

Providence College Chapter

Iota Iota Iota (Triota)

Bylaws

ARTICLE I

Definition of Name

Section 1: The Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota (abbreviated as Triota) is named for the goddesses *Inanna and Ishtar*, of the ancient Mesopotamian regions, peoples, and cultures of the Sumer, Babylon, and Assyria, and the goddess *Isis*, of ancient Egypt. Inanna and Ishtar are the ancient Sumerian, and Babylonian and Assyrian, goddesses, respectively, of love, sexuality, fertility, religion, politics, law, and justice. Inanna and Ishtar are closely associated with the sun and the moon, and Ishtar is sometimes called the "queen of the heavens." Isis, daughter of the Earth god, Geb, and the Sky goddess, Nut, is the ancient Egyptian goddess of the moon, of life and magic, of mourning and healing, and of motherhood. As a mourner, Isis is a principal deity in rites connected with the dead. As a magician, Isis's prowess and power transcends that of all deities. As a magical healer, Isis cures the sick and brings the deceased to life. As a mother, Isis serves as chief protector of women and children.

ARTICLE II

Description and Purpose

Section 1: This organization shall be a non-secret, egalitarian, national society of scholars dedicated to excellence in the field of Women's and Gender Studies, and to its principles of interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, and women's empowerment and gender justice, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Section 2: It shall be the goal of this society to create a safe, welcoming, respectful, and inclusive space for members to build community in and through a *shared, conscientious, intersectional* commitment to overcoming the oppression and exploitation of women and girls, ending gender inequality, and dismantling all interlocking systems of oppression locally, nationally, and globally.

Section 3: It shall be the purpose of this society to represent and promote an interest in Women's and Gender Studies, both on and off campus. Members are encouraged to raise awareness about, generate enthusiasm for, and support the growth of Women's and Gender Studies as a thriving field of study.

Section 4: It shall be the commitment of this society, and its members, to engage, develop, and support academic and applied research, work, and initiatives, that center and empower women and girls, illuminate gender inequality and all interlocking systems of inequality and oppression, and motivate, and are motivated by, improving and achieving gender equality, gender justice, and social justice for all human beings.

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, if required, shall be accorded the status of life member.

Section 2: Those persons who maintain active status within the chapter shall be granted the status of voting member. (Those persons eligible for active status are current students, not alumni, though communications with alumni are welcome, and the creation of opportunities for alumni input and collaboration are encouraged).

Section 3: There shall be two main tiers of membership: Active and Inactive members. Active members are described as attending 50% or more meetings and participating in scholarly, community, or applied projects and initiatives as outlined above in *Article II: Description and Purpose* of the Triota Chapter of Providence College (i.e. WGS centered research, programming, community- building, awareness raising, outreach, and initiatives on and off campus). *Active members will receive a graduation cord for their hard work.* Inactive members are described as attending less than 50% of meetings and not actively participating in scholarly, community, or applied projects and initiatives as outlined above in *Article II: Description and Purpose* of the Triota Chapter of Providence College (i.e. WGS centered research, programming, community- building, awareness raising, outreach, and initiatives on and off campus).

Section 4: Alumni of Triota will have the opportunity to attend Alumni events and activities that will be hosted by the Undergraduate chapter at Providence College. Triota alumni will also be invited to participate in/contribute to periodic Triota organized campus programming, events, and meetings, and Women's and Gender Studies programming and events that Triota co-organizes, collaborates on/supports/participates in.

Section 5: Dues shall be determined by each respective chapter of Triota.

Section 6: Iota Iota Iota shall permit chapters to mentor, induct, and develop "Mini Triota" members. The Mini Triota Scholarship Program will promote the empowerment of young women, and young persons of all genders committed to gender justice and equality, through education, community service, and membership in a group of like-minded scholars who are passionate about Women's and Gender Studies focused research, community involvement,

advocacy, and leadership. The Mini Triota program will inform Triota recruitment for the colleges that have Triota chapters and will encourage students to pursue a college education. Ultimately, TRIOTA aims to create a legacy of feminist values that builds, supports, and maintains diversity, egalitarianism, and supportive and welcoming academic environments for all students. ** Please note that having a Mini Triota program is not required for Triota chapters. Please also note that the design, development, and structure of the Mini Triota program, inclusive of the requirements outlined for becoming a Mini Triota member below, may vary and change in reflection of Triota chapter members and chapter capacities, and in consultation with the Triota chapter faculty advisor.*

- I. This is NOT a required program for all TRIOTA chapters
- II. This program partners with Local High Schools
- III. Requirements for becoming a Mini Triota member are as follows:
 - a. Junior or Senior in High School,
 - b. 3.0 GPA,
 - c. Take one Women's and Gender Studies/Feminist Studies class (either at their high school or at the college level),
 - d. 4 hours of community service with Triota mentor/members,
 - e. Pay membership dues (dues may or may not be required at the discretion of individual Triota chapters).
- IV. Mini Triota will be eligible for induction pins and certificates
 - a. If financially feasible to individual TRIOTA chapters: May offer scholarships to Mini Triota members; Each Chapter will be **solely** responsible and will assume **payer** responsibilities for scholarship(s) offered.
 - b. Chapters that offer scholarship(s): Scholarship proposal and plans must be submitted to Alpha Chapter for Approval.

ARTICLE IV Officers

Section 1: Officers of this society shall be four in number and shall be elected by voting members of the chapter. The officers of this society shall be as follows: 1) President; 2) Vice President; 3) Secretary; and 4) Treasurer. *These officers make up the Council.*

Section 2: Candidates for these offices shall be nominated and elected in accordance with the nominating and election process outlined in Article VI below.

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 (terms are generally one academic year—see Triota Constitution for full details). Officers will generally be sophomores or higher, pending occasional exceptions due to limited numbers of candidates, or other exceptional or extenuating circumstances.

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.

Section 5: In the event that the Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer is unable to serve a full term of office, first right of refusal shall be given to the current officers. If a replacement cannot be secured in this manner, the officers and voting chapter members will choose a replacement by a majority vote.

Section 6: 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 the Triota Chapter consistent with the policies of council; lead the chapter; organize, preside over, and set agendas (in an inclusive and cooperative fashion) for regular chapter meetings and council meetings; represent the Chapter at college functions; communicate with officers, members, and faculty advisor on all matters. The President shall handle key administrative and coordinating duties, such as processing new member applications, sending out welcome letters, and, as noted above, organizing and presiding over all meetings. The President shall lead the communication with other Triota chapters and the Alpha chapter, with input from the faculty advisor as needed. The President shall lead (in collaboration with Council and the Faculty Advisor) fundraising or funding proposals in support of Triota and/or Triota supported initiatives or identified needs with regards to gender equality and social justice both inside and outside of the campus community. The President shall lead and collaborate on the development, planning, coordination, promotion, and implementation of Triota programming and activities, Triota communication and collaboration with Triota alumni, promoting Triota and recruiting new members via email, social media, flyers, and through visiting classrooms, Triota outreach to the local community, community partnerships, and more.
- b. It shall be the duty of the Vice-President to assist the President, preside over meetings in the absence of the President, and represent the organization at college functions in absence of the President. The Vice-President will work with the President on planning,

coordinating, and promoting Triota programming and activities, including one community-building event or volunteer activity per academic year. The Vice-President will assist the President on fundraising or funding proposals in support of Triota and/or Triota supported initiatives or identified needs with regards to gender equality and social justice. 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. The Vice-President will also engage in additional duties and roles in support of Triota's President and in support of Triota's goals, including but not limited to: assistance with recruiting new Triota members by all digital and in-person means, including visiting classrooms.

- c. The Secretary shall be archivist for the society. The Secretary shall record minutes at all meetings and present the same for approval and inclusion in the minutes of the organization, check attendance at meetings, keep permanent records (including membership log), maintain and update historical records (e.g. member and alumni contacts, event documentation, etc.), and correspond on behalf of the organization regarding meetings, events, and other organization-related information and happenings. The Secretary shall manage social media sites for the organization. The Secretary shall assist the President and Vice-President with recruitment of new members by all digital and in-person means, including visiting classrooms to promote Triota, and provide and perform additional planning, programming, outreach, and fundraising assistance and duties as needed on behalf of the other Council members and on behalf of the Organization/Triota Chapter.
- d. 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. The Treasurer shall be the fiscal officer for the organization, performing such duties as Council may assign, including any or all of the following: collection of dues, paying of bills, overseeing other monetary transactions including fundraising, preparing, maintaining, and presenting a budget and financial report at least once per year, and completing necessary paperwork for all purchasing needs, including the ordering Triota merchandise. The Treasurer shall assist the President and Vice-President with recruitment of new members by all digital and in-person means, including visiting classrooms to promote Triota, and provide and perform additional planning, programming, outreach, and fundraising assistance and duties as needed on behalf of the other Council members, and on behalf of the Organization/Triota Chapter.
- e. All Officers shall represent and lead Providence College's Triota Chapter in a respectful, professional, inclusive, and thoughtful manner.
- f. All Officers shall be committed to, and passionate about, the description and purpose of the Providence College Triota Chapter Description and Goals (Article II Above), and to the sustainment and growth of the Triota Chapter at Providence College, to the best of their abilities.

Section 7: Council can, with inclusive input from chapter members, change, add, and re-distribute officer responsibilities and duties, and create additional officer positions, at their discretion. For instance, noted above, the Secretary is designated as the Social Media point person, but it may be decided that Social Media duties, and duties associated with social media (documentation of events, social media curation and content plans, designing of specific social media content and presentation through photos, videos, flyers, and more) should be divided up and shared among all officers or assigned to different officers.

Prospective additional positions could include, but are not limited to, the following: a Social Media chair (who could be responsible for Social Media management and collaborative Social Media curation AND Website Creation and collaborative Website curation appointed by action of council) or a Website Chair as a separate officer position (currently Chapter Website creation and management is not included in any of the four officers' duties above); a Membership Chair (who could coordinate recruitment and selection of new members, and prepare and distribute announcements regarding membership and selection deadlines); a Service Chair (who could coordinate participation of the members in volunteer activities and maintain records of volunteer activities); an Events/Programming Chair (who could serve as the point person/organizing contact for all activities for the organization); a Chapter Historian/Photographer/Videographer (who could be responsible for establishing and maintaining historical records of the organization, including textual and photographic records of officers, new members, and activities to be shared on social media, and archived in digital and hard copy form); a Community Outreach Chair (who could correspond with and coordinate incoming and outgoing information with other organizations and collaborate events with these organizations).

Section 8: 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 a 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

Faculty Advisor

Section 1: The faculty advisor's duties are as follows: serve as a member of the Chapter's Executive Committee (the Executive Committee consists of the faculty advisor, plus the Council, or the Chapter Officers); offer formal and informal input on Chapter creation, founding, elections, and policies; serve as a resource for feminist theory, scholarship, tenets,

and practices; offer input on, and support communications between, the Providence College Triota chapter and the Alpha Chapter; serve as central contact where needed/appropriate, and offer support and input on, communications between the Providence College Triota chapter and other Triota chapters; assist Providence College chapter with accessing campus and community resources; set up channels for mediation and conflict resolution in moments of dispute; and actively assist and engage in any other instances where needed and requested.

Ideally, the faculty advisor will provide support and advise members on Triota chapter growth, and on chapter events and programming, and encourage and facilitate collaborative work, initiatives, events, programming, and community building between the Providence College Triota chapter, the WGS Department, Women and Gender Studies groups and organizations on campus, and local and national women's and gender studies organizations and initiatives.

Section 2: The faculty advisor will be elected by the council through a majority vote, and in consultation with the Women's and Gender Studies Department. The faculty advisor will be a member of the Women's and Gender Studies Department (in most exceptional, rare, or unforeseen circumstances, the faculty advisor can be a Women's and Gender Studies affiliated faculty member). The faculty advisor will hold said position for a period of at least one year or until the faculty advisor resigns or council votes in a new faculty advisor. There are currently no term limits for the faculty advisor, nor other specifications with regards to, for instance, having two faculty members share the faculty advisor position as co-faculty advisors, or with regards to other circumstances that may arise with regards to the faculty advisor. Additional protocols and policies, as needed, may be added at a later date.

ARTICLE VI

Elections and Policy Making

Section 1: How nominations are conducted should be at the discretion of the officers and in consultation with the Chapter Faculty Advisor, and procedures should be made clear for all members. It is suggested that at a regular Chapter meeting preceding the meeting at which the election of officers is to be held, either a nominating committee can be formed, or individuals can be nominated/self-nominate for positions at the meeting. If a Nominating Committee is utilized, three to five members shall be elected. The chair of the Nominating Committee shall be a member of the Executive Committee (The Executive Committee consists of the officers of the Chapter (the Council) and the Chapter faculty advisor), and the Chapter faculty advisor must be a member of the Nominating Committee.

- a. The officers shall be elected by ballot, by a simple majority vote of voting members.
- b. The term of office shall be for one academic year and students should run with the intention to serve for the entire academic year.

- c. The requirement for any officer position includes active/voting chapter membership, and, wherever possible, sophomore standing or above (by the time of the official start of the office/position).
- d. Elections shall be held during the spring semester prior to the end of the academic year.
- e. A vote shall be taken on one office at a time, beginning with the presidency.
- f. In the event that no one receives a majority for a given office, then the two candidates with the most votes shall be in a runoff.
- g. In the event that an office is not filled, the president-elect may appoint a member to that office, in consultation with the remainder of elected council, voting members, and the faculty advisor.
- h. No member shall hold more than one office at a time, and no member shall serve more than two terms in the same office.
- i. Should the office of President become vacant, it shall be filled by the Vice President. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by the Executive Committee with the approval of the Chapter faculty advisor.
- j. Any officer may be removed from office for failure to adequately perform their duties. Removal from office requires a majority vote of the Executive Committee, inclusive of a “yes vote”/the approval of the chapter faculty advisor.

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

Section III: A motion may be proposed by any active/voting member of the chapter. A vote will be held, and a simple majority will win.

ARTICLE VII

Meetings

Section I: Chapters will hold regular meetings at least once per academic semester. Additional regular meetings, and meetings of Council and/or the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee consists of Council, or Chapter Officers, plus the Chapter Faculty Advisor) are also highly encouraged. Offering the opportunity for Alumni input and participation in occasional regular meetings is also encouraged. In accordance with Alpha Chapter directives, Regular Meetings and/or Council and Executive Committee meetings should consistently incorporate

the discussion of inherent contradictions of elitism in honor societies verses inclusionary principles and values consistent with feminist principles, tenets, and values.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1: Amendments to these Bylaws may be proposed by members of council or the Executive Committee (the Executive Committee consists of the Council Members plus the Chapter Faculty Advisor). Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to council for study.

Section 2: Ratification of amendments to these Bylaws shall require a three-fourths vote of active/voting members of the chapter.