

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Present

The membership of Alpha of Tennessee shall consist of members in course, alumni members, honorary members, and associate members.

Proposed

The membership of Alpha of Tennessee shall consist of members in course, alumni members, honorary members, and **resident** members.

Rationale

(See below.)

Present

Section 2. Members in Course. The members in course shall be elected from each graduating class of the College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University, primarily on the basis of broad cultural interests and of scholarly achievements. The number of undergraduates elected from any class, including any who may be elected in their junior year, shall ordinarily not exceed 10 per cent and never exceed 12 1/2 percent of those expected to receive liberal bachelor degrees in that class.

Proposed

Section 2. Members in Course. The Members in Course shall be elected from each graduating class of **Vanderbilt University, on the basis of scholarly achievements, broad cultural interests, and high moral character. The number of such members shall be limited by the size of the graduating class of Bachelor's degree candidates in the College of Arts and Science. No more than 10 percent of these candidates may be elected, including any who may have been elected in their junior year. Additional members elected from the graduating classes of other undergraduate colleges or schools of the University shall be limited in number to 2.5 percent of the total number of Arts and Science degree candidates.**

Rationale

These changes are needed to permit election to membership in Alpha of Tennessee of qualified undergraduate students from schools and colleges other than Arts and Science. A number of such students graduate each year with a substantial portion of their course credits in the College of Arts and Science but with degrees from other schools or colleges. For election, such students will still be subject to the requirements of the society, especially that at least 90 of their credit hours have been earned in courses that qualify as "liberal studies." The limit of 10% of A & S graduation candidates is consistent with our by-laws, and we have in fact never elected more than 10%. The additional 2.5% from other schools brings the total to the 12.5% figure in our current Constitution, and is thought to be a reasonable estimate of the maximum number of qualified candidates from other schools in the foreseeable future. The computation is based upon the number of graduation candidates in A & S because we have no easy way to determine how many of the students in other colleges take curricula that would qualify under the liberal studies requirement, whereas we assume that all A & S graduates do so qualify for the sake of this reckoning.

Present

Section 5. Associate Members. Members of other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who become officers or members of the teaching staff of Vanderbilt University shall be invited to become associate members of the Alpha of Tennessee with full privileges in the conduct of its affairs. Other members of Phi Beta Kappa in the vicinity may be invited to any meeting of the Chapter.

Proposed

Section 5. Resident Members. Members of other chapters of Phi Beta Kappa who **are employed by** Vanderbilt University shall be invited to become **resident** members **of Alpha** of Tennessee with full privileges in the conduct of its affairs.

Rationale

In any university chapter of ΦBK, the activities are managed by ΦBK alumni mostly from other universities, since they were elected as undergraduates themselves. In the latest version of the *Manual for Chapter Officers*, such members are called *resident* members. Our chapter has long had vigorous participation by resident members who do not qualify as either "officers" or "members of the teaching staff" (e.g., research faculty and staff). This change brings the Constitution into consistency with what has become common practice. Since *anyone* may be invited to any meeting of the Chapter, the final sentence is not needed.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE III — ELECTION OF MEMBERS

Section 1. Members in Course.

Section 1–A–2. [*concerns election of members of the graduating class of A & S*]

Present

A student must have obtained a number of quality points at least 3.6 times the number of semester hours taken. The reckoning shall be made on all grades recorded in the Registrar's Office, and no course taken and so recorded may be disregarded.

Proposed

The student must have obtained a number of quality points at least 3.65 times the number of semester hours taken. **Only courses that are counted toward graduation by the College of Arts and Science shall count in this computation, and no such course may be disregarded.**

Rationale

Grade inflation. At present the 10% quota normally produces a cutoff at or above 3.65, so applicants having lower GPA are wasting their time and that of the Membership Committee. The altered wording represents mainly text from the current Section 1C.

present, with minor changes in red

1–A–3. A transfer student who is a candidate for graduation and who will have been in residence by the time of graduation at least four semesters may be elected provided:

- a. that a minimum of 60 semester hours in the College of Arts and Science will have been completed at graduation;
- b. that if the work transferred was done at an institution having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the over-all grade point ratio at the time of election be at least 3.65, re-evaluating the transfer work at its face value, which may in no case exceed the Vanderbilt ratio;
- c. that if the work transferred was done at an institution not having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the over-all grade point ratio at the time of **the** election be at least 3.75, re-evaluating the transfer work at its face value, which may in no case exceed the Vanderbilt ratio;
- d. that the course of study and record of college work prior to admission to Vanderbilt University is, in the judgment of the Membership Committee, at least the equivalent of that of **other** students eligible for membership. [*replaces "non-transfer"*]

[*This section concerns election of student members of the junior class from A & S.*]

Present

B. Any other student in the College of Arts and Science shall be eligible for election under the following conditions:

Proposed

B. **Students** in the College of Arts and Science shall be eligible for election **in the year before their year of graduation** under the following conditions:

Present

1. The student must be in at least the sixth semester of residence at Vanderbilt and must have completed there a minimum of 70 semester hours of the work required for a degree, regardless of any transfer credit presented

Proposed

1. The student must have completed in the College of Arts and Science at least 70 semester hours of work required for a Bachelor's degree. These hours may include work done in approved Vanderbilt-Abroad programs but not advanced placement or transfer credit.

Rationale — clarification.

Present, with proposed change

2. The student must have obtained a number of quality points at least 3.85 [3.9] times the semester hours taken. The reckoning shall be made on all grades recorded in the Registrar's Office, and no course taken and so recorded may be disregarded.

Present

3. The total number of such members elected shall never in any year exceed six.

Proposed [simple wording change]

3. A maximum of six such members shall be elected in any year.

Section 1–C. [*Current material is subsumed in new Section 1–A2.*]*Proposed*

Members of the graduating classes of other undergraduate colleges and schools at Vanderbilt may be eligible for election under conditions similar to those for students transferring into the College of Arts and Science from an institution not having a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa:

1. By the time of graduation, the student will have completed a minimum of 60 credit hours in the College of Arts and Science, and a minimum of 90 credit hours that qualify as liberal rather than vocational in the judgment of the Membership Committee.
2. The student's overall grade point ratio is at least 3.75 at the time of election.

Section 3D. [*wording change*].*Present*

From those meeting the above conditions the Membership Committee shall elect members within the allowed number on the basis of broad cultural interests and scholarly achievements. Prior to the time of election the Secretary shall furnish the Membership Committee a confidential copy of the complete record of every junior or senior who has attained the required ratio.

Proposed

From those meeting the **stated requirements** the Membership Committee shall elect members on the basis of **scholarly achievements, broad cultural interests, and high moral character**. The Secretary shall solicit applications from all students thought to be qualified for membership and shall provide the Membership Committee with all such submitted applications at least two weeks prior to the scheduled time of election.

Rationale — clarification and consistency with current practice.

Section 3E. [*wording change*].*Present*

A total of *not more than 10 per cent of the senior class* including those elected as juniors from that class shall be elected to membership in any given year. Fractions of one-half or more are counted as units. [*sic!*]

Proposed

The number of elected members from the College of Arts and Science, including those elected in their junior year, shall be limited to 10 percent of the Bachelor's degree candidates in this College. The number of elected members from other undergraduate colleges and schools at Vanderbilt shall be limited at 2.5 percent of the graduating class in the College of Arts and Science.