall be two (2) years and no trustee shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms.

**Article VI
FEES AND DUES**

Section 1. Annual Chapter Dues

Each active chapter shall pay annual dues to the Treasurer of the *society* in an amount fixed by the Board of Trustees. These dues shall be used to help defray normal operating expenses of the *society*.

Section 2. Chapter Initiation Fee and Annual Dues for Regular Members

Chapters may collect an initiation fee from each Regular Member they initiate. The initiation fee shall be set by the Board of Trustees to cover expenses. Active Regular Members also may be assessed annual dues not to exceed five (5) dollars. These funds shall be used to help defray the normal operating expenses of the chapter including payment of annual chapter dues to the *society*.

Section 3. National Initiation Fee for Regular Members

Regular Members not initiated through a chapter shall pay an initiation fee established by the Board of Trustees. This fee shall be payable to the Treasurer of the **society** and shall be used to defray normal operating expenses of the **society**.

Section 4. Fees for Honorary and Distinguished Life Members

No initiation fee nor dues shall be required of Honorary Members or Distinguished Life Members.

**Article VII
CHAPTERS**

Section 1. Eligible Colleges and Universities

- (a) A chapter of this *society* may be organized at any eligible college or university.
- (b) Any college or university that offers at least one curriculum or program of study leading to a baccalaureate or graduate degree in metallurgy, metallurgical engineering, ceramic science, ceramic engineering, polymer science, polymer engineering, electronic materials, materials engineering or materials science and engineering, with such degree(s) being accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology or equivalent engineering accrediting body if the college or university is not located in the United States.
- (c) Any college or university must have a total of at least ten (10) qualified students and faculty (Juniors plus Seniors plus Graduate Students plus faculty) to be eligible to organize a chapter.

- (d) The Board of Trustees, shall determine the eligibility of each college or university to organize a chapter of the society.

Section 2. Petition for Charter

- (a) A petition to establish a chapter may be directed to the Board of Trustees through the Secretary of the *society* by any faculty member of the eligible college or university who is a member of the *society* or by any group of eligible students with the endorsement of such faculty member. Such petitions must be accompanied by the approval, in writing, of an administrative officer of the college or university.
- (b) Such petitions may be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the total membership of the Board of Trustees of the *society*. After such approval, the Secretary shall issue a charter and assign a name to the chapter (state name followed by a Greek letter).

Section 3. Chapter Officers

- (a) The officers of each chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, a secretary and a Treasurer. Each officer shall be elected for a one calendar year term and shall be eligible for re-election.
- (b) Any member of a chapter may hold office provided he/she is elected by a majority vote of the members of the chapter present at a meeting called for that purpose.
- (c) The chapter President shall be the executive officer of the chapter. He/she shall preside at all meetings, shall appoint such committees, including ad hoc committees, as may be necessary to operate the chapter and shall perform such other duties as the chapter may request.
- (d) The chapter Vice-President shall assist the President, shall preside at all functions of the chapter in his/her absence, and shall perform such other duties as the President of the chapter may request.
- (e) The chapter Secretary shall keep a full and permanent record of all meetings and proceedings of the chapter and shall have custody of all record, reports or other important chapter documents. All chapter records shall be open to the inspection of the chapter members and of properly accredited officials of the society. The chapter Secretary shall conduct all official correspondence promptly and shall perform such other duties as the President of the chapter may request. He/ she will also send an **Annual Chapter Membership Report** which also lists the new members initiated during the year to the Secretary of the *society* at the end of his/her term. The **Annual Chapter Membership Report** is to be postmarked no later than **June 15**. (An appropriate form for the **Annual Chapter Membership Report** shall be supplied by the Secretary of the *society*.)
- (f) The chapter Treasurer shall collect promptly all assessments levied by the chapter and shall keep an accurate account of all income and expenditures, using a uniform accounting system. He/she shall make a report to the chapter or the Secretary of the *society* when called upon to do so. The accounts of the chapter shall at all times be open to the inspection of the chapter members and of properly accredited officials of the *society*.

Section 4. Chapter Faculty Advisor

- (a) Each chapter shall have a faculty advisor elected by a majority vote of the chapter members present at a meeting called for the purpose of electing officers. The faculty advisor shall be a member of the *society*. The Board of Trustees of the *society* reserves the right to approve the election of the faculty advisor.
- (b) The faculty advisor shall remain in office until resignation or removal for cause by the Board of Trustees of the society.

Section 5. Chapter Meetings

- (a) Meetings of the chapter may be called by the chapter Presidents when the occasion demands.
- (b) Each chapter shall hold an annual meeting for the election of officers and the consideration of any other business to be brought before it.
- (c) Each chapter shall hold a meeting each year to elect new members, a meeting to instruct new initiates in the purpose and ideals of the *society*, and a meeting for the formal initiation of new members. The formal initiation ceremony shall

be open to the public and may coincide with the annual meeting.

Section 6. Selection of Candidates for Membership

- (a) It shall be the duty of the faculty advisor to review the scholastic records of all students to determine which students are eligible for membership in the Society. A list of eligible students shall be placed in nomination by the chapter Secretary for consideration by the chapter members present at a meeting called for the purpose of electing new chapter members.
- (b) New members shall be elected by a three-fourths (3/4) majority of the members present at the meeting called for the purpose of electing new chapter members.

**Article VIII
INITIATION**

Section 1. Induction by a Chapter

The initiation of new members into the society by a chapter shall be conducted in a dignified manner and in accordance with a prescribed ritual, a copy of which shall be given to each new member after initiation.

Section 2. Induction Where There is No Chapter

The initiation of new members into the *society* in a region in which there is no local chapter shall be optional in form and shall be conducted in a dignified and impressive manner by a representative of the *society* or active chapter, or by a faculty advisor of an active chapter.

Section 3. Certificate of Membership

Each new member shall be given a certificate of membership in the *society* and shall have the right to own and wear the badge of the *society*.

**Article IX
AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. Procedure to Amend

This constitution may be amended by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Board of Trustees of the *society*, at a meeting of the Board duly called and held, provided notice of such meeting has stated that amendments to the Constitution are to be discussed at the meeting or by unanimous affirmative vote of all members of the Board of Trustees at a meeting duly called and held, a quorum being present.

Section 2. Proposing Amendments

Any member of the society or any chapter may propose amendments for action by the Board of Trustees by presenting them to the Secretary of the society in writing at least ninety (90) days in advance of the annual meeting.

**Article X
BY-LAWS**

By-Laws of any nature consistent with provisions of this Constitution may be drawn up and adopted by the Board of Trustees for its own use, by the members of a chapter for the operation of that chapter, or by the Board of Trustees for the members of a chapter but subject to their approval.

**Article XI
EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Constitution was established at the Annual Meeting of the *society* on Monday, October 16, 1967, with revisions in 1972 and on October 7, 1996. The Current Revised Constitution shall supercede in all respects and Existing Constitution, By-Laws or Rules of Alpha Sigma Mu.

INITIATION RITUAL

The following ritual is prescribed as the basis for initiating members into the active chapters of Alpha Sigma Mu. The initiation ceremony may be supplemented by other appropriate remarks, but the following ritual of Initiation **must be recited or read in its entirety**.

RITUAL OF INITIATION

This ceremony of initiation provides an experience that will emphasize the high ideals of Alpha Sigma Mu and will impress upon you the responsibilities you will have as a member.

College societies are groups of men and women bound together by friendship and common interests into an organization of their own creation. Whether honorary or social; whether national or local; and whether known by Greek letters or by English words; the general nature of their objectives are the same.

The Professional Honor Society, however, is unique. Since scholastic excellence combined with evidence of exemplary integrity, leadership and initiative are the basic requirements for membership, the professional honor society raises the standards of the profession with which it is associated. Furthermore, in addition to comradeship among students with similar professional courses, the professional honor society provides the opportunity for continued close life-time association of those engaged ultimately in the same or closely related fields. These on-campus and life-time associations among individuals with similar ambitions and professional objectives can lead to important new improvements in the well-being of our society. Also successful professionals must combine broad understanding with specific technical competence, and it is one of the principal aims of Alpha Sigma Mu to foster among its members an appreciation of related fields.

Its members linked together by the bond of college fellowship and by common interest in the same profession, Alpha Sigma Mu, the International Professional Honor Society for Materials Science and Engineering, established by the faculty of the Department of Metallurgical Engineering at Michigan College of Mining and Technology in Houghton, Michigan, was founded in January, 1932.

The name Alpha Sigma Mu signifies the Arts and Sciences of Materials.

The purposes of the society are: to further the arts and sciences of materials; to promote high social and moral culture in its members and to aid in keeping its members more closely associated together so that they may help each other in every ethical way; to further friendly relations among schools and colleges of Materials Science and Engineering; to be an effective link among students, faculty and related industrial organizations; and to be of lasting benefit to its members not only while in college but throughout their entire lives.

The Constitution of Alpha Sigma Mu establishes for its members the procedures that have been found necessary to achieve its objectives.

It is the duty of each member of our society to become familiar with the provisions of our Constitution, to abide by them, and to strive to use them for the betterment of our profession and for society as a whole.

Now it is for us a pleasant duty to honor you, who, as students in Materials Science and Engineering (or insert name of appropriate academic program) at the (Insert name of college or university) have attained a record of high scholarship and evinced exemplary integrity, leadership and initiative have been duly elected a member of our *society* by the (insert name of chapter) Chapter of Alpha Sigma Mu at this University.

This privilege of membership is Alpha Sigma Mu's way of publicly expressing the confidence it has in you. You should be proud to wear the key of Alpha Sigma Mu, display your certificate of membership in an appropriate location, and forever strive to exemplify the ideals for which our *society* stands.

The officers, the Board of Trustees, the active members of our *society* and this chapter, realizing the responsibility and importance that membership in Alpha Sigma Mu entails, requires that you repeat the following obligation:

"I (state name in full) do hereby, of my own free will, solemnly pledge: that I will uphold the Constitution of Alpha Sigma Mu; that I will constantly aspire to the high cultural, social and moral ideals

for which it stands; that I will honor and treat with all consideration, and assist whenever and wherever possible my fellow members of this society.

I, furthermore, promise to hold above materials gain, the ideals and principles of scientific and engineering endeavors and to advance, in every way possible, the well-being of the profession of Materials Science and Engineering.”

9/1996