

# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE EQV FRATERNITY OF WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

## PREAMBLE

We, the Brotherhood of EQV, in order to provide for the government of our organization and promote the fuller realization of the values expressed in our Guiding Principles, do hereby establish this Constitution of EQV Fraternity.

### Guiding Principles

- I. We commend the dignity of honorable human interaction and expect that intellectual and moral integrity will be maintained under the name of this organization.
- II. We believe that the basic determinant of a candidate's eligibility for membership should be his potential for contributing to friendship, mutual respect, and constructive endeavor within the Brotherhood. We maintain that race, religion, and nationality are not acceptable criteria for selecting members.
- III. We regard group endeavor as a fundamental and valuable form of human experience. Consequently, we recognize the necessity of a sincere sense of responsibility and loyalty toward the group. At the same time, we believe that the group is responsible to its individual members and that brotherhood remains meaningful only so long as personal autonomy and integrity are respected.
- IV. We consider implicit in the nature of this organization a dedication to the principles of Wesleyan University. As a group acknowledging these principles, we recognize our particular obligation to develop social and moral maturity, further recognizing our responsibility to implement whenever possible the academic aims of Wesleyan University.

## ARTICLE I -- NAME AND DEFINITION

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be EQV," standing for its motto, "Esse quam Videri," which means "To Be Rather Than to Seem."

Section 2. Definition. EQV is a local social fraternity at Wesleyan University dedicated to the realization of the values expressed in its Guiding Principles.

## ARTICLE II -- MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Residents and Graduates. (a) A Brother is designated Resident from the date of his initiation and during any period that he is registered as an undergraduate at Wesleyan University. At all other times a Brother is designated Graduate.

(b) Active Resident Brothers constitute the Resident Chapter and are subject to the rules established by the Council. Graduate Brothers constitute the Graduate Chapter. The Resident and Graduate Chapters together constitute the structure of EQV Fraternity.

(c) The Graduate Chapter shall establish a set of By-laws, constituting an appendix to this Constitution. The Graduate Chapter shall follow no By-law, policy, or course of action which is in contradiction to this Constitution as ratified and amended.

Section 2. Eligibility. Any Wesleyan undergraduate who is not a member of another social organization at Wesleyan is eligible to become a Brother in EQV.

Section 3. Selectivity. Judgment of candidates for membership in this fraternity shall properly be based on the ideals and principles expressed in the Guiding Principles.

### Section 4. Pledging During the Regular University Rushing Period.

(To be voted upon during the 1962-63 academic year.)

Section 5. Pledging After the Regular University Rushing Period. To become a pledge of EQV at any time after his, class has gone through formal rushing) a candidate must pass through the following procedures:

- a. Proposal - At any meeting of the Council, any Brother may move that a person be invited to become a member. This motion must be laid on the table for one week.
- b. Straw Vote - After one week, the motion shall come off the table. The Council shall discuss the motion, and then proceed to a vote. The margin necessary to pass the motion shall be three-quarters of the active Resident

Brothers. If a candidate fails to pass a straw vote, he may be repropounded after one week.

- c. Reconsideration - During a period of four academic days beginning at noon of the day following a Council meeting in which a candidate has passed a straw vote, any Brother may inform the President that he wishes to appeal for reconsideration of the previous straw vote. If the votes of absent Brothers might change the results of a straw vote, those Brothers shall be polled by the President, who shall announce the results to a special Council meeting as soon as possible thereafter. In such a case, the four days during which appeals for reconsideration may be made shall begin immediately after this announcement.

Each Brother shall have personal responsibility for informing the President for a wish to appeal for reconsideration. No appeal for reconsideration may be made after the four-day period unless in the opinion of the Executive Committee unusual circumstances have made this provision unreasonable. Appeals for reconsideration by proxy given to the Executive Committee shall be valid only if the Brother using the proxy is absent from campus during every part of the official four-day period. Such proxy appeals need not be in writing and may be given to a member of the Executive Committee at any time between the Council meeting at which a candidate is first proposed for membership and the end of the four-day period. At the first Council meeting following the end of the four-day period, the President shall inform the Council of the names of Brothers appealing for reconsideration of the straw vote.

In the event of an appeal to reconsider, it will be necessary for the candidate in question to pass the reconsideration vote by a two-thirds majority of the active Resident Brotherhood.

If the candidate in question fails to pass the reconsideration vote he may not be invited to become a pledge of EQV. Such a candidate may be repropounded for membership after one week.

- d. Pledging - At least six days after a successful straw vote, providing there has been no appeal for reconsideration, or immediately following the successful passage of a reconsideration vote, a candidate shall be invited to pledge. If he accepts, he shall be pledged at a formal ceremony during which he shall be familiarized with the Guiding Principles of this fraternity and shall pledge himself to them.

Section 6. Initiation. A pledge is eligible for initiation as a Brother according to the following procedure:

that he have completed satisfactorily a definite pledge period, the length of which shall be determined by the Executive Committee;

that he have attained a scholastic average at Wesleyan of at least 70% for the grading period preceding the initiation;

that in an initiation ceremony, he formally accept the aims, obligations, and Guiding Principles of EQV and pledge to maintain them.

Section 7. Resignation and Inactive Status. (a) A Brother may resign from EQV after giving a two-week written notice to the Executive Committee. At the end of this period, if he has not withdrawn his notice, he shall cease to be a Brother of EQV in either the Resident Chapter or the Graduate Chapter.

(b) A Resident Brother may declare himself inactive only after giving a one-week written notice to the Executive Committee. At the end of this period, if he has not withdrawn his notice, he shall be designated inactive by the Secretary. He shall be considered an inactive member of the Resident Chapter while he remains registered as an undergraduate at Wesleyan; at other times he shall be considered a member of the Graduate Chapter. An inactive Brother may resume his active status at will, but only after the passage of ten academic weeks from the time he becomes inactive.

Section 8. Suspension and Expulsion. Any Brother or pledge may be suspended or expelled from the Fraternity by a 90% vote of all Resident Brothers if his actions are deemed contrary to the Guiding Principles. The vote on such a question must take place at least one week after the motion was made. The period of suspension shall be determined by the Council. An expelled person shall cease to be a Brother of EQV in either the Resident Chapter or the Graduate Chapter.

Section 9. Membership Transfers. All pledges and Brothers of the suspended Phi Gamma Chapter of Alpha Chi Rho, effective September, 1959, do automatically become pledges and Brothers of the Resident Chapter of EQV. All Graduate Brothers of Phi Gamma of Alpha Chi Rho are automatically eligible to become members of the Graduate Chapter of EQV, and shall automatically assume such status upon written application to the Executive Committee.

### ARTICLE III-- OFFICERS

Section 1. Elections Council. Resident Chapter elections shall be held annually at the second Council in February.

This Council shall be known as the Elections Council. A quorum at the Elections Council shall consist of four-fifths of the active Resident Brotherhood.

Section 2. Elected Officers. At the Elections Council a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Steward, two Assistant Treasurers, two Senators, Alumni Secretary, Ritual Officer, and Sergeant-at-Arms shall be elected by a majority of the quorum. The election, by secret ballot, shall be conducted by the retiring Vice-President.

Section 3. Duties and Powers of Some Elected Officers. (a) The President is the chief Executive Officer of the fraternity. He shall preside at all Council meetings and meetings of the Executive Committee. He shall have the power to call special Councils and to postpone Council meetings for a period not greater than one week.

(b) The Vice-President shall assist the President whenever possible. He shall conduct the Elections Council, and in the absence of the President, shall preside over the Council and over meetings of the Executive Committee. He shall have executive charge of House maintenance.

(c) The Treasurer shall have immediate supervision of all fraternity and eating club funds and records, and must have these records audited by an accredited accountant once during each fiscal year. He must submit in Council a written budget for the ensuing year on or before the third Council meeting of that academic year, and must make a monthly report of the financial situation of the fraternity to the Council. The Treasurer must be consulted before any expenditure of unappropriated fraternity funds is made.

(d) The Secretary shall keep typed minutes of all Council meetings, shall conduct the general correspondence of the Council and Executive Committee, and shall maintain a permanent record of Standing Rules and House Policies in a place accessible to all Resident Brothers.

Section 4. Nominations. Each Brother shall submit a nominating ballot prior to the Elections Council, nominating not more than three Brothers in preferential order for each office under consideration. The Executive Committee shall consider these ballots and place in nomination those Brothers who are most strongly supported by the Brotherhood. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Elections Council.

Section 5. Terms of Office. The President shall hold office until October 1, at which time he shall be succeeded in office and title by the Vice-President, who will preside until the following Elections Council. The President himself shall assume the office and title of Vice-President. All officers, except the President, Vice-President, and Underclass Representative, shall remain in office for one year. If for any reason, an elective office is vacated during the year, the Executive Committee shall conduct a special election by secret ballot of the Council to fill this office for the remainder of the term.

Section 6. Underclass Representative. The Underclass Representatives to the Executive Committee will consist of sophomore Brothers and pledges at the time of the Elections Council. All such Brothers and pledges will be given the opportunity to serve as underclass representatives for one-eighth of a year. They will serve in the order of their registry in the membership book except in the case of extenuating circumstances. No one may hold this office for more than one one-eighth-year term.

Section 7. Removal from Office. The Council shall have the power to remove from office any of its elected officers by a three-quarters vote of the entire active Resident Brotherhood. The motion for such an action must be made at least one week before the vote is taken.

#### ARTICLE IV -- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Composition. The direction of this organization shall be entrusted to an Executive Committee consisting of five voting members: the President, the Vice-President, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and the Steward. Underclass Representatives shall sit on the Executive Committee as non-voting members during their one-eighth-year terms of office.

Section 2. Meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet every week during the academic year at a time designated by the presiding officer.

Section 3. Duties and Powers. The duties and powers of the Executive Committee shall be to act as an advisory body to the President; to enforce the Constitution, Standing Rules, and college regulations and to administer any disciplinary action that they shall deem necessary for the enforcement of said bodies of rules; to formulate such rules and policy as are necessary for the efficiency and well-being of the organization; to have general supervision of fraternity finances, including the power to revoke any or all privileges of a Brother in bad financial standing; to fill all appointive offices and committees; to postpone Council meetings for a period not longer than one week; and to call special Council

meetings. All decisions of the Executive Committee may be reviewed by the Council by majority vote. The Executive Committee shall have no power to revoke any motion passed by the Council.

#### ARTICLE V -- MEETINGS

Section 1. Sessions. Council meetings of the Resident Chapter of EQV shall be held weekly during the academic year. Special Council meetings may be called by the President of the Resident Chapter, or by the Executive Committee. A special Council meeting must be called upon petition by ten members of the Resident Chapter.

Section 2. Composition. All active members of the Resident Chapter shall be required to attend Council meetings unless they are specifically excused by the Executive Committee, except that seniors shall not be required to attend Council meetings after the second meeting in March.

Section 3. Quorum. A regular or operating quorum at Council meetings shall consist of a majority of the active members of the Resident Chapter, except that in all decisions involving membership or amendment to the Constitution, the quorum shall consist of three-quarters of the entire active members of the Resident Chapter. If their votes might change the result, the votes of all absent members must be secured by the Executive Committee before the voting may be considered closed. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the active members of the Resident Chapter shall be required for the passage of financial matters. No decisions on financial matters may be made by the Council unless the Treasurer is present. In all of the above cases, seniors will not be counted part of the "active members of the Resident Chapter" after the second meeting in March, unless they are present at the meeting when a particular vote is taken.

Section 4. Procedure. The parliamentary authority in this fraternity shall be Robert's Rules of Order.

Section 5. Proxy Votes. Proxy votes will be allowed only if submitted in writing to a member of the Executive Committee prior to the vote on the question concerned.

Section 6. Annual Meeting. The Resident and Graduate Chapter together shall hold an annual meeting at such a time and place as the Executive Committee may decide, notice of which meeting shall be sent to all members of the Graduate Chapter at least two weeks prior to the time appointed.

Section 7. Powers. The Council shall have the authority to elect its officers, to elect and initiate new members, to establish its own financial policies, to levy taxes upon its membership, to establish Standing Rules for the conduct of meetings, to create House Policies, and to decide all matters concerning the fraternity not explicitly delegated to other authorities.

The Council shall have the power at any time to review by a vote any decision made by the Executive Committee or by any duly elected or appointed committee or officer.

Section 8. Presiding Officers. The President of the Resident Chapter shall preside over the Council meetings. In case of his absence or inability to act, the Vice-President or the Secretary shall preside in that order.

#### ARTICLE VI -- AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Preamble. At such times as the Resident Chapter wishes to alter any portion of the Preamble, which sets forth the Guiding Principles of this organization, this proposed change must be approved by a nine-tenths vote of the active Resident Brotherhood.

Section 2. Body. Any amendment to the body of the Constitution shall require a two-thirds vote of approval of the active resident Brotherhood.

Section 3. Conflict with Preamble. If an amendment is proposed which, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, would bring the body of the Constitution into conflict with the Guiding Principles, as stated in the Preamble, then the Preamble shall be altered first by the prescribed nine-tenths vote.

Section 4. Procedure. The vote on a motion for amendment of this Constitution may not take place at the same Council meeting at which the motion for amendment is presented.

#### ARTICLE VII -- RATIFICATION

Ratification by a three-fourths vote of approval of the active Resident Brotherhood shall be sufficient for the establishment of this Constitution.

Done in Council by the unanimous consent of the Resident Brotherhood, May 8, 1962.