

# 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 ΑΣΜ and referred to hereinafter as the *Society*.

#### Section 2. Object

The object of the *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.
- (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, after payment of all debts and obligations, transfer the net assets remaining to one of more organizations or educational foundations which serve the materials science and engineering community, as identified by the then Board of Trustees, and such organizations shall be 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 four classes of membership: Regular, Fellow, Honorary, and Distinguished Life Member.

### Section 2. Regular Members

A Regular Member, at the time of election. Shall be either

- (a) 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, through outstanding scholarly activity, research, or service to the profession.

### Section 3. Fellow Members

The Alpha Sigma Mu Fellow Award is granted to professionals from the materials community, who are in the middle of their career, and have distinguished themselves in industry, government, education, and management, and/or service to Alpha Sigma Mu over a long period of time. Fellow membership is limited to individuals who are already members of the *Society*.

### Section 4. Honorary Members

An Honorary Member shall have achieved exceptionally high standing in the materials science and engineering profession. The Honorary Membership is granted only to the Alpha Sigma Mu speaker at the *Society's* Annual Meeting

### Section 5. 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 6. Eligibility of an Undergraduate Student for Election as a Regular Member

To be eligible for election as a Regular Member

- (a) 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 one full semester or two full quarters.
- (b) The candidate's cumulative grade point average shall be in the upper quartile of all students working toward a degree in the pertinent curriculum or degree-granting unit.
- (c) The candidate shall be recommended to the faculty advisor of the *Society*, if no local chapter exists, by a faculty member who is a member of the *Society*.

### Section 7. Eligibility of a Graduate Student for Election as a Regular Member

To be eligible for election as a Regular Member

- (a) A graduate student 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.

- (b) The candidate's cumulative grade point average shall be in the upper half of all students working toward a graduate degree in the pertinent curriculum or degree-granting unit. Alternatively, the candidate must have demonstrated exceptional promise as a researcher.
- (c) The candidate shall be recommended to the faculty advisor of the *Society*, if no local chapter exists, by a faculty member who is a member of the *Society*.

**Section 8. Eligibility of Faculty Members and Other Persons for Election as Regular Members**

- (a) To be eligible as a Regular Member, faculty members and other persons must satisfy the requirements listed in Section 2(b) of Article III.
- (b) The candidate may be nominated by any member of the *Society*.

**Section 9. Nomination Process**

- (a) Candidates for Regular Membership shall submit a membership application form along with supporting documentation, if required. By submitting application form, the candidates shall agree that, if elected, they will abide by the principles and ideals of the *Society*.
- (b) The sponsor(s) for nominees to other classes of membership shall submit the appropriate documentation to the Board of Trustees.

**Section 10. 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 6, 7, or 8. The 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) Candidates for Regular Membership who are not nominated and elected by a local chapter may be elected to membership 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).
- (c) Fellow 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*. Fellow Members may also be nominated by active chapters. Nominations by chapters will be given additional weight relative to those by individuals. Nomination of a Fellow 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. The nomination of a Fellow Member must be transmitted to the 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 up-to-date curriculum vitae of the nominee.
- (d) Honorary membership is limited to the speaker at the Alpha Sigma Mu Lecture held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the *Society*. Individuals may be recommended for this honor by chapters, or by individuals who are members of the *Society*.
- (e) 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 Meeting of Board of Trustees, or by a member of the Board of Trustees. Election of a Distinguished Life Member shall be by the unanimous action of the members of the Board of Trustees.

- (f) Election to any level of membership becomes final when the candidate receives a certificate of membership to the *Society*. A local chapter may hold an initiation ceremony to recognize the new members. The suggested format for the ceremony is provided at the end of this document.

**Section 11. 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 of the *Society*.
- (b) Expulsion shall require the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the total membership of the Board of Trustees of the *Society* after due notice is given in writing to the member subject to expulsion. Such a vote shall be held after providing an opportunity for the member to respond in writing and to be heard in his own defense before the Board of Trustees.

**Article IV  
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE *SOCIETY***

The Annual Meeting of the *Society* will be held at a time and location determined by the President of the *Society*, with the approval of the Board of Trustees. The meeting is typically held during the period September to November each year, in conjunction with a meeting of materials science and engineering professional societies. During this meeting, the President of the *Society* shall

- (a) present the Board of Trustees to the assembled members of the *Society*, and
- (b) present Fellow, Honorary and Distinguished Life Member awards to the recipients

The Annual Meeting shall be followed by the Alpha Sigma Mu Lecture.

**Article V  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

All officers of the *Society* shall be duly elected to one of the classes specified in Article III Section 2, 3, 4 or 5.

**Section 1. Board of Trustees**

- (a) All affairs of the *Society* shall be managed and directed by the Board of Trustees consisting of fourteen (14) members, including the president, president-elect, immediate past-president, secretary, treasurer (or secretary/ treasurer) and up to ten (10) trustees. The membership of Board of Trustees shall be broadly representative of the profession.
- (b) Two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any and all business.
- (c) New Trustees shall be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Trustees. The term of office for a trustee shall be two (2) years, and trustees shall be eligible to serve consecutive terms. The Board of Trustees shall notify members of the *Society* about vacancies in the Board by appropriate means of communication, such as contacting chapter advisors, and placing notices in magazines and websites of materials related societies. The Board will vote on candidates based on their qualifications.

**Section 2. Meetings of the Board of Trustees**

- (a) The Board of Trustees of the *Society* shall hold an Annual Meeting preceding the Annual Meeting of the *Society*. At this meeting, the Board of Trustees shall review the status of the *Society* and consider any business brought forward by any member of the *Society* or by a member of the Board of Trustees.

- (b) Other meetings may be held as circumstances require. Such meetings may be held electronically, telephonically, or any other means, provided the requirements for quorum, as defined in Article IV Section 1(b) are met.

### **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 maintained and periodically reviewed.
- (c) It shall elect nominees for Fellow Membership and Distinguished Life Membership.
- (d) It shall identify speakers for the Alpha Sigma Mu Lecture for the following year.
- (e) It may elect members-at-large to the *Society* when no local chapter exists.
- (f) It shall approve and charter, or disapprove, petitions for new chapter in eligible colleges and Universities.
- (g) It shall review and approve the annual reports of its elected or appointed officers and committees and take appropriate action.
- (h) It shall determine all financial affairs of the *Society* including the amounts of fees and dues to its members and its chapters.
- (i) 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 VI OFFICERS OF THE *SOCIETY***

### **Section 1. Officers**

- (a) The officers of the *Society* shall be a President, a President-Elect/Vice President, 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.
- (b) These officers shall constitute the executive committee

### **Section 2. President**

- (a) The President shall assume office after serving two (2) years as President-Elect/Vice President.
- (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.
- (d) The President shall serve a two (2) year term.

**Section 3. Vice President/President-Elect**

- (a) The President-Elect shall be elected by majority vote of the Board of Trustees.
- (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 a two (2) year term after which he/she will assume the office of President.

**Section 4. Past-President**

The immediate past president of the *Society* shall serve for two (2) years 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 Board of Trustees.
- (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 Board of Trustees.
- (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.**

**Article VII  
FINANCIAL**

Alpha Sigma Mu is a not-for-profit tax exempt public charitable organization under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to the *Society* are deductible under section 170 of the code. The *Society* is qualified to receive tax deductible bequest, devises, transfers or gifts under section 2055, 2106, or 2522 of the Code. The EIN number for the *Society* is 41-2279265.

**Section 1. Initiation Fees and Annual Dues**

- (a) Regular nominees shall pay a one-time initiation fee of \$50.
- (b) Fellow nominees shall pay an one-time fee of \$100
- (c) There are no annual membership dues.

**Section 2. Fees for Honorary and Distinguished Life Members**

Neither an initiation fee nor dues shall be required of Honorary Members or Distinguished Life Members.

**Article VIII  
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) Chapters may also be formed at universities that offer a minor in a materials related field, as described in Article VII section 1(b). Such a minor shall be published in the university catalog and be offered in conjunction with an accredited degree, as described in Article VII section 1(b), in an engineering discipline such as Chemical, Mechanical, Biomedical, and Electrical. Students in the minor should qualify for the honor society of their major discipline to be eligible for nomination to Alpha Sigma Mu.
- (d) Chapters may also be formed at universities with only graduate programs in a materials related discipline, such as metallurgical, ceramic, polymer, composites, electronic materials, and emerging materials.
- (e) Any faculty member at an eligible institution who is a member of the *Society* is eligible to organize a chapter at that institution.
- (f) 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 a 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

An Alpha Sigma Mu chapter operates within a college or university as a student organization, and shall meet all requirements of such organizations as specified by the college or university. The officers and operating procedure for the chapter are described below.

- (a) The officers of each chapter shall be a President, a Vice-President, and a Secretary. Each officer shall be elected for a one calendar year term and shall be eligible for re-election. A chapter may have fewer officers, if allowed by the college or university rules for student organizations.
- (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* and the institution. 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 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 Report** is to be postmarked no later than **June 15**. (An appropriate form for the **Annual Chapter Report** shall be supplied by the Secretary 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 or 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 IX  
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 the suggested 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 X  
AMENDMENTS**

**Section 1. 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.

**Section 2. 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.

**Article XI  
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 XII  
EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Constitution was established at the Annual Meeting of the *Society* on Monday, October 16, 1967, with revisions in 1972, on October 7, 1996, and on October 25, 2009. The Revised Constitution shall supersede in all respects the 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 lifetime 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, was 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."**

10/2009