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Laurels Chapter By-Laws

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Laurels Chapter, Mortar board Incorporated.

Article II: National Affiliations

This organization is a chartered member of Mortar Board Inc. and will follow the national constitution.

Article III: Purpose

The Laurels Chapter shall be an organization for seniors attending Kent State University and promoting the ideals of Mortar Board (scholarship, leadership, and service.) The purpose of the organization as stated in the preamble of the national Constitution is to facilitate cooperation between national senior honors societies, to contribute to the self-awareness of its members, to promote equal opportunities among all peoples, to emphasize the advancement of the status of women, to support the ideals of the university, to advance a spirit of scholarship, to recognize and encourage leadership, to provide service, and to establish the opportunity for a meaningful exchange of ideas as individuals and as a group.

Article IV: Membership

Section 1 – Eligibility

The Laurels Chapter will adhere to the national guidelines concerning membership eligibility following the ideals of Mortar Board, junior/senior status, and a minimum grade point average.

Section 2 – Requirements

All members of the Laurels Chapter must have been initiated and have paid dues. New members shall be initiated upon a vote of the current chapter in the spring semester. They must also meet the requirements as discussed in the national constitution.

Section 3 – Participation Policy

A. Meetings. The Laurels Chapter has regular meetings at least twice a month as well as satellite meetings during off weeks. All members must attend meetings. All members can miss one or two meetings per semester; however, a second missed meeting will be accompanied by a warning. Valid excuses must be in writing and be given to the secretary to be kept on file with attendance records.

B. Activities. The Laurels Chapter is an active chapter maintaining traditional projects and events as well as planning new activities each year. Member participation in these activities is critical for continued leadership development and the success of our chapter. Members are expected to participate in at least one activity per month, new member selection, and the initiation ceremony each year.

Section 4 – Non-discriminatory Policy
Membership into Mortar Board, Inc. through the Laurels Chapter is open to the entire qualified Kent State University community. The Laurels Chapter shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or identity as a disabled veteran or veteran of the Vietnam era in accordance with Kent State University's non-discriminatory policy (3342-6-01.1).

Section 5 – Dismissal

In order for members to remain in good standing in the Laurels Chapter, they must meet the requirement for participation established by the Participation Policy, and be in good standing with Kent State University. Accommodations for extenuating circumstances can be made with executive board approval and will be kept on file with the chapter secretary. Members without accommodation not meeting the minimum requirements will be notified and have the opportunity meet with the chapter president or advisor to explore ways to regain good standing. The dismissal procedure with option for appeal will follow the national constitution guidelines.

Article V: Chapter Advisors

The Chapter Advisor(s) of the Laurels Chapter shall be appointed or elected by members of the Laurels Chapter in the manner approved by Kent State University to advise and counsel the chapter and the members. The Chapter Advisor(s) shall serve the best interests of Mortar Board Inc., the Laurels Chapter, and its members and reasonable attempt to ensure that all business conducted by the Laurels Chapter meets Kent State University policies. The Chapter Advisor(s) will also aid the executive board and help provide direction for the Laurels Chapter.

Article VI: Officers

Section 1 – Requirements

All officers shall possess the minimum requirements of membership.

Section 2 – New Offices

New offices may be created in accordance with Mortar Board Inc. national policies. Additional offices can be created by the Laurels Chapter if necessary; however, duties should be outlined by the chapter in accordance with national policy.

Section 3 – Duties of Each Officer

The duties of each officer are outlined in the national constitution, the Officers Handbook, or chapter records. Each officer should fulfill these duties to their fullest capacity.

Section 4 – Elections

Election of officers will occur at the first regular meeting following initiation. A simple majority of members present will be needed to be elected to an office. Officers will be selected in the Spring semester. Elected officers have an obligation to meet with their predecessors for orientation concerning their particular office and its duties.

Section 5 – Term of Office

The term of office will be from election to election, approximately on year. This includes spring, summer, and fall semesters at Kent State University.

Article VII: Executive Board

The executive board will be formed by all officers and committee chairs. The Chapter Advisor(s) should be present at executive board meetings. The board will provide direction for the Laurels Chapter. The executive board will have the power to act on behalf of the Laurels Chapter in cases of immediacy.

Article VIII: Committees

Committees shall be formed as needed. Standing or temporary committees may be formed. This is up to the discretion of the chapter.

Article IX: Meetings

Meetings should be held regularly throughout the academic year. Meetings will be conducted informally, although Parliamentary procedure may be used if necessitated. Dates and times of the meetings will be ultimately decided by the chapter president, although the executive board should be consulted.

Article X: Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting during the year by the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the chapter members present and voting. All members must be notified at least one week but not more than one month prior to voting on Bylaw amendments.