

## BY-LAWS

(as revised October-10, 2020)

### Article 1 - Name

This Society shall be known as Seal and Serpent Society, of Cornell University, at Ithaca, New York.

### Article 2 -Object and Purpose

The object and purpose of this society are as set forth in detail in the Articles of Incorporation and the Ritual, as follows: “The purposes for which it is formed are social intercourse, mutual improvement of the members of the said Society whether active or graduate, in college or out, and of all those who have at any time been connected with said Society, and have not been suspended or expelled by the rules and regulations of said Society, and of those who may hereafter become members thereof; also to acquire and manage real estate and personal property including the purchasing, building or owning of such property and the maintaining of a home at Ithaca, New York for said Society.”

The Society of the Seal and Serpent is founded to promote good fellowship among certain students of Cornell University, to establish ideals for newly entering students, to bind them together with a fraternal-selfless spirit both in undergraduate life and life after graduation, and thus raise to a high standard their characters, morals, and scholarship.

The Society is dedicated to the elevation and advancement of knowledge, learning and science, to induce good men-people to enter Cornell, to promote University activities and to foster friendly relations between Cornell and other Universities and Colleges.

The ultimate purpose of the Society is the attainment of these ideals by its members, which will preserve the Society in the future and make it an influence for good in the University.

### Article 3 - Membership

(a) The membership shall consist of active, alumni, associate, and honorary members.

#### Active

(b) Any man-person who is at the time an undergraduate student in Cornell University, not a

member of any national Greek letter social fraternity or sorority, local fraternity or sorority, or house club, may be elected to active membership. Active membership shall carry all privileges except that of holding office as a director of the corporation.

#### Alumni

(c) Active members who have graduated or withdrawn from the University shall be known thereafter as alumni members. Alumni membership shall carry all privileges except that of voting in the Chapter or holding office therein.

#### Associate

(d) Any man-person who is an official or member of the faculty of Cornell University, or a permanent resident of high standing and character of the city of Ithaca, not a member of any national Greek letter social fraternity or sorority, local fraternity or sorority, or house club, may be elected to associate membership by the Active Chapter. HeThey shall be presented with a certificate of membership and badge of the Society without charge. Associate membership shall carry all privileges except that of (1) the right to vote, (2) holding office, (3) having an interest in the property of the Society.

#### Honorary Membership

(e) The Board of Directors is authorized to submit at the annual meeting of the Society the names of such persons as may have performed eminent service for the Society, who are not otherwise eligible for membership, who may be elected at such meeting as Honorary members, having all the privileges of associate members for life and shall be presented a certificate of honorary membership and badge of the Society without charge.

#### Pledged Candidates

(f) Any suitable and desirable men-people who fulfill the requirements of paragraph (b), Article 3, of these By-Laws shall be eligible for Pledgeship in accordance with the regulations pertaining to rushing and pledging set down by the Inter-fraternity Council of Cornell University. Students who fulfill these requirements will be pledged only by 85% vote of the Chapter. The form of pledge shall be that prescribed by the ritual.

#### Election to Membership

(g) All elections to active and to associate membership shall ~~be~~ made by an 85% vote of the Chapter. All candidates for active membership shall have fulfilled the requirements of Pledgeship as established by the Chapter.

(h) An elected candidate will be invited within 48 hours to become a member of the Society and will be required to accept or reject the invitation by formally subscribing ~~his~~their name on the Interfraternity Council Register or as prescribed by prevailing regulations. A candidate becomes a member upon complying with the obligations required by the Ritual and subscribing ~~his~~their name on the register of members.

(i) A rejected candidate shall not again be eligible for membership until after the expiration of 60 days.

#### Article 4 - Government

(a) The Society as a whole, including the active and the alumni membership, is constituted as a corporation, referred to in the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws as “The Society.” The active part of the Society, at Ithaca, New York, is referred to as “The Chapter.”

(b) The government of the Society shall be invested in two co-relating governing bodies, handling the Society's affairs as indicated below.

##### Board of Directors

1. Board of Directors who shall conduct corporation affairs, business at large and govern the Society as a whole.

##### Chapter

2. The Chapter which shall conduct local routine business, govern the active members and control the internal affairs of the Lodge at Ithaca.

##### Lodge

3. The Chapter House at Ithaca shall be known as “The Lodge.”

#### Article 5 - Directors

##### Directors and Annual Meeting

(a) The Board of Directors shall consist of eleven alumni members of the Society and the President of the Active Chapter. Nine of the alumni directors shall be elected by ballot of the Society and shall hold office for three years or until their successors are elected and qualified and

three of such directors shall be elected in each year. In addition to the elected alumni directors and the President of the Active Chapter, two alumni directors shall be appointed and three additional alumni directors may be appointed for a maximum of five each year by the Board at its annual meeting, provided, however, that no such director shall be appointed except with the affirmative assenting vote of the President of the Active Chapter. The appointed directors shall hold office until the next annual meeting of the Board held in the year following their appointment. The annual election of these directors by the corporation shall be held at the annual meeting of the corporation during Homecoming each year at Ithaca, New York.

### Nominations

(b) The Board of Directors shall select at least two nominees for each vacancy to be filled, one of whom shall not at that time be a member of the Board. Any other three Alumni members may nominate a member for each vacancy and shall submit the names to the Board of Directors not less than one month prior to the date of the election. The complete list of nominees shall be bulletined out to all members thirty days before the date of the election, including biographical sketches of each nominee, and assurance that each candidate is able and willing to work for the welfare of the Society.

### Election

(c) Election shall be by either sealed letter or electronic ballot of the Society mailed to the Secretary of the Society ten days prior to date of election. Ballots shall be opened at the annual meeting and counted. A majority of votes shall be necessary for election. Newly elected directors shall assume office immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors.

### Duties

(d) The Board of Directors shall manage the affairs of the Society, control its property, enforce the instructions and decisions of the Society, supervise the financial affairs of the Chapter, and audit the accounts of the Chapter and Society annually.

(e) The Board of Directors shall hold an annual meeting at Ithaca during Homecoming at the time of the annual meeting of the Society. At this meeting of the Board, annual reports shall be presented and all other necessary business transacted. Immediately upon adjournment of this meeting, or if a quorum of new directors is not present, as soon thereafter as practical, the Board as newly constituted shall convene and elect from its number the officers for the ensuing year and shall publish the results of such election to the Society at large. Special meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the President of the Board. Four directors shall constitute a legal quorum of the Board.

### Annual Budget

(f) The Corporate Finance Committee shall prepare and present for approval at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors the Annual Budget for the ensuing year. This budget shall set forth the general estimates of the expenses of the Chapter under the “House Operating Budget” and the other expenses of financial requirements of the Society together with the estimated income required from the Chapter and from other sources.

### Vacancies

(g) Any vacancy which occurs in the membership of the Board of Directors after the annual meeting and election will be filled by the Board of Directors appointing a qualified member to fill such vacancy, which member shall serve until the next annual meeting of the Society.

### Conducting Business

(h) The Society and Chapter shall allow for any and all business to be conducted electronically, through any medium where all of the individuals participating may hear each other and participate in all matters before the Society or Chapter, board or membership, following the rules as set out by these by-laws, and no actions taken online shall be invalidated solely because they occurred online.

## Article 6 - Officers and Committees of the Society

### Officers of the Society

(a) The officers of the Society shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, a Treasurer and one or more assistant treasurers, who shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors from its number.

### President

(b) The President shall preside at all meetings of the corporation and of the Board of Directors, and shall have a casting vote on all questions.

### Vice-President

(c) The Vice-President shall preside, in the absence of the President, at any meetings of the corporation, and shall assume the duties of President in case of his death, disability, or removal.

~~He-They~~ shall act as ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Finance Committee and handle such other special assignments as may be delegated to him.

#### Secretary

(d) The Secretary shall keep a true record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Corporation and of the Board of Directors in books provided for that purpose; a correct roll of all members; and shall file all documents, records, reports and communications connected with the business of the Society, and shall conduct and have custody of such correspondence as does not relate directly ~~or~~if indirectly to the collection and disbursement of funds.

#### Contracts and Obligations

(e) The President and Secretary shall sign all written contracts and obligations of the Society, except those specifically provided for within the limitations of powers of officers of the Chapter as defined in Article 8 of these By-Laws.

#### Treasurer

(f) The Treasurer shall have charge of the Funds of the Society as defined in Article 11, except those pertaining directly to the Chapter. Under the direction of the Board of Directors ~~he-they~~ shall make collections and disbursements and render an annual report and such special reports as may be called for by the Board; and ~~his-their~~ accounts shall be audited annually, and at such other times as the Board may direct. ~~He-They~~ shall have supervision over the undergraduate house manager and steward of the Lodge and their accounts and shall be responsible for collecting accounts overdue 60 days. The duties of the Assistant Treasurer shall be to assist the Treasurer in the performance of ~~his-their~~ duties in any way that the Treasurer may direct.

#### Committees of the Society

(g) The Society President may appoint the following Standing Committees to serve during ~~his-their~~ term of office, or until their successors shall have been appointed, ~~viz.~~ In addition, the Society President may create and appoint those additional committees as needed and as approved by the full Board of Directors.:

#### Finances

(h) This committee shall consist of three or more members appointed by the Society President from among the Officers, Board of Directors or Alumni. The primary duties of this committee shall be to: study the financial conditions and needs of the Active Chapter, and the Society as a whole; recommend financial policies and budgets; develop plans for increased payment of Alumni

dues, or for the promotion of bequests; and any other measures that would strengthen the financial position of the Society.

The Vice President of the Society shall act as ~~chairman~~Chairperson of this committee.

### Alumni Rushing

(i) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President may deem advisable. The committee shall work in close liaison with the Chapter Rushing committee on such matters as policies, methods, programs, etc. One of its primary objectives shall be the development and maintenance of a high level of interest and cooperation, on the part of Alumni members of the Society, in contacting and promoting interest in Cornell University, and in Seal and Serpent Society, among prospective matriculants.

### Regional Groups

~~(j) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President may deem advisable. The primary objectives of this committee shall be to promote frequent contacts between Alumni members of the Society, to develop organized regional groups where the number of Alumni members within the region justifies, to help promote and organize meetings, to bring Alumni and Chapter members, into periodic contact.~~

~~— This committee shall work in close liaison with the Alumni Rushing committee.~~

### Executive Committee

(~~k~~j) This committee shall consist of five (5) members as follows:

The President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and one Board member selected by the President and approved by majority vote of the Board.

This committee shall have the power to act, between meetings of the Board of Directors, on any situations requiring immediate action, which do not conflict with the previous decisions or established policies of the Board, or provisions of the By-Laws.

### Communications

(~~k~~) This committee shall consist of three (3), or more, Alumni members. The primary objectives of this committee shall be to collect news items from the Chapter, the Board of Directors, or individual Alumni members, for publication in the Society's official news organ - "The Snake."

The ~~chairman~~Chairperson of this committee shall act as the Editor of “The Snake”, and shall be responsible for its publication periodically, in accordance with schedules, and policies, established by the Board of Directors. At the discretion of the Board of Directors, some or all of the responsibilities of Editor may be delegated to the Active Chapter, who will elect a member to this position.

Close liaison shall be maintained, for news collecting purposes, between the ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of this committee (editor of “The Snake”), the Secretary of the Society, and the Secretary of the Chapter.

### Building and Grounds

(~~m~~l) This committee shall consist of three (3) members, including two (2) Board or Alumni members, and the House Manager of the Chapter Lodge. This committee shall establish and maintain a full and detailed inventory of all property of the Society in Ithaca, New York, including the land, Lodge, Lodge equipment, furniture and furnishings.

This inventory shall show the current appraised value, age, and condition of each item. This committee shall make periodic reports to the President of the Society, as directed ~~by him~~, including the above, and recommended improvements or replacements to property items.

### Nominations

(~~n~~m) This committee shall consist of three (3) or more members. The ~~Chairman~~Chairperson shall be appointed from the Board of Directors. The others may be appointed either from the Board or from Alumni members who are not members of the Board. The major objectives of this committee are to search for desirable candidates for the Board, or committee members, or for special assignments. They shall submit their recommendations for such positions to the Board of Directors periodically as requested by the Society President.

Actual nominations for Board membership shall be in accordance with the provisions of Article 5, (b) of these By-Laws.

### Scholarship

(~~e~~n) This committee shall consist of three (3) or more members as the President may deem advisable. The major objective of this committee shall be to study conditions which influence the scholastic accomplishments of Active Chapter members, to consult with the Chapter committee on Scholarship, and to recommend to the Board such measures as are deemed necessary to improve and raise to a high level the scholastic standards and performance of the Active Chapter.



### Extra Curricular

~~(p) — This committee shall consist of three (3) or more members, as the President may deem advisable. The major objective of this committee shall be to consult and counsel with the Active Chapter committee on Extra Curricular activities, for the purpose of encouraging a healthy and diversified participation by Chapter members, in the various University Undergraduate activities, to an extent that will not jeopardize high scholastic attainments.~~

~~—— This committee shall maintain close liaison with the Board Committee on Scholarship.~~

### University Contacts

~~(q) — This committee shall consist of three (3), or more Alumni members. The main objective of this committee shall be to work with the Faculty Advisor of the Chapter, to formulate a program for promoting close and friendly contacts, among members of the University administration and faculty, by both Active Chapter members and Alumni members of the Society.~~

### Alumni Awards

~~(r) — This committee shall consist of three (3), or more Alumni members, as the President may deem advisable. This committee shall study the records of Society Alumni who have shown a high degree of interest in, and who have contributed substantially, by loyalty and active support, to the interests of Cornell University and Seal and Serpent Society.~~

~~—— The records of such Alumni members shall be submitted annually to the Board of Directors, with recommendations for appropriate recognition and action by the Board, at the regular annual meeting of the Society, or at such other time as the Board may direct.~~

~~—— The criteria on which these annual awards are based shall be developed by the committee, approved by the Board of Directors, and publicized to all Alumni and Chapter members.~~

### Legal Counsel

~~(so)~~ The President, subject to approval of the Board, shall appoint Legal Counsel to handle legal ~~problems~~ issues of the Society, on a basis and term of service approved by the Board.

## Article 7 - Chapter

The Chapter shall be governed by these By-Laws and such rules and regulations as it may

adopt from time to time. Rules and regulations for the internal government of the Chapter shall be enacted by majority vote of the same in regular meetings.

## Article 8 - Officers and Committees of the Chapter

### Officers of the Chapter

(a) The officers of the Chapter shall consist of: President, Vice President, Steward, House Manager, Treasurer, Secretary, and Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson. All officers, with the exception of the Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson, shall hold their offices for one college year or until their successors have been selected and installed. The Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson shall hold office for one academic semester.

### Election

(b) The offices of President, Vice President, Steward, House Manager, and Treasurer, shall be elected in December, and shall assume their duties with the Rush ~~Chairman~~Chairperson and any additional officers of the Chapter. The Rush ~~Chairman~~Chairperson and any additional officers shall be elected post-spring initiation, and shall assume their duties immediately upon election. The Spring and Fall Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson shall be elected at the same meetings as the other officers, but shall assume office at the beginning of the semester immediately following their election. All officers will be elected by ballot, at a regular meeting of the Chapter. It will take a majority vote of Chapter members in attendance or voting by proxy to elect any man to office.

### Removal

(c) These officers may be removed from office for neglect of duty, incompetence or inability to perform their proper functions. Removal shall be made by the Board of Directors upon statement of fact submitted and approved by the Chapter.

### President

(d) The President shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. ~~He~~They shall exercise supervision over all Chapter officers and committees, and shall be responsible to the Board of Directors for the efficient administration of Chapter affairs. All communications and reports sent from the Chapter to the Board of Directors shall pass through ~~his~~their hands. ~~He~~The President is empowered to call special meetings, and shall upon the request of five (5) or more active members, call a special meeting of the Chapter. In the case of vacancy of any office, ~~he~~they shall call a special meeting to fill the said vacancy. ~~He~~They shall have custody of the Permanent records of the Chapter, including the By-Laws and the Ritual.

### Vice President

(e) The Vice President shall perform the duties and exercise the authority of the President during the absence or the inability of the latter but shall not succeed in office upon resignation of the President. The Vice President shall be ~~chairman~~Chairperson of the House Committee and be responsible for public service work and for community relations.

### Secretary

(f) The Secretary shall keep a true record of all meetings of the Chapter in the prescribed form in the book provided for that purpose. ~~He-They~~ shall have custody of the Members Register and shall furnish the Secretary of the Society promptly the name, biography and record of each new member. ~~He-They~~ shall keep roll of active members with their home addresses, and shall conduct and have custody of such Chapter correspondence as does not pertain to financial affairs. ~~He-The~~ Secretary shall be responsible for collecting and forwarding Active Chapter news to the Editor of “The Snake”, for publication.

### Treasurer, House Manager, and Steward

(g) The Treasurer shall collect from members of the Chapter such rental, dues, fees, and assessments as shall be directed by the Chapter, unless the same be otherwise collected by direction of the Board of Directors. ~~He-They~~ shall collect all charges for board from members of the Chapter unless the same be otherwise collected by direction of the Board of Directors. All money so collected shall be used in the operation and administration of the Chapter. ~~He-They~~ shall have the power to audit the books of any account in the Chapter and shall report to the Treasurer of the Society the result of any such audit. All ~~his-their~~ receipts shall be deposited in such banks and ~~he-they~~ shall keep such books and records as prescribed by the Society Directors. ~~He-The Treasurer~~ shall originate vouchers to cover all bills incurred under the food department and for expenses of the Lodge and shall forward such vouchers for payment to such officer or person as the Board of Directors shall from time to time direct.

The House Manager shall be responsible for the care of the Lodge, furnishings, and grounds. ~~He-They~~ shall keep all furnishings in repair. ~~He-They~~ shall see that any house employees, except those of the food department, properly perform their duties.

The Steward shall be responsible for the food department. ~~He-They~~ shall have control of the kitchen, dining room, and the employees connected with same.

### Authority

(h) None of the above officers shall contract or otherwise obligate the Chapter or Society or make any expenditure in excess of two-hundred dollars (\$200), or amount set by the Board of Directors, for equipment, improvements, repairs, special entertainments or for other similar purposes, outside of regular current expenses without first securing the written approval of the Board of Directors. All special items of the above nature in amounts less than two-hundred dollars (\$200) shall be approved by the President and the Treasurer of the Chapter.

(i) None outside of the duly elected or appointed officers shall have any authority or right to contract for, open accounts, or make expenditures in the name of the Chapter or Society. Any officer or member violating this provision shall be charged with committing an offense against the Society, and becomes personally liable for such account or accounts.

#### Chapter Committees

(j) The Active Chapter President may appoint the following standing committees and any others ~~he~~they deems necessary, to serve during his term of office, or until their successors have been appointed; viz:

#### House Committee

(k) The House Committee shall be composed of two (2) seniors, one (1) junior, one (1) sophomore, the House Manager, the Treasurer and the Vice President of the active chapter who shall be ~~chairman~~Chairperson. Rules and regulations necessary for the government of the Lodge shall be formulated by the House Committee, and when approved by the active chapter President, shall be enforced by this committee. This committee shall suggest changes and improvements in the grounds, furnishing and care of the lodge, when and as necessary, to the House Manager. The House Committee shall serve as an advisory body to the active Chapter President, on the formation of house policies, the management of current house affairs, and improvements of the facilities of the house and grounds.

#### Rushing Committee

(l) The Rushing Committee shall consist of as many members as the President shall see fit. The ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Rushing Committee shall be in charge of all active chapter rushing activities, and shall work with the Alumni Rushing Committee ~~chairman~~Chairperson, to coordinate the active Chapter and Alumni rushing activities and programs.

#### Initiation and Indoctrination Committee

(m) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President shall see fit. It shall prepare pledges for initiation, and conduct initiations in accordance with the established Ritual. It

shall also conduct, after initiation, an indoctrination program for all new initiates, to fully acquaint them with the Stated Objects and Purposes of the Society.

#### Social Committee

(n) The Social Committee shall consist of three members: the Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson (elected under Article 8, section b), and two others appointed by the President.

The Social ~~Chairman~~Chairperson shall be in charge of all social affairs at the Lodge. ~~He~~They shall be responsible for the collection of all dues and assessments set at regular meetings of the Chapter for the purpose of funding social affairs, and for the administration of all funds pertaining to social affairs at the Lodge.

In addition, the Social Committee shall be responsible to the House Manager for the condition of the Lodge and grounds during and immediately after all social affairs at the Lodge.

#### Scholarship Committee

(o) This committee is to be composed of as many members as the President deems necessary to provide adequate help and guidance to all Chapter members, for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a high level of scholarship. This committee shall work in close liaison with the Faculty Advisor of the active chapter, and with the Alumni ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the corporate Advisory Committee on scholarship.

#### Extra Curricular Activities Committee

(p) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President shall see fit. It shall provide help and guidance to Chapter members with respect to their participation in extra curricular activities of the University. This committee shall maintain close liaison with the Scholarship Committee, the Chapter Faculty Advisor, and the Alumni ~~Chairman~~Chairperson of the Corporate Advisory Committee on undergraduate activities.

#### ~~Music Committee~~

~~(q) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President shall see fit. It shall be responsible for promoting and developing a high degree of interest and participation in University Musical activities, Lodge singing, the writing of new Society songs, and such related activities as seem desirable to help achieve these objectives.~~

#### University Contacts Committee

(f) This committee shall consist of as many members as the President shall deem necessary to promote adequate contacts within the University Administration and Faculty. This committee shall work in close liaison with the chapter Faculty Advisor, and with the Corporate Committee on University Contacts.

## Article 9 - Chapter Meetings

### Chapter Meetings

(a) Regular meetings of the Chapter shall be held at least twice each month at such times as shall be fixed by the Chapter.

### Special Meetings

(b) Special meetings shall be held at the call of the President provided ample notice has been given of such a meeting.

### Quorum

(c) At such regular or special meetings one-half (1/2) of all the active members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

### Opening of Chapter Meetings

(d) All regular meetings of the Chapter shall be opened with the recitation of the "Covenant" by the Chapter. Special meetings may be opened or closed in full form if directed by the Chapter. Such meetings as heretofore stated shall proceed in accordance with the parliamentary procedure of the Chapter.

## Article 10 - Suspension and Expulsion

(a) Any member who injures the Society by word, deed, or action, may be suspended or expelled from the Society as hereinafter provided.

### Offenses

(b) An offense against Seal and Serpent Society is a wrong which may consist of any omission of fraternal duty specially enjoined, or the commission of an act that may be derogatory to the reputation of the Society. Being a cause of discord; having an immoral influence over other

members; violating the secrecy of the Society; divulging the transactions of the Society or Chapter to unauthorized persons; defying the constituted authority of the Society or bringing public disgrace upon ~~them~~himself through ~~his~~~~their~~ own willful actions; the neglect of University work by an active member; are specifically declared offenses against the Society.

#### Non-payment of Dues

(c) A member in arrears for one year's dues shall be deemed guilty of neglect of ~~his~~~~their~~ ~~fraternal~~~~Society~~ duty, except under most extenuating circumstances, and by a 2/3 vote of the Directors shall be suspended from all the rights and privileges of the Society. Provided that no member shall be suspended for the non-payment of dues until ~~he~~~~they~~ shall have had thirty days notice of such intended action from the Secretary of the Society, under the order and seal of the Society, by personal service or by registered letter to his last known address, the registry receipt or returned letter to be evidence of sufficient service. Alumni members, who through extenuating circumstances are unable to pay their annual dues may, prior to date of maturity, make appeal to the Board of Directors, setting forth in detail the circumstances and may have the payment of their dues for that year waived, extended, or reduced, according to the decision of the Board.

#### Suspension and Expulsion

(d) The Board of Directors may suspend a member for cause as herein provided upon two-thirds vote of the Board. A member may be expelled for cause by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.

#### Charges

(e) Charges against a member shall be filed in writing with the Board of Directors, such charges shall be signed by five (5) or more members, or shall be preferred by the Chapter through its proper officers. Immediately upon receipt of the charges the Board of Directors shall direct and conduct a thorough investigation. The accused shall, whenever it may be practicable, be served with a copy of the charges against ~~him~~~~them~~, with a notice of the time and place of the investigation at least twenty (20) days prior thereto, with a summons to attend. If the accused is unable to attend ~~he~~~~they~~ shall be permitted to file briefs and evidence in ~~his~~~~their~~ own defense. The parties of interest shall have the aid of counsel if they so desire; provided that such counsel shall be members of Seal and Serpent Society in good standing; and shall also have the privilege of cross-examining witnesses, and of producing rebutting testimony. The Board of Directors shall render a decision and act accordingly.

#### Appeal

(f) A member suspended or expelled shall have the right to appeal from the decision and

action of the Board of Directors to the full membership of the Society. Such appeal shall be filed with the Secretary within thirty (30) days of the date of notice of suspension or expulsion, such notice having been delivered by personal service, or by registered mail to his last address, the registry receipt to be evidence of sufficient service.

(g) A person appealing must deposit with the Treasurer a sufficient amount of money estimated to cover the expenses of an appeal, which amount shall be returned to the appealing member if the action of the Board of Directors is not sustained by the Society.

#### Sustaining the Decision of the Board of Directors

(h) Suspension ordered by the Board of Directors shall be sustained if a majority of the votes received within thirty (30) days after mailing the last notice approve the action of the Board.

(i) Expulsion ordered by the Board of Directors shall be sustained if two-thirds (2/3) of the votes received within thirty (30) days after mailing the last notice approve the action of the Board.

(j) An expelled member shall be informed in writing under the seal of the Society of such action and the reason therefore. ~~He-They~~ shall forfeit all rights of membership and cannot be eligible for reelection thereto. ~~He-They~~ shall be required to surrender ~~his-their~~ official badge, certificate of membership, and all formal ~~fraternal~~ ties existing between Seal and Serpent Society and ~~him-them~~ shall be severed.

(k) A suspended member shall be informed in writing under the seal of the Society of such action and the reason therefore. ~~He-They~~ may retain ~~his-their~~ official badge and certificate of membership, but shall not attend meetings of the Society, nor in any manner take active part in its transactions of business nor be accorded any of the privileges of membership during the period of such suspension.

(l) A suspended member may be reinstated in full standing by the Board of Directors.

### Article 11 - Funds for Financing the Society

#### “Founders” Fund

(a) This fund is to be built and maintained for the perpetuity of Seal and Serpent. The fund is to be used for maintaining, enlarging or replacing the present lodge; and for the establishing of a Scholarship and Student Loan Funds. Interest and other financial returns (“Earnings”) from the Fund may be used initially to support the Capital Fund and later to support the establishment of either or both of the following: a) a Scholarship Fund; b) a Loan Fund from which repayable loans



(at a low interest rate) may be made to Active Chapter members. The Board of Directors shall determine what portion of the current and accumulated earnings will be assigned to support those funds as needs arise. The principle of the Founders Fund will not be distributed unless, in the event of extraordinary need, the Board of Directors decides to do so by a seventy-five (75) percent or greater vote of Board Members. The source shall be donations and bequests equal to or greater than one-thousand (\$1,000.00).

#### “Capital Expenditures” Fund

(b) This fund in conjunction with other capital funds is to be built and maintained for the purpose of replacing major items in the Lodge which depreciate with the years. The sources shall be donations from Centennial Society members (those contributing \$100.00 or greater) and the excess of alumni dues over the cost of administering alumni services and funds from the Founders Fund as approved by the Board of Directors.

#### “Maintenance” Fund

(c) This fund is to be built and maintained for current upkeep, repair, and replacement expenses, and for mortgage payments and reduction.

Sources: One-third of all Alumni dues collected; rental fee charged Active Chapter for Lodge; rental fees from summer occupancy of Lodge; collection of delinquent Active member accounts turned over to Corporation Treasurer for prosecution; any gift designated for this fund.

#### “Administrative Expense and Communication” Fund

(d) This fund is to be built and maintained for the following: maintenance of a mailing list of members; publication and mailing of “Snake”; publication and mailing of “Directory of Members”; printing and mailing costs of any special communications, including dues notices or annual meeting announcements; annual reimbursement to Treasurer (10% of Alumni dues collected); fees paid for regularly called Directors' meetings, including room rentals and travel expenses for Active Chapter delegate; annual membership in Cornell Interfraternity Alumni Association; reimbursement of Directors for long distance phone calls made on Corporation business; or other expenses made and/or approved by the Board of Directors.

Sources: One-third of all Alumni dues collected.

## Chapter

(a) Chapter dues and other Chapter charges shall be determined by active Chapter recommendation and approval of the Corporate Board of Directors, or its Finance Committee.

## Alumni

(b) Alumni dues shall be payable annually May 1, in an amount established by the Board of Directors. ~~Membership in the Founders Fund constitutes life dues. Life dues may be paid if desired by the cash payment of \$150.00.~~

## Article 13 - Badges

### Membership

(a) The official badge of the Society is a pin, a facsimile of the seal; it can be used only as a badge, or for such other purposes as the Society may direct. It may be secured only through the Chapter Secretary.

(b) Each member shall have a badge constantly in his possession. The maximum number allowed any one member is two (2). Each shall have engraved upon the back the owner's name, serial number, and date of initiation. The duplicate pin shall bear the owner's name and number with an alphabetical subscript. If a member loses his-their pin, he-they may secure another, upon payment for the same, by filing with the Chapter Secretary an affidavit concerning its loss.

### Pledge

(c) The pledge badge shall consist of a small black enameled shield with a gold chevron. This badge shall be worn by the candidate ~~or pledged man~~ until initiated into the Society.

## Article 14 - Ritual

The form of initiation shall be that prescribed by the established Ritual of the Society which cannot be changed except by the approval of the Society at the annual meeting.

## Article 15 - Initiation Fee

Each initiate upon being admitted to membership shall pay the cost of an official badge and

an initiation fee to the Society of \$100.00 and the Society will present ~~him~~them with one official badge and a certificate of membership which ~~he~~they shall retain as herein prescribed. The initiation fee may be changed upon recommendation by the Active Chapter, and approved by the Board of Directors.

#### Article 16 - Amendments

Amendments to these By-Laws shall be made at a regular meeting of the Society or at a special meeting called for that purpose. Notice of such meeting at which amendments to these By-Laws are to be voted shall be mailed to all members of the Society at least thirty days in advance of such meeting and shall state the text of such amendment. Two-thirds vote of the members present and those voting by proxy shall be necessary to amend.

#### Article 17 - Amendments

These By-Laws, revised from those in existence and from the Constitutions of May 7, 1906; May 18, 1907; October 24, 1908; and April 28, 1912, shall be in effect upon adoption as of October 1, 1919; and, as revised, shall supersede all others of prior date. Further revised: May 20, 1920; May 23, 1920; May 20, 1923; May 24, 1924; May 27, 1928; August 6, 1929; May 22, 1932; May 27, 1934; May 12, 1940; October 4, 1958; November 15, 1969; November 14, 1970; ~~and~~ October 19, 1991; ~~and~~ MarchOctober 1026, 2020.