

Proposed Amendments to the Pi Kappa Delta Constitution

From time to time, [the Constitution of PKD](#) requires amendments to (1) remain consistent with best practices, (2) update the structure of the organization to create efficiencies, (3) change policies to reflect the mission of PKD and/or (4) update language for clarity or to reflect contemporary usage.

The last constitutional review occurred in 2018. Below are the proposed amendments to be voted upon at the 2026 Biennial Convention.

General Amendments:

Proposed amendments include ~~striketrough~~ of material from current constitutional text to denote proposed cuts and **bolded** language/punctuation for proposed additions.

1. Replace references to “he or she” with “they” to stay consistent with majority usage throughout the Constitution (including 301.7, 603.4, 1000).
2. Replace all mentions of “National Council” with “Pi Kappa Delta board of directors” unless otherwise stipulated in a specific amendment proposal (including 301.31, 301.32, 310.22, 310.24, 310.3, 402.6, 504.5, 601.1, 601.2, 602.1, 602.11, 602.12, 602.2, 602.22, 603, 603.1, 603.41, 603.42, 603.43, 603.6, 604.11, 604.21, 604.22, 604.23, 604.25, 605, 610.1, 610.2, 610.3, 610.6, 610.7, 611.3, 1003, 1004, 1005, 1300, 1400).

Article I

No recommended changes.

Article II

1. Replace 200 with mission statement voted upon by PKD membership at 2024 Biennial Convention.

Pi Kappa Delta is an honorary consisting of educators, students and alumni ~~committed to encouraging the education of articulate citizens through a three-part focus: the commitment to and promotion of ethical, humane and inclusive communication and educational practices; the commitment to and promotion of professional development of forensics educators; and the~~

~~commitment to and promotion of comprehensive forensics programming.~~
that develops civic-oriented orators through the promotion of principled communication and educational practices; supports comprehensive approaches to forensics pedagogy; encourages the creation of professional development opportunities for forensic educators; and seeks to inclusively expand access to intercollegiate speech and debate activities.

2. Add new “Purpose” statement voted upon by PKD membership at 2024 Biennial Convention as “201.”

201: The purpose of Pi Kappa Delta is to embody the spirit of our motto - “The Art of Persuasion, Beautiful and Just” - we:

Π Embrace comprehensive forensic education that is dedicated to the assumption that within every participant exists the potentialities of Aristotle’s philosophy and teaching: interlocutor, orator, storyteller and advocate.

K Empower our members through support, scholarship, programming, and development that nurtures personal and professional growth.

Δ Emplace agorot: spaces that support the free and ethical exchange of ideas, the discovery of voice, and the inspiration for orators to lead just lives of leadership and service throughout their global communities.

3. “201” becomes “202” and is replaced with “Declaration” voted upon by the membership at the 2024 Biennial Convention.

203. Pi Kappa Delta is committed to assuring equal opportunity to all persons, ~~regardless of race, color, religious creed, national origin, physical ability status, age, economic status, gender, sex or sexual orientation.~~ Pi Kappa Delta is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to establish a tolerant atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. Mindful of the importance of First Amendment freedoms, Pi Kappa Delta reminds its members of their ethical obligations to audience members and encourages members to refrain from disrespectful or derogatory speech. As an organization dedicated to fostering the development of functional leadership skills, Pi Kappa Delta encourages the participation of individuals from traditionally under-represented groups. Pi Kappa Delta is an Equal

~~Opportunity Employer.~~ regardless of differences in age, color, ethnicity, family or marital status, gender identity or expression, language, national origin, physical and mental ability, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual or affectional orientation, socio-economic status, veteran status, and other characteristics that make our members unique.

Pi Kappa Delta is opposed to all forms of discrimination and seeks to encourage an atmosphere in which every individual is accorded respect. Mindful of the importance of First Amendment freedoms, Pi Kappa Delta reminds its members of the rhetorical potentiality of eunoia - a truly ethical framework for imagining the audience/speaker relationship through the triple lenses of wisdom, virtue and good will.

As an organization dedicated to fostering the development of functional leadership skills, Pi Kappa Delta encourages the participation of individuals from traditionally under-represented groups. Pi Kappa Delta is an equal opportunity employer.

4. With the added section, the remainder of sections in Article II are pushed up one.

“202” becomes “203; “203” becomes “204;” and “204” becomes “205.”

Article III - The Chapter

1. Change 301.1 to reflect new mission language:

The undergraduate chapter shall exist for three purposes: to support forensics in all its forms and contexts; to ~~nurture citizenship~~ **develop civic-oriented orators** through competition, service and scholarship, and to promote the art of persuasion, beautiful and just.

2. 301.21, change “shall establish” to “ought to establish” and cut “the” for grammatical consistency:

The undergraduate chapter is not synonymous with an existing college or university forensics program. The undergraduate chapter ~~shall~~ **ought to** establish and maintain a regular set of activities beyond participating in competitive forensics tournaments which may include but not be limited to civic events aimed at engaging great public understanding and appreciation

for forensics such as public debates and speech events; and service activities aimed at ~~the~~ strengthening the forensics community, the college or university community, and the community at large.

3. Clarify language in 301.4:

An Undergraduate Chapter is considered to be in good standing if it **(1) pays its annual dues, and (2) enrolls new members each year to maintain the required minimum, and (3) remits annual report to Historian (see 301.5).** If a Chapter does not meet these criteria for three consecutive years it will be listed as an inactive Chapter. Inactive Chapters may not participate in Pi Kappa Delta sponsored events. To regain good standing the Chapter must pay the current year's dues, initiate new members, and pay a reactivation fee **or petition the National Organization for exemptions.**

4. In 301.5, strike word no longer consistent with mission statement and add language to ensure consistency of process:

The membership of June 30th shall be considered as the membership for the current year. Each Chapter shall report on its membership, ~~and~~ events and service activities as requested by the National Organization. **These reports will be remitted to the Historian annually and be held at the PKD National Archive.**

5. In 301.6, add language to clarify process related to voting rights at the Biennial Convention:

Each Undergraduate Chapter shall elect a President at least once each year **who may act as the voting delegate (or designate voting delegate) on behalf of their chapter** - and may elect other officers as the Chapter desires, such as: Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, Reporter or Corresponding Secretary or Historian.

6. In 301.7, add language to clarify PKD general chapter appointment process:

Each Undergraduate Chapter shall have a faculty/staff sponsor who shall be recognized as the sponsor by the college or university where the Undergraduate Chapter is chartered. Refusal to appoint a faculty/staff sponsor shall be grounds for possible action resulting in the Chapter being placed on inactive status. **For a student to become a member of the**

national general chapter, they must petition the National Organization (discussed in 303) for a representative to be appointed.

7. Modify 301.10 to clarify the role of voting beyond the Biennial Convention:

Each Undergraduate Chapter shall have one vote at the National Convention **and all formal Pi Kappa Delta elections.**

8. Change language in 302.1 to reflect new mission statement language:

The Alumni chapter shall exist for four purposes: to support forensics in all its forms and contexts; to nurture ~~citizenship~~ **the development of civic-orators** through competition, service and scholarship, to promote the art of persuasion, beautiful and just and to support the activities of the undergraduate chapter.

9. Replace reference to a position that no longer exists and clarify role of the Historian in 302.3:

Each Alumni chapter shall provide itself with a constitution, shall meet at least once a year, shall report changes in membership to the Chief Operating Officer, and ~~shall send~~ **will remit** an annual report to the ~~National Secretary-Treasurer Historian to be held in the National Archives.~~

10. Clarify role of individuals during elections in 302.6:

An Alumni chapter shall have one vote at **all formal elections designated by the National Organization-Province and National Conventions**, if a member in good standing is present.

11. Change language in 303.1 to reflect new mission statement language:

The National General chapter shall exist for three purposes: to practice and support forensics in all its forms and contexts; to nurture ~~citizenship~~ **the development of civic-orators** through competition, service and scholarship, and to promote the art of persuasion, beautiful and just.

12. In 303.3, clarify process of payment and participation for members of the national general chapter:

Members of the National General chapter shall be exempt from ~~the fines, fees and assessments of Province and the National Organization~~ **outlined for the Undergraduate Chapter in 301.4**, except for the original membership

fee and participation fees associated with the National Organization's tournaments and conventions. Nothing in this paragraph shall preclude voluntary financial support of the organization.

13. In 310.13, change "Section 201" to "Section 202" as reflects changes above.

14. Update 310.21 to reflect current process:

The application for a charter must be made in writing ~~on the official form to the COO or Pi Kappa Delta board of directors~~. The application shall include the names of all qualified student members and the name of the chapter sponsor and the sponsor's official college or university title.

15. Add information in 310.3 to reflect PKD's decision to enforce a code of conduct:

Conditions for revocation of charter. The Charter and Standards committee may recommend to the National Convention that a charter be revoked under such circumstances when a chapter engages in such activities violating the provisions of this constitution **or that is conduct unbecoming to the intent and philosophy of the organization**. When the National Convention is not in session the ~~National Council~~ **Pi Kappa Delta board of directors** will consider the revocation recommendation and may revoke the chapter with a two-thirds affirmative vote of ~~the National Council~~ **its members**.

Article IV - The Province

1. In 402.3 add a hyphen to ensure grammatical consistency:

Undergraduate students who are Province officers may serve either one or two-year terms as provided for in-Province constitutions.

Article V - The Caucuses

1. In 502.41, remove "from" to ensure grammatical consistency:

A vote on a proposal must include at least ten percent of the current individual members in good standing **at the Convention** ~~from~~ to be deemed that there was a quorum present.

2. Add information in 503.1 to clarify process:

An alumnus need not be a member of an existing alumni chapter to participate in this caucus. **Only one member of an alumni chapter in good standing may vote at formal elections designated by the National Organization. Individuals shall be encouraged to join or charter an alumni chapter.**

3. Repeated numbers (503.4-503.5) need to be moved or renumbered accordingly. “503.41” shall be moved up to follow “503.4.” “503.5” will follow “503.5.”

Article VI - The National Organization

1. In 600, add additional language to ensure clarity and purpose:

The National Organization shall be a federation of the local chapters of Pi Kappa Delta. It shall hold supreme executive, legislative, and judicial power, and shall be the source of all authority in this forensic honorary, except as otherwise specifically provided in this constitution. It shall not be a secret organization **and will conduct all business in an open and accessible manner for the membership.** The National Organization shall be composed of the National Convention, the Board of Directors, the National Student Caucus, the National Alumni Caucus, the Standing Committees, and the National General Chapter.

2. Add information in 601.1 to reflect PKD’s decision to enforce a code of conduct:

In the National Convention shall be vested the supreme powers given to the National Organization. The actions, rules and regulations of the National Convention shall be binding upon the Board of Directors, all Local Chapters, Province Organizations, or other subordinate organizations within Pi Kappa Delta. It shall elect the National Officers and may delegate to them such of its powers as it shall deem necessary or expedient. It shall have power to lay assessments upon the Undergraduate Chapters apportioned equally upon individuals or Chapter members of the organization. It shall have power to expel any individual member upon just cause, ~~or~~ upon flagrant violation of the provision of this constitution, of the obligation given at the time of admission into Pi Kappa Delta, **or for conduct unbecoming to the intent and philosophy of the organization.** It shall have the power of chartering Local Chapters upon petition. It shall have the power to vote expenditures from the national treasury.

3. In 602.1, add referenced section number for enhanced clarity:

The Board of Directors shall have the responsibility for managing the activities of the National Organization in accordance with the provisions of this constitution. They shall be members of Pi Kappa Delta. They shall be either elected or selected in accordance with the election provisions set out in ~~another~~ section **602.2**.

4. In 602.11, replace “incurred by action of the National Convention” with “incurred by action of the National Organization.”
5. Replace reference to “National Secretary-Treasurer” in 602.2 with “COO.”
6. Revise 602.2 to include at-large representatives.

The National Council shall be comprised of the National President, the President-Elect, and ten general council members. These include: immediate Past-President, **three at-large members**, the Historian, the Editor of the *Forensic*, the Community College Representative, the Graduate Student Representative, the Undergraduate Student Representative ~~at Large~~, the Local Host Student Representative

7. The duties of the Chief Operation Officer will be indicated in the bylaws instead of being fully enumerated in the Constitution. As such, 603.41 shall be changed to reflect this:

~~Additional duties of the The Chief Operating Officer (COO) shall also oversee and coordinate fundraising and be responsible for identifying and coordinating efforts at nurturing relationships. The COO will serve as Grants Manager: identify new grant sources and coordinate grant application and reporting activities. The COO shall prepare an annual report appropriate for fundraising and other uses. The COO oversee maintenance of the web page and other communication strategies with the support of the National Council as well as publish the Key and investigate advertising potential. The COO shall assist with the coordination of logistics for meetings of the National Council. The COO shall plan and implement Skype or other virtual meetings as needed while working with the President and National Council shall be enumerated by the Pi Kappa Delta board of directors and detailed in the National Organization’s bylaws.~~

8. Change 603.43 to reflect grammatical consistency and the operating standards of a nonprofit organization:

The COO shall receive an annual stipend as determined by the ~~National Council Pi Kappa Delta~~ **board of directors** and be provided with appropriate support for travel, clerical expenses and the like. ~~The COO's term shall be four years as specified in section 604.23~~

9. Replace typo in 603.6: “byJhe” becomes “by the.”

10. 604 is cut off. It should read in full:

The Process of Election and Selection for Members of the National Council
604.1 - The nominees for the office of President-Elect shall be from the three at-large members, excluding any member who notifies the President of Pi Kappa Delta in writing of the person's desires to be excluded from the nomination.

604.11 - The Board of Directors shall provide for an absentee ballot for those Chapters in good standing which indicate they will not attend the convention.

604.12 - Election shall be by a majority vote of those Chapters voting for candidates included on the ballot at the National Convention.

11. Amend 604.13 for clarity:

The President shall not be eligible for re-election to **consecutive terms**.

12. Remove references to “terms” for COO in 604.23 as it is inconsistent with hiring practices:

The Chief Operating Officer shall be nominated by the ~~National Council Pi Kappa Delta~~ **board of directors** and approved by the National Convention ~~and shall serve a term of four years and shall be eligible for an additional term of four years. A third term of two years is possible upon the unanimous recommendation of the National Council and a two-thirds vote of the National Convention. The term of office of the Chief Operating Officer shall begin August 1 of the year of election. If necessary, termination of employment will be conducted after a vote of no confidence by the majority of board members.~~

13. Clarify terms and appointment procedure for Historian:

The Historian shall be nominated by the **Board of Directors**, approved by the National Convention, and shall serve a term of ten years **and may be re-nominated and approved for additional terms**. The term of the Historian shall begin on August 1 of the year of election.

14. Codify the role of “Convention Director” in 610.2:

Committee on Convention Arrangements and Program. It shall be the function of this committee to have complete charge, subject to the supervision of the ~~National Council~~ **Pi Kappa Delta Board of Directors**, of all matters pertaining to forensic events offered at tournaments sponsored by the National Organization. The chairperson **will be known as the Convention Director and may be eligible for a stipend as determined by the board, with the approval of t.** The National President, shall appoint such additional members of the committee as are necessary to manage the tournaments sponsored by the National Organization. It shall be the function of this committee to make all local arrangements for the National Convention.

15. Clarify roles in 610.7:

Practices and Procedures Committee. It shall be the function of this committee to uphold Pi Kappa Delta's statements on Discrimination (**see section 202**). The Compliance Officer appointed by the President of Pi Kappa Delta and approved by the Board of Directors will chair this committee. This committee will be responsible for investigating charges of discrimination and recommending appropriate action, if necessary, to the ~~National Council Pi Kappa Delta board of directors~~. This committee **will also appoint an Ombuds who will determine just decisions related to tournament procedure.** The committee must maintain the confidentiality of all involved to the maximum extent possible in order to conduct a fair and thorough investigations. This committee should routinely evaluate the Statement on Discrimination and the procedures in order to make recommendations of change if the committee deems them necessary.

16. Clarify necessary roles in 611.2:

The National President **ought to** appoint a Parliamentarian to assist at the business sessions of the National Convention and to serve as adviser on constitutional questions to the National Organization. ~~The person so appointed shall be one of the voting members of the Constitution Revision Committee.~~

17. Remove section 611.5 as it is now a redundant position. Change "611.6" to "611.5."

Article VII - Orders of Membership

1. Remove "citizenship" and replace with "the development of civic-oriented orators" to reflect new language in PKD's mission statement.
2. Clarify content in 702.2:

Eligibility for Order of Instruction membership shall be determined as follows:
Membership will be open to faculty/staff members instructing Communication

coursework that is supportive of Pi Kappa Delta's mission and philosophy, coaching forensic activities at a recognized college or sponsoring and/or assisting with activities which support the aims of the organization carried out by undergraduate student members.

Article VIII - Orders of Membership

1. As Pi Kappa Delta is no longer partnered with the National Speech & Debate Association, it no longer uses a points system. As such this Article has become obsolete and should be cut entirely.

Article IX - Official Insignia

1. Change this to "Article VIII."

Article X - The Forensic and the Key

1. Change this to "Article IX."
2. Remove 1002 as it has become obsolete.
3. Change "1003" to "1002" and remove material that is obsolete or unnecessary for Constitutional-level stipulation:

The organization under the direction of The Editor shall publish a scholarly journal devoted to the educational objectives of Pi Kappa Delta which shall be known as The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta. The journal shall contain articles reflecting a ~~the~~ range of ~~qualitative and quantitative~~ methodologies appropriate to the study of forensics. ~~Each Chapter shall receive a copy of each issue of The Forensic upon payment of its annual national dues. The subscription price of the journal shall be fixed by the National Council. The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta will also be made available digitally to the membership on the Pi Kappa Delta official website.~~ Other duties of The Editor shall be enumerated by the Pi Kappa Delta board of directors and detailed in the National Organization's bylaws.

4. Remove sections 1004 and 1005 as they have become obsolete.

Article XI - Grand Catalog

1. Change this to "Article X."

2. Edit 1100 to reflect absence of Article VIII:

The Chief Operating Officer ~~and the organization's administrative assistant~~ shall keep a Grand Catalog of the names of members of Pi Kappa Delta with a record of their Orders ~~and Degrees at the time of initiation~~, and any subsequent changes in Orders ~~and Degrees~~. The President of each Undergraduate Chapter shall ~~send~~ **remit** this information annually, or more often if requested, to the Chief Operating Officer ~~on the official catalog forms~~. Names shall not be entered in the catalog or carried by the Chief Operating Officer until all application blanks and fees have been received.

3. Add section 1101:

The COO and/or Historian will regularly convey updates of the Grand Catalog to the National Archives.

Article XII - Parliamentary Authority

1. Change this to "Article XI."

Article XIII - Amendments

1. Change this to "Article XII."
2. Change 1302 to reflect current operating standards:

All proposed amendments to the constitution must be in the hands of the Chair of the Constitutional Revision Committee by November 1 of the year preceding the National Convention and shall be **made available to the membership** ~~printed in the Winter Key of the convention year~~.

Article XIV - Emergency

1. Change this to "Article XIII."
2. Amend section 1400 to reflect the changing nature of organizational events:

When by a three-fourths vote, the ~~National Council~~ **Pi Kappa Delta Board of Directors** shall determine that an emergency exists of such gravity as to make the holding of ~~a National Convention~~ **official events** impossible or impracticable, then,

and in that event, the ~~National Council~~ **board** may, by a two-thirds vote take any action necessitated by such an emergency, notwithstanding anything contained in this constitution. However, any ten Local Chapters may, by joining in a written request to the Board of Directors, initiate a referendum of the Local Chapters on any action taken by the ~~National Council~~ **board** hereunder.