

GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES HONOR SOCIETY
IOTA IOTA IOTA

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I: Name of organization

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Grand Valley State University Women and Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota Iota Iota, or Triota for short. This chapter is the Beta Delta Chapter.

ARTICLE II: Purpose of Organization

Section 1: The purpose of the organization shall be to encourage and support scholarship and excellence in Women and Gender Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Section 2: The organization strives to maintain feminist values central to Women and Gender Studies: egalitarianism, inclusiveness, and the celebration of the diversity of gendered experiences. The organization also works to enhance the experience of students in Women and Gender Studies as well as recognizing their academic achievements.

ARTICLE III: New Membership and Recruitment

Section 1: Any and all new members will be given full disclosure during recruitment, including, but not limited to, the disclosure of:

1. New Membership Manual
2. Schedule of New Member Events and Activities
3. A list of responsibilities
4. A definition of personal rights and a copy of the University Hazing Policy, prescribed by the Grand Valley State University Student Code Section 221.00.

These documents will be available upon request by the Student Organization Review Board.

Section 2: All members, including, but not limited to, new members and recruits, reserve the right to refrain from participating in any activities without consequence, based upon personal or religious beliefs, personal values, or moral reserve as defined by the member.

ARTICLE IV: Qualifications for Membership

Section 1: Membership shall be open to majors or minors in Women and Gender Studies or any student at Grand Valley State University having a strong interest in Women and Gender Studies and having completed at least 6 hours of Women and Gender Studies courses with a

GPA of at least 3.0 in this course work. If a student with a GPA lower than 3.0 petitions for membership, active members must approve membership petitions with a majority vote.

Section 2: At all times, the majority (50%+1) of all members shall be full-time, officially registered, undergraduate students at Grand Valley State University.

Section 3: All who meet approved academic criteria are invited to become members of this Women and Gender Studies academic society without regard to age, color, disability, familial status, height, marital status, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex/gender, sexual orientation, veteran status, or weight pursuant to Grand Valley State University's Student Code Section 100.01.

Section 4: If a prospective member chooses to accept an invitation, she or he will be expected to fulfill requirements for active membership status before induction.

Section 5: The membership shall be divided into active and associate members.

1. Only currently registered students and currently employed faculty, staff are eligible for active membership.
2. All others interested in furthering the purpose of Iota Iota Iota shall be associate members. Only active members may hold office, vote, preside, officiate, or solicit funds on behalf of the organization.

Section 6: The society reserves the right to expel a member who is not following the policies of the organization with a two-thirds vote of attending members.

ARTICLE V: Officers of the Organization

Section 1: Only full-time, officially registered active student members shall be eligible to serve as appointed or elected officers. Officer positions may be combined to include two positions as one when membership numbers require such measures, and when the majority (50% + 1) of all members vote in favor of this action.

Section 2: Offices

1. The President is the spokesperson for the organization. It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings of the organization. The President will represent the chapter at all functions of the University and of the Women and Gender Studies Program.
2. The Vice President for Programming shall serve in the capacity of President during an absence of the President. Vice President for Programming shall coordinate the educational programs and events sponsored by the society.

3. The Vice President of Finance shall administer the financial affairs of the organization and to present the status of finances at organization meetings for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization.
4. The Vice President for Communications shall keep the minutes of the organization's meetings and present the same for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization. The Vice President for Communications shall also be responsible for the correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, of the organization.
5. The Vice President for Membership shall be responsible for recruitment and selection of members and for organizing the induction ceremonies for the society.
6. The Vice President for Outreach shall maintain contact with student organizations, university offices, and community members on matters involving the society. The Vice President for Outreach will coordinate the publicity efforts for the society, and will serve as the chapter liaison to other organizations with whom the society works.

Section 3: Filling unexpired vacancies

1. Nominations are taken at the meeting following the vacancy. Elections will also occur at this meeting.
2. When nominations are being taken to fill unexpired terms, any member of the organization may nominate another member of the organization by simply raising her/his hand and indicating such when recognized.
3. See Article VIII, Section 3 for Election Codes.

ARTICLE VI: Advisors

Section 1: The Advisor(s) to Grand Valley State University Chapter of Triota shall be appointed by the Director of Women and Gender Studies. Each advisor shall remain active in the chapter and be a positive influence on the group's dynamics. Advisors shall serve a one-year term from May to May.

ARTICLE VI: Meetings

Section 1: Meetings will be held at least once per month September through April.

Section 2: Adequate advanced notice must be given to all active members.

Section 3: Special meetings shall be announced via email by the Vice President for Communications of the society at least two days (48 hours) prior to the special meeting.

Section 4: The agenda for each meeting shall be as follows:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. E-board Reports
 - A. President

- B. Vice President of Programming
 - C. Vice President of Finance
 - D. Vice President of Communications
 - E. Vice President of Membership
 - F. Vice President of Outreach
- III. Old Business
 - IV. New Business
 - V. Announcements

ARTICLE VII: Quorum

Section 1: A simple majority of the elected officials and members in attendance may transact business legally and shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII: Elections for Expired Vacancies

Section 1: A call for nominations shall take place during the last meeting of March, and will last for two weeks until the election meeting. During the two-week election period, active members may nominate themselves or other active members by emailing nominations to the adviser.

Section 2: The election meeting shall be publicized in the meetings preceding it.

Section 3: Election codes:

1. Officers shall be elected in the order they are listed in Article V Section 2.
2. Each candidate will have three minutes to give a speech and five minutes to answer questions.
3. Following speeches and questions the rest of the present members will have five minutes to discuss the candidates.
4. The active members shall cast secret, written ballots for the candidate of their choice. Each active member shall have one vote per ballot.
5. If a majority (50%+1) is not obtained by any of the candidates, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes is eliminated, and the active members shall vote again.
6. In the event of a tie, the ballot shall be recast.

Section 4: All officers serve for a period of one academic year.

Section 5: No one officer shall serve for more than two years in any given office.

ARTICLE IX: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments must be presented to the membership at the conclusion of any meeting. Voting shall occur at the meeting following its introduction.

Section 2: Presentations must pertain to the purpose of Iota Iota Iota.

Section 3: Any member may introduce an amendment at the conclusion of any meeting. At the following meeting, the active members shall vote on the proposed amendment.

ARTICLE X: Accessibility

Section 1: Copies of this constitution shall be made available upon request.

ARTICLE XI: Enacting Clause

Section 1: The Constitution shall become effective upon approval of the organization by the Student Organization Review Board at Grand Valley State University.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I: Definition of Name

Section 1: The Women and Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota Iota Iota, is named for the ancient goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis. Inanna was one of the primary deities of Sumer, a civilization that flourished from around 3500 BCE to 2500 BCE. She was known as queen of the land, the source of the earth's lifeblood. Ishtar (Star) was the great goddess of Babylonia from around 1800 – 1000 BCE. She was the light of the world, the lawgiver, and the queen of all men. Isis was the primary goddess of ancient Egypt, beginning around 3000 BCE. She was the goddess from whom all else arose, the Creator, the giver of life, and the mother of all.

ARTICLE II: Description and Purpose

Section 1: This organization shall be a non-secret, egalitarian national society of scholars dedicated to the ideals of excellence in Women and Gender Studies and scholarship.

Section 2: It shall be the purpose of this society to promote an interest in Women and Gender Studies, research of social problems affecting all women, and such other social and intellectual activities that will lead to improvement in the condition of all people.

ARTICLE III: Membership

Section 1: Members who maintain active status within the chapter shall be granted the status of voting member. Active status is defined as having attended two meetings in a given semester.

Section 2: Dues shall be determined by Iota Iota Iota (chapter); however, no one is declined membership based on inability to pay dues.

Section 3: A certificate and pin will be provided to a member upon receipt of dues, and a member will be provided an honor cord prior to graduation. The color of this cord shall be orchid or lilac and can be worn during the graduation ceremony.

ARTICLE IV: Officers

Section 1: Officers of this society shall be six in number and shall be elected by active members. The officers of this society shall be as follows: 1) President, 2) Vice President for Programming, 3) Vice President for Finance, 4) Vice President for Communications, 5) Vice President for Membership, and 6) Vice President for Outreach.

Section 2: Candidates for these offices shall be named by the general membership.

Section 3: Officers of this society shall be qualified for their positions by being active members at the time of their candidacy for office and during their term of office.

Section 4: In the event that the President is unable to serve a full term of office, the Vice President for Programming shall automatically assume the office of President until a new President is elected. In this event, the Vice President for Programming shall initiate the process of nomination and election immediately to assure the prompt election of a new President. In the event that any other officer is unable to serve a full term of office, active members shall nominate and elect a replacement for the unexpired portion.

Section 5: Additional officers desired by the society shall be nominated and elected by the active membership.

Section 6: Removal of officers:

1. An officer may be removed from the office only for cause by a two-thirds vote of active members of the society present and voting either in person or by proxy at an annual meeting where charges are studied by the membership.
2. Cause for removal from office shall consist of such matters as misuse of office or persistent failure to perform duties of office.

ARTICLE V: Robert's Rules of Order

Section 1: Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, by Sarah Corbin Roberts, shall be used in all cases not covered by this constitution.

ARTICLE VI: Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to this Constitution and By-laws may be proposed by active members of Iota Iota Iota. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the membership for study.

Section 2: Proposed amendments to this Constitution and By-laws will be studied by the membership, and, if approved by a quorum (simple majority) vote of the society, shall be submitted to the active membership for approval.

Section 3: Ratification of amendments to this Constitution and By-laws shall require a three-fourths vote of chapter representatives casting ballots.

ARTICLE VII: Dissolution

Section 1: Upon the disbandment of the organization, off-campus and non-Office of Student Life assets and funds should be donated in equal shares to the Women and Gender Studies department and the Women's Center.