

**Iota Iota Iota**  
**Loyola University Maryland Chapter**  
**Constitution and Bylaws**

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**IOTA IOTA IOTA**  
**(Loyola University Maryland Chapter)**

**CONSTITUTION**

**ARTICLE I**

Name of Organization

Section 1: The name of the organization shall be Iota Iota Iota.

**ARTICLE II**

Purpose of Organization

Section 1: The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage and support scholarship and excellence in women's studies at Loyola University Maryland.

**ARTICLE III**

Qualifications for Membership

Section 1: Membership shall be open to minors in women's studies or any student at Loyola University Maryland having a strong interest in women's studies having completed the Introduction to Gender Studies and one other upper-level gender studies course with a GPA of at least 3.0.

Section 2: All who meet approved academic criteria are invited to become members of this Women's and Gender Studies academic and service society without regard to gender, gender expression, race, ethnicity, religion, differing abilities, economic class, or sexual orientation. Per Loyola University Maryland policies and guidelines, "Loyola University Maryland does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, color, national or ethnic origin, age, religion, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, military status, or any other legally protected classification in the administration of any of its educational programs and activities." To remain an active member, members must remain in good academic standing in their Gender Studies coursework and overall.

Section 3: Officers shall be elected from the general membership. No one officer shall serve more than 2 years and not more than one year in any given office. To be eligible for the office of President and Vice President, members must have one year's membership in Iota Iota Iota.

**ARTICLE IV**

Relationship

Iota Iota Iota is currently organized as a network of student clubs. The Loyola University Maryland chapter will be an affiliated chapter and part of the national Iota Iota Iota network, whose Alpha chapter was established at Metropolitan State College of Denver Institute for Women's Studies and Services.

**ARTICLE V**  
Officers of the Organization

Section 1: The elected officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Section 2: The term of office shall be for the academic year.

Section 3: Elections shall be held during the spring semester prior to the end of the academic year.

Section 4: It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings of the organization.

Section 5: It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve in the capacity of President during an absence of the President.

Section 6: It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to 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.

Section 7: It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep the minutes of the organization's meetings and to present the same for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization. The Secretary shall also be responsible for the correspondence, both incoming and outgoing, of the organization.

Section 8: The Executive Board of the organization shall consist of the elected officers who constitute the Executive Committee and the two Staff/Faculty Advisors. It shall be the duty of the Executive Board to pass any business which refers to the Executive Board by a simple majority vote.

**ARTICLE VI**  
Council

Section 1: The governing body of this society shall be known as council.

Section 2: Council shall be composed of positions as follows: 1) President; 2) Vice-President; 3) Secretary; and 4) Treasurer.

Section 3: Meetings of council shall be open to all voting members of this society who shall be permitted to speak on any topic properly under discussion, but only members of council will have a vote.

**ARTICLE VII**  
Standing committees

Section 1: This society shall have three standing committees as follows:

- a. Executive Committee
- b. Planning Committee
- c. Nominating Committee

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### Meetings

Section 1: Meetings will be held once each month at a campus location unless otherwise specified.

Section 2: Special meetings shall be called by the Secretary of the organization at least one week prior to the special meeting.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### Quorum

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

## **ARTICLE X**

### Amendments

Section 1: Amendments must be presented to the Executive Board for approval before they may be submitted to the organization for vote. Amendments must pertain to the purpose of the honor society.

Section 2: Provisions for Notice shall be given to the membership at the first meeting of the organization at which a quorum is present following the approval of the amendment by the Executive Board.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### Advisors

Section 1: The co-advisor shall be the director/co-director of the Gender Studies minor at Loyola University Maryland.

# **IOTA IOTA IOTA BYLAWS**

## **ARTICLE I**

### Definition of Name

Section 1: The Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota Iota Iota is named for the ancient goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis.

## **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's and gender studies scholarship, service and activism.

Section 2: It shall be the purpose of this society to promote an interest in women's and gender studies, community service and activism related to gender and other intersecting identities, research in social problems affecting all women, and such other social and intellectual activities as will lead to improvement in the condition of all people.

## **ARTICLE III**

### Membership

Section 1: Those persons who have been approved for membership by a chartered chapter of this society and who have paid the initiation fee for membership shall be accorded the status of member.

Section 2: Members who maintain active status within the chapter shall be granted the status of voting member. To remain an active member, members must remain in good academic standing in Gender Studies and overall.

Section 3: Dues shall be collected on a one-time basis upon being approved for membership and will initially be set at \$15.00 and subsequently determined by the chapter membership of Iota Iota Iota.

## **ARTICLE IV**

### Officers

Section 1: Officers of this society shall be four in number and shall be elected by voting members by secret ballot in person at the second to last meeting of the year. The officers of this society shall be as follows: 1) President; 2) Vice-President; 3) Secretary; and 4) Treasurer.

Section 2: Candidates for these offices shall be named by the nominating committee.

Section 3: Officers of this society shall be qualified for their positions by being voting 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 shall automatically assume the office of President for the unexpired portion. In the event that the Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer is still unable to serve a full term of office, the President shall appoint a replacement for the unexpired portion.

Section 5: The duties of the officers of this society shall be as follows:

a. The President shall act as Chair of Council at all meetings and perform all functions as Executive Officer of this society consistent with the policies of council. The President shall have sole power to appoint members of special purpose committees not otherwise specified in the constitution. It shall be the responsibility/duty of the president to communicate with heads of committees who will present reports to the president.

b. The Vice-President shall chair the planning committee. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to receive auditor's reports and ensure their review by the planning committee.

c. The Vice-President shall assume the chair of council in the absence of the President and shall fill the unexpired term of the President when that office is vacant, upon confirmation by council.

d. The Secretary shall be archivist for the society, performing such duties as council may assign, including:

(1) Provide certificates of life membership to new initiates and maintain records of voting members by chapter affiliation for purpose of voting in the affairs of this organization.

(2) Prepare, mail, and receive secret ballots for the conduct of business of this society consistent with the policies of council.

(4) Record the minutes of meetings of council.

(5) Provide council with a brief written annual summary report of activity during the preceding year and for proposals for the ensuing year.

e. The treasurer shall be fiscal officer for the society performing such duties as council may assign including:

(1) Receive, disburse, and otherwise properly manage and record all financial transactions for this society consistent with policies of council.

(2) Provide complete records of the financial status of this organization.

Section 6: Additional officers desired by council shall be appointed by action of council.

Section 7: Removal of Officers:

a. An officer may be removed from the office only for cause by a two-thirds vote of members of council present and voting either in person or by proxy at an annual meeting where charges are studied by council.

b. Cause for removal from office shall consist of such matters as misuse of office or persistent failure to perform duties of office.

## **ARTICLE V**

### Council

Section 1: Official actions and policies of this society shall be set by a plurality of members voting when a quorum is present at annual meetings or at specially called meetings; except for proposed constitutional amendments which will require a two-thirds vote consistent with Article VIII.

Section 2: Council shall receive reports of the nominating committee, review qualifications of nominees, approve the slate or return it to the nominating committee, and set dates by which the Secretary must mail and receive ballots. Council shall review recommendations of the nominating committee and rank order of nominees.

Section 3: Council shall receive reports and proposed budgets from the planning committee, review the desirability of such recommendations, and vote their approval or rejection for implementation.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### Standing Committees

Section 1: This society shall have three standing committees, as follows:

a. Executive Committee: This committee shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The President shall chair the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act for the society between meetings of council; such actions must be ratified by a plurality of council at its next meeting in order to remain in force beyond that time.

b. Planning Committee. This committee shall consist of the Vice-President, who shall chair the committee, and three voting members appointed by the President. The function of this committee shall be to provide long range planning for the society and to make recommendations to council. Proposed plans shall be accompanied by a sufficiently detailed budgetary analysis to permit critical evaluation of feasibility, costs, and benefits.

c. Nominating Committee. The President shall appoint three voting members, exclusive of current officers, to constitute the nominating committee. These three members shall select one among themselves to chair the committee. From the list of members as defined in Article III, Section 2 shall be nominated at least two candidates for each of the offices. The chair of the

nominating committee shall ascertain the willingness of nominees to stand for election or to serve if elected.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Meetings**

Section 1: The annual members meeting will include discussion of inherent contradictions of elitism in honor societies vs. inclusionary principles and values consistent with feminist/social justice/ideologies.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendments**

Section 1: Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by members of council or the Executive Committee. Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to council for study.

Section 2: Proposed amendments to this Constitution will be studied by council, and, if approved by a quorum (simple majority) vote of council, shall be submitted by mail ballot to chapter representatives for ratification on or before a date set by council.

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