

Psi Chi – Nu of Ohio Chapter

Constitution

Department of Psychological Sciences

Purpose Statement: Psi Chi is an international honor society whose purpose shall be to encourage, stimulate, and maintain excellence in the individual members of all fields, particularly in psychology, and to advance the science of psychology.

Framework: Members of the Chapter are to serve as model students at both the undergraduate and graduate level and are expected to maintain excellent academic standing. Members are additionally expected to attend weekly meetings and participate in campus and community volunteer opportunities. Members will be awarded points for participating in Chapter activities (see: Membership Status Tracking) in order to maintain active status in the organization. The Executive Board will plan and organize Chapter activities and develop workshops for Members.

Membership Composition: Within our Chapter, there are several levels of membership. Junior Members will be primarily freshmen and first-semester sophomore students who are not yet eligible to apply for full membership through Psi Chi National. Junior members are held to the same academic and participatory standard as Full Members (i.e., must maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and attend Chapter activities), but are not required to pay National dues. Full Members are those eligible to apply for membership through Psi Chi National. They are at least second-semester sophomores (includes graduate students), with a 3.0 GPA, and at least 9 completed credit hours in psychology study. Full Members and Junior members are eligible to run for Executive Board positions and vote in elections.

Meetings: General Meetings will be held weekly at a time designated by the Executive Board. It is expected that each Executive Board Member will attend all General Meetings. Junior and Full Members should also expect to attend the majority of General Meetings. Notice should be given to the Executive Board if unable to attend. Additional meetings for the Executive Board may arise for planning purposes.

Advisor: A faculty member within the Department of Psychological Sciences will serve as Psi Chi's advisor. They will oversee the organization, be available for consultation, and approve pre-applications for Junior and Full Members. The advisor does not have voting rights for election of officers, but in the event of a tie for a position, may cast a vote to break the tie. The advisor must be a National Member of Psi Chi.

Present Advisor: Shannon Ciesla (sciesla@kent.edu)

Funding: Our organization will seek funding from the Center for Student Involvement and the Department of Psychological Sciences in addition to our own fundraising.

Constitutional Amendments: This Constitution may be amended by the Executive Board and General Membership with a 2/3 vote.

Executive Board Positions

Psi Chi will be led by seven Board Members composed of the following roles: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Social Chair, Membership Chair, and Historian.

Election of Board Members

Decision Making Model: Majority vote for all decisions.

Executive Board positions will be filled via vote by the entire Chapter (both Junior and Full Members). Board Members may remain in the same leadership role for up to two years: the calendar year they were elected, and the following academic year. Elections may be held in person or electronically, at the discretion of the Executive Board. Candidates for election must be either Full Members or Junior Members, and provide a brief summary prior to the election detailing their qualifications and plans for the position. Elections for the following academic year will be held no later than March to allow time for the new Board to transition. Prospective members interested in joining the executive board are able to shadow the person whose position they are interested in prior to election. This is not necessary in advance to run for a position, but it can allow those interested in additional training to ensure a good fit for the role in upcoming elections.

Candidates for election should expect to remain in a position for one calendar year, unless there are extenuating circumstances (e.g. graduation, study away experiences).

Beginning Fall 2016, candidates elected to the Vice President position should expect to become President in the following year. Preferably, this position will be filled by a junior or third-year student with the intent to become President. This will maintain continuity between Executive Boards and allow for easier transitions. However, if a junior or third-year student does not fill this position, the above election process applies.

Beginning Fall 2016, no Executive Board Member may dually serve as an officer in the Peer Mentor Program. Executive Board Members are expected to devote the appropriate amount of time to their position and responsibilities. Therefore, it is strongly discouraged that Board Members hold more than one leadership position in all student organizations.

Student Conduct and Removal or Resignation of Officers

Decision Making Model: Majority vote for all decisions among Executive Board when removing a general member from the organization or an Executive Board Member from their position.

Although Executive Board Members are intended to hold their position for a year, resignation is permitted given extenuating circumstances. Executive Board Members can also be terminated from their positions.

Any individual can be terminated from the Executive Board on grounds of emotional abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse or harassment, as well as abuse of their power or position over members and Executive Board alike. This includes but is not limited to making unilateral decisions regarding the Executive Board duties, changing the Constitution without a 2/3rds majority vote, or using their title or position to make inappropriate requests of other Executive Board or general members. Any Executive Board Member or general member who is accused of any abuse is subject to a 2/3rds majority vote among Executive Board Members for immediate termination of their position and membership status. Any individual terminated from Executive Office is revoked membership from Kent State's chapter; Psi Chi Nu. The Executive Board Member has the right to hear and verbally respond to the allegations of abuse prior to a vote.

- Abuse of Position: All Executive Board Members are expected to corroborate with one another and function as a team. Therefore, no one individual may abuse their power or position over any other members of the organization. This includes emotional abuse, physical abuse, psychological abuse, and sexual abuse or harassment. This also includes but is not limited to making unilateral decisions regarding the Executive Board duties, changing the Constitution without a 2/3rds majority vote, belittling or demeaning fellow officers over rank and specified job position, or using their title or position to make inappropriate requests of other Executive Board or general members.

Definitions and Examples of Abuse

- Emotional or Psychological Abuse: A pattern of verbal abuse using threats, bullying, criticism, gaslighting, intimidation, manipulation, and silencing to shame, humiliate, demean, or belittle an individual into submission. This type of behavior is often associated with a power imbalance and may trigger or result in psychological trauma including anxiety, depression, and PTSD.
- Physical Abuse: A person using physical force against a person either by means of bodily contact or weapons. This includes creating a condition that endangers or threatens the health, safety, or welfare of another person by physically restraining or detaining another person, or removing any person from any place where that individual is authorized to remain.
- Sexual Abuse or Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's membership status, unreasonably interferes with an

individual's performance within the organization, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive organization environment.

Allegations of abuse are taken very seriously by our organization. If you or someone you know is being abused by any member of Psi Chi, please do not hesitate to reach out to one of our Executive Board Members or our Faculty Advisor.

Any individual can be terminated from the Executive Board on the grounds of neglecting to fulfill the duties of the position. This includes but is not limited to continued failure to complete the duties of the position outlined in the constitution and/or continued absence at general or Executive Board meetings. Any Executive Board Member who is accused of neglect is subject to a 2/3rds majority vote among Executive Board Members for immediate termination of their position and membership status. Any individual terminated from Executive Office is revoked membership from Kent State's chapter; Psi Chi Nu. The Executive Board Member has the right to hear and verbally respond to the allegations of neglect prior to a vote.

- **Neglect of Position:** All Executive Board Members are expected to corroborate with one another and function as a team. Therefore, no one individual may neglect the duties outlined in the constitution withholding extenuating circumstances. This includes but is not limited to continued failure to complete the duties of the position outlined in the constitution and continued absence at general or Executive Board meetings. For this purpose, neglect will be viewed as a choice to not uphold the duties outlined in the constitution. If circumstances arise beyond the control of an Executive Board member that impedes their ability to perform their duties, an Executive Board member can resign while still holding general membership status in the club.

If a member of the Executive Board is terminated the position will be voted in by the standing Executive Board as soon as possible for training. After initial training of the new Executive Board member, general members will be provided a confirmation ballot to officially swear in the new Executive Board member. The newly voted in Executive Board member will fulfill the duties of the position outlined in the constitution until voting opens again for the next academic year.

Any member of Psi Chi, Executive Board or General, that is removed from Psi Chi's sister organization, Peer Mentor Program, is automatically revoked membership from Kent State's chapter, Psi Chi Nu. Furthermore, any Executive Board member that is removed from the board on the grounds of abuse or neglect is automatically revoked general membership in the chapter.

Descriptions of Positions

President: The President is the face of the Chapter and main responsibilities include delegating tasks to other Executive Board Members, communicating with the Advisor and the Department, leading Executive Board and General Member meetings, and ordering memorabilia for graduating members, as well as submitting an updated Constitution to the Center for Student

Involvement each year (<http://www.kent.edu/csi/organizations/index.cfm>). The President, in collaboration with the Vice President and Secretary, should be available to answer emails.

Serving for the 2021-2022 academic year: Addie Collins (acolli40@kent.edu)

Vice President: The Vice President will oversee Executive Board and General Member meetings when the President is not available. The Vice President is also responsible for overseeing Executive Board Committees and should communicate with the chairs of these committees often. In addition, the Vice President is responsible for organizing and hosting at least one social event each semester (e.g. holiday social, movie night). The Vice President, in collaboration with the President and Secretary, should be available to answer emails.

Serving for the 2021-2022 academic year: Racquel Ritchie (rritchi2@kent.edu)

Secretary: The Secretary is responsible for the majority of communication between the Executive Board and the General Member body, regarding meeting times and other important information. Should email traffic get too high, the Secretary should ask the Vice President and President to step in to help. The Secretary is also responsible for keeping Executive Board and General Member meeting minutes each week, and updating our website in a timely manner.

Serving for the 2019-2020 academic year: Alexis Thomas (athom138@kent.edu)

Treasurer: The Treasurer will be issued a Psi Chi debit card for making purchases for the organization. Additionally, the Treasurer will oversee all incoming and outgoing monies (e.g. Chapter dues, National dues, and fundraising orders).

Serving for the 2019-2020 academic year: Lauren Wyatt (lwyatt4@kent.edu)

Membership Chair: The Membership Chair is responsible for collecting and reviewing (in collaboration with the Advisor and Board) pre-applications for membership and contacting those who are eligible. The Membership Chair also oversees Membership Status Tracking, and should expect to work closely with the Vice President in recruitment efforts at the beginning of each semester.

Serving for the 2019-2020 academic year: Ayonna Christopher (achris40@kent.edu)

Social Chair: The Social Chair should plan to host at least one membership social event per semester in collaboration with the Vice President. The Chair will be the primary source for contacting and collaborating with other organizations for larger campus-wide events. The Chair

should collaborate with the Treasurer when gathering materials for events, and assist in the set-up and break-down of each event. Finally, the Chair is expected to co-manage social media responsibilities with the Historian.

Serving for the 2021-2022 academic year: TBA

Historian: The Historian is responsible for managing records of meetings and events hosted by Psi Chi. The Historian is expected to take photos at events to post on our website and use them for future recruitment posters and advertising. The Historian will co-manage social media responsibilities with the Social Chair.

Serving for the 2021-2022 academic year: Angela Sparrow (asparro3@kent.edu)

Alumni Chair: Former Executive Board Officer/Officers available to assist within Psi Chi upon request. Given past experiences, they are able to provide feedback and help navigate a new board through difficulties or questions they may have. An Alumni Chair will be appointed and approved by 2/3rds of the existing Executive Board. Eligibility is limited for one year after the completion of their Executive Board term.

Social Media Pages:

Weebly: <http://kentpsichi.weebly.com/>

Twitter: @PsiChi_Kent

Instagram: @psichiksu

Snapchat: psichi.ksu

Facebook: psichiksu

Passwords for social media pages will be updated yearly by the President and given to the Chair and the Advisor.

Induction of Members

Induction is a formal ceremony for Junior Members and pre-approved Full Members to become recognized by National.

Induction Requirements:

1. National Dues are a one-time, \$55 payment. These are collected after a potential member's pre-application is approved. National Dues are only required of those applying for Full

Membership, and cover membership certificate, pin, and allow access to discounted graduation memorabilia. 2. Chapter Dues are biannual, \$5 payments collected at the beginning of each semester. These fund Chapter activities and social events.