

Constitution Revision Summary

Omicron Pi Omicron Fraternity · 2026 Revision

1. Structure & Organization

The document was significantly reorganized. The original used a numbered Article format (Articles I–XIX). The revised version replaced this with descriptive section headings (Governance, Membership, Dues, etc.), grouped related topics together more logically, and added a formal Table of Contents. A new Change Log section was also added at the end.

2. Governance Section Added

The revised constitution opens with a new Governance section that explicitly describes the two governing bodies (Alumni Council and Executive Board) and their relationship. This structure was implicit before but never clearly stated upfront.

3. Archaic Language Removed

The most substantial change is the removal of the full ceremonial initiation script from Article XVIII. The original included a lengthy, verbatim oath with archaic penalty language (references to bodily harm, the Bible, casting ashes 'to the four winds,' etc.), as well as a scripted ceremony with named officers. The revised version replaces this with a condensed summary of the oath's substance as a bulleted list of pledges.

4. Dues Changed to Relative Terms

The original specified hard dollar amounts — \$500/semester fraternity dues, \$400/semester social dues, and a \$100 initiation fee. The revised constitution removes all fixed dollar figures for dues and states only that dues 'shall be determined by the Secretary-Treasurer.' The initiation fee was lowered to \$45 and is still deposited to savings. This reflects the change log's note about removing 'absolute dollar values.'

5. Voting Threshold Changes

Several thresholds were adjusted: Alumni ratification of constitutional amendments was reduced from three-fourths to a simple majority (50% +1). By-Laws adoption by the Alumni Council was changed from two-thirds to four-sevenths of Directors. Alumni Council proposals to amend the Constitution or By-Laws were lowered from a two-thirds vote to a majority vote (50% +1).

6. Balloting Process Simplified

The original had a complex weighted voting system for membership candidates (1/2/3/blackball point scoring, minimum point thresholds, ranked lists). The revised version replaces this with a straightforward three-fourths affirmative vote requirement, with a blackball option to eliminate a candidate outright. The requirement for three members to speak in favor was also reduced to one.

7. Electronic Communications & Meetings Modernized

The revised constitution explicitly contemplates electronic means throughout — electronic ballots, electronic notifications to alumni, and virtual attendance at Alumni Council meetings. The original only referenced mail and written communications.

8. Absentee Fine Removed

The original Article XI imposed a fixed \$1 fine for missing a regular meeting. This article was removed entirely in the revised version. Fines for missed meetings are now set at the beginning of each semester by the President, allowing for flexibility.

9. New Sections on Asset Sales & Dissolution Added

Two entirely new sections were added that did not exist in the original: Sale or Disposition of Assets and Dissolution. These formalize the process for selling fraternity property, winding up affairs, and distributing assets upon dissolution, including a compliance section referencing New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

10. 'Clarkson College' Updated to 'Clarkson University'

Throughout the document, references to 'Clarkson College' were updated to 'Clarkson University' to reflect the institution's current official name.

11. Reference to Corporate Trustees Removed

The original Alumni Council article referenced the corporate Board of Trustees and Articles of Incorporation, including transitional language about trustees. This was removed in the revised version as no longer relevant to the fraternity's current structure.

12. 'Plus-Minus' (+-) References Replaced

The original used the officer title '+-' (Plus-Minus) throughout. The revised constitution replaces this with 'President' as the governing officer title in most contexts, reflecting a modernized and more transparent officer structure.

13. Membership Withdrawal Clause Added

The revised constitution added an explicit statement that membership may be withdrawn or suspended as an outcome of due process described in the constitution — clarifying consequences that were only implied in the original.

This summary was generated from a comparison of Constitution_Before.docx and Constitution_After.pdf. The revised constitution has not yet been ratified by membership.