



March 17, 2015

BY EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL

**Zollie Smith**  
Executive Director  
U.S. Missions

**E. Scott Martin**  
National Director  
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**Curtis Cole**  
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Dr. Suzanne Espinoza  
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California State University, Stanislaus  
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Re: Chi Alpha's chapter at Cal State Stanislaus

Dear Dr. Espinoza,

Thank you for your response to our February 6 letter. As you know, for 40 years, Chi Alpha has been a valued part of the Cal State Stanislaus community. And as I think you agree, our student members and religious leaders reflect both the diversity of Cal State Stanislaus and Chi Alpha's commitment to following Christ and serving others.

But on September 11, 2014, Cal State Stanislaus abruptly ended this beneficial relationship by sending a memo accusing Chi Alpha of religious discrimination. Within twenty-four hours, university personnel locked Chi Alpha students out of their reserved meeting space and forced them to hold their meetings off campus—in effect our Chi Alpha chapter was exiled from campus. The harm from these incidents is ongoing, as it continues to affect Chi Alpha's student members to this day.

You state in your letter that “despite the representations in your February 6 letter, the Cal State Stanislaus chapter of Chi Alpha has not yet submitted an updated constitution.” This assertion is simply wrong. On November 7, 2014, Chi Alpha chapter president Bianca Travis submitted an updated constitution to Cal State Stanislaus administrator Alissa Aragon. That constitution complies in every respect with the requirements you set forth in your letter.



As the compliant constitution makes clear, although we are prepared to abide by it this year, Cal State's reinterpreted nondiscrimination policy:

- Burdens Chi Alpha's sincere religious exercise,
- Improperly interferes with the internal affairs of a religious organization, and
- Violates the law, including the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I of the California Constitution.

This constitution was the result of both an effort at compromise on Chi Alpha's part and Ms. Aragon's specific instructions. Both Ms. Travis' email submitting the constitution and the compliant constitution are attached.

Since our Chi Alpha chapter has already submitted a constitution that is compliant with your latest request, we ask that you immediately reinstate Chi Alpha as a recognized student group and immediately allow the Cal State Stanislaus Chi Alpha chapter to return to campus for the remainder of this semester.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. Scott Martin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

E. Scott Martin  
National Director  
Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, U.S.A.

**From:** Bianca Travis <[btravis84@gmail.com](mailto:btravis84@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** November 7, 2014 at 4:45:33 PM PST  
**To:** Alissa Aragon <[AAragon@csustan.edu](mailto:AAragon@csustan.edu)>  
**Subject:** Charter Revisions

Hello Alissa,

I have attached to this email a pdf copy of our constitution. We have made all of the necessary corrections to the constitution and [stanxa.com](http://stanxa.com) .

I pray that you have a speedy recovery.

All the best,  
Bianca Travis  
President, Stanislaus Christian Fellowship Chi Alpha

# CONSTITUTION OF STANISLAUS CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP, CHI ALPHA

## ARTICLE I – Name

The name of this organization shall be Stanislaus Christian Fellowship Chi Alpha at California State University, Stanislaus. It may also be referred to simply as Chi Alpha or XA.

## ARTICLE II – Mission

The mission of Chi Alpha shall be to develop the spiritual life and abilities of the students in relation to God, to each other, and to the world at large within a Pentecostal Christian context and in a manner consistent with the teachings of the Assemblies of God USA. As part of this mission, Chi Alpha seeks to introduce fellow collegians to an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. Chi Alpha plans to do this through:

1. **Prayer** - Communication with God.
2. **Worship** - Expressions of thanks through word, music, and service
3. **Fellowship** - Community of students developing quality relationships.
4. **Discipleship** - Learning about Jesus and following His example.
5. **Mission** - Living a life that reflects our relationship with God in what we say and do.

## ARTICLE III – Membership

### Section 1: General Membership

All meetings and activities of Chi Alpha are open to all regularly enrolled students, faculty and staff. Anyone who desires to participate in the meetings and activities may become a general member.

### Section 2: Voting Membership

#### A: Eligibility

All regularly enrolled students are eligible for voting membership who are invited by a current voting member in good standing and affirmed by the current officers. Membership affirmations must be made at least once each year but can also be done as needed.

#### B: Criteria

Those invited to voting membership shall express interest in becoming a member once invited, attend at least ten non-membership meetings during the most recent semester, have been a member of a Chi Alpha company (small group) for six months, embrace and be willing to work toward the purpose of the chapter as stated in Article II of the Constitution, attend the most recent Chi Alpha membership classes, and complete the chapter's membership application.

#### C: Removal

Voting and non-voting members shall be eligible for removal by vote of the officers after missing four successive meetings. Instead of removing these members, the officers may also vote to place them on the inactive roster. Those on the inactive roster shall be suspended temporarily from voting, and may seek approval from the officers for reinstatement after attending a non-membership meeting (provided they still fulfill all other membership requirements).

## **ARTICLE IV – Officers**

### **Section 1: Titles**

The offices of this chapter shall be president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and Student Event Coordinator.

Additional leaders: the current officers, in consultation with Chi Alpha staff, shall select additional leaders that are able to serve the chapter as needed for a one year term.

### **Section 2: Responsibilities**

#### **i. President**

The President shall serve as the chief executive officer of the organization, shall preside at all membership meetings of the organization and shall prepare the agenda for membership meetings. The President shall be the official spokesperson of the organization, representing the policies, views, and opinions of the organization in its relations with the campus and community at large. The President shall have such further powers and duties as may be prescribed by the organization.

#### **ii. Vice-President**

The Vice President shall preside at organization meetings in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall perform all legal duties assigned by the President. The Vice President shall assume the office of President if the office becomes vacant.

#### **iii. Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall handle all financial affairs and budgeting of the organization, maintain all necessary accounting records, and prepare end of semester financial reports for the membership. Said records shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The Treasurer shall collect and deposit all dues and fees. The Treasurer shall maintain university bank accounts in the organization's name, requiring signatures of both the Treasurer and President for authorized disbursements.

iv. Secretary

The Secretary shall take minutes at all official membership meetings of the organization, keep these on file, and submit required copies to all organization members. The Secretary shall be responsible for all organization correspondence and shall keep copies thereof on file. The Secretary shall maintain membership records for the organization.

v. Student Event Coordinator

The Student Event Coordinator will have the responsibility of turning in all paperwork and electronic submissions to the campus for our organization's events and room reservations.

Section 3: Elections

A: Procedures

The election of officers shall be conducted during the first Fall semester membership meeting. Their term shall be one year long beginning in the first Term after the election. The date of election shall be announced to the members at least two weeks in advance.

B: Offices for Election:

The offices of president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer shall be elected by the voting procedures outlined below.

C: Nominations

- i. California State University policies require that to be eligible for office, officer nominees must be in good standing and regularly enrolled students at the University.
- ii. Attendance requirement: Officers nominees must themselves be voting members according to Section III.2 for at least one semester. During this time, they must also have attended at least 75% of weekly large group meetings and at least 75% of any membership meetings (unless they were not in residence due to participation in an off campus study abroad program or internship).
- iii. Interview: Officer nominees must be interviewed and approved by the Executive Committee before their names may be submitted to the voting membership as candidates.
- iv. Knowledge requirement: Officer nominees must complete the chapter's leadership application, which will include information demonstrating (a) the applicant's skill in providing spiritual leadership for the chapter, including leading Bible studies, explaining the content of the faith, and ministering to others; (b) knowledge of and agreement with the chapter mission; and (c) an understanding of how to model the values of the organization for the rest of the membership.
- v. Officer nominees must embrace and be willing to actively work toward the mission of the chapter as stated in Article II of the Constitution.

- vi. California State University policies require that the President and Treasurer maintain a minimum overall 2.0 grade point average each term and not be on probation of any kind. The President and Treasurer must be enrolled in at least six units (three units for graduate and credential students) each semester while holding office. Undergraduate students with over 150 semester units or 125 percent of the units required for a specific baccalaureate degree objective, whichever is greater, or graduate and credential students with over 50 semester units or 167 percent of the units required for the graduate or credential objective, whichever is greater, are ineligible to hold the office of President or Treasurer.
- vii. No member may hold more than one office.
- viii. No officer may serve more than 3 years in the same office.

#### Section 4: Removal Process

The process for removal of any officer shall be commenced by a written request for removal signed by at least two voting members and delivered to the Executive Committee. The officer shall have one week to prepare a written response to the request and shall have the opportunity to meet with the Executive Committee to speak with them about the request and response. Should the Executive Committee find grounds for an officer's removal the matter will be referred to the voting membership. No officer shall be removed without the vote of the majority of the membership present at a membership meeting as prescribed in Article VI.

Notwithstanding the procedures outlined in the previous paragraph, any misrepresentation in the officer's leadership application or change in an officer's representations regarding the beliefs and mission of Chi Alpha (and, hence, their ability to communicate the messages of the Chapter accurately) shall be grounds for the immediate review of the officer's position by the Executive Committee. If, after review, the Executive Committee decides that the officer can no longer effectively represent Chi Alpha or further its mission, the Executive Committee may remove the officer by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

#### Section 5: Vacancy

Should an officer position become vacant before the usual end of the officer's term, the Executive Committee shall appoint an interim officer who meets the criteria for the office in question as well as the criteria in Section IV.3.C.

### **ARTICLE V - Nondiscrimination**

University Executive Order 1068 requires Chi Alpha to acknowledge and incorporate the following statement.

“Eligibility for membership or appointed or elected student officer positions may not be limited on the basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or disability. The organization shall have no rules or policies that discriminate on the

basis of race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, color, age, gender, gender identity, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation or disability.”

Chi Alpha understands that, as of September 2014, the University interprets its anti-discrimination policy to prohibit religious student organizations from requiring their members or officers to share the religious beliefs that the organizations exist to further. Chi Alpha believes that the University’s post-September 2014 interpretation of its anti-discrimination policy burdens Chi Alpha’s sincere religious exercise, improperly interferes with the internal affairs of a religious organization, and violates the law, including but not limited to the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I Sections 1, 2, and 4 of the California Constitution.

## **ARTICLE VI – Meetings**

### Section 1: Types of Meetings

- A. Membership Meetings: Formal meetings of the voting membership to conduct a vote.
- B. Large and Small Group (or Company) Meetings: Regularly scheduled meetings for all members to attend.
- C. Additional Meetings: Gatherings, in addition to regularly scheduled meetings, which are open to all members.

### Section 2: Quorum for Membership Meetings:

In order to conduct a vote of the voting members, at least half of the voting membership must be present at the membership meeting.

### Section 3: Purpose of Meetings

Meetings shall be held to further the mission of the Chapter, and shall include regular times of prayer, worship, fellowship, discipleship (including Bible study), and instruction in missional living, all consistent with the teachings of the Assemblies of God USA. The officers, in consultation with Chi Alpha staff, shall determine the frequency, time and place, and agenda of the various meetings.

Large group meetings typically occur weekly during the school year, breaking when instruction ends and during school vacation periods. Small group meetings (Company meetings such as Discussion Groups: book or Bible based) also meet weekly within the same parameters. Other meetings necessary to advance the purposes of the Chapter will be held as occasion warrants.



## **ARTICLE VII – Advisors**

### **Section 1: Faculty/Staff Advisor**

The organization shall appoint an individual employed as a faculty or staff member by the University to serve as the university advisor to this organization as required by the California State University. Auxiliary staff and student assistants are not eligible to serve as advisors. The advisor shall fulfill the responsibilities specified in the Student Organizations Handbook. Advisors shall serve on an academic year basis or until their successor has been selected.

### **Section 2: Community Advisor**

The organization shall also appoint a community advisor representing the national Chi Alpha organization.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Executive Committee**

### **Section 1**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the advisors plus the elected and appointed officers.

### **Section 2**

The Executive Committee shall meet monthly during the academic year. Special meetings may be called by the President or a majority of the Executive Committee. All members must be given 24 hours' notice of the meeting. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Executive Committee members.

### **Section 3**

When necessary, Executive Committee business can be conducted via email or via online meetings.

### **Section 4**

The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the organization between meetings and is authorized to take action when action must be taken prior to the next meeting.

## Section 5

In order to further Chi Alpha's mission, the Executive Committee shall evaluate all officer nominees and existing officers to ensure that they have the skills and qualifications necessary to regularly lead the individual, small and large group meetings that are held to further that mission.

### **ARTICLE IX – Chapter Affiliations**

The chapter shall seek a charter annually with Chi Alpha Campus Ministries, USA ("National Chi Alpha") because of the common goals which both organizations pursue. Chi Alpha is a national organization whose offices are located at 1445 N. Boonville Avenue, Springfield, MO 65802. Affiliation with Chi Alpha is a privilege. National Chi Alpha reserves the right at any time and for any reason to withdraw its charter from a chapter. In the event that National Chi Alpha rejects this chapter's charter, this chapter commits to change its name to omit any of the names identified in Article I to prevent confusion.

### **ARTICLE X – Dissolution of Organization**

If at least two-thirds of the Executive Committee is unable to reach an agreement on a matter relating to the mission of the chapter as set out in Article II, the chapter shall be automatically dissolved.

Upon dissolution, all uncommitted funds and property shall be turned over to another Christian ministry at the University as voted upon by the remaining members. If there should be no members, all assets shall revert to the following organizations:

- i. District Chi Alpha
- ii. National Chi Alpha

### **ARTICLE XI – Provision for By-Laws**

By-laws shall be established or amended by a simple majority of the voting membership at any publicly announced Membership meeting.

### **ARTICLE XII – Procedure to Amend Constitution**

Amendments to the Constitution may be made by a two-thirds vote of a quorum (representing one-half of the voting membership) present at any membership meeting of this chapter, provided that the proposed amendment(s) shall have been deposited in written form with the secretary, reviewed by the officers, and presented in published form to the members at least two weeks prior to the date of voting. Articles I and II may not be amended without the approval of National Chi Alpha.

This constitution was adopted on October 9, 2014 and most recently revised on October 9, 2014.