

# Constitution

## ARTICLE I

### Name of Organization

*Section 1:* The name of the organization shall be the Providence College Department of Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society, Iota, Iota, Iota. The abbreviation for Iota, Iota, Iota is Triota.

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## ARTICLE II

### Purpose of Organization

*Section 1:* The purpose of this organization shall be to encourage and support scholarship and excellence in Women's and Gender Studies.

*Section 2:* The purpose of this organization is conscientiously informed by the Women's and Gender Studies principles of interdisciplinarity, intersectionality, and a steadfast commitment to women's empowerment and gender justice, both inside and outside of the classroom.

*Section 3:* The purpose of this organization is to create, build, and grow community among Providence College students and alumni dedicated to the discipline of Women's and Gender Studies, among and between Providence College student groups and organizations who share in, and are committed to, Women's and Gender Studies principles, and, finally, among and between the wider feminist community locally, nationally, and globally.

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## ARTICLE III

### Qualifications for Membership

*Section 1:* Membership shall be open to contract majors or minors in Women's and Gender Studies who **have one of the following:**

- a GPA of at least 3.0 at the time application is turned in, OR
- a written essay to display interest in WGS, OR
- has been nominated by a Providence College WGS professor.

If GPA decreases during anytime of membership, it will be up to official officers, in consultation with the Chapter Faculty Advisor, to make their best decision regarding the individual's participation and circumstances.

*Section 2:* All who meet approved criteria are invited to become members of this Women and Gender Studies academic society without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, economic class, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ability, or age.

*Section 3:* Officers shall be elected from the active, voting members of the chapter. No one officer shall serve more than one academic year in any given office unless there are no other viable and qualified candidates who choose to run for election. In these, and other rare or unforeseen extenuating circumstances, an officer may serve two (or more) years in one office/position.

*Section 4:* All active members shall complete/participate in one community service project, or women's empowerment/gender equality/gender justice centered action, event, panel, teach-in, or conscience-raising dialogue/session (individually or group organized) per academic year. These projects or events must focus on feminist empowerment and/or be in support of feminist community and be organized around and informed by the feminist goals of achieving a positive social impact and dismantling systems of oppression.

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## **ARTICLE IV**

### **Officers of the Organization**

*Section 1:* The elected officers of this organization shall be as follows: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. These officers make up the Council. Comprehensive officer duty descriptions are under ARTICLE IV of the Bylaws. Comprehensive Election and Policy Making Processes and Protocols are under ARTICLE VI of the Bylaws.

*Section 2:* The term of office shall be for the academic year, and students should run with the intention and ability to serve for the entire academic year.

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

*Section 4:* 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).

*Section 5:* It shall be the duty of the President to preside over meetings of the organization.

*Section 6:* It shall be the duty of the Vice President to serve in the capacity of President during an absence of the President.

*Section 7:* 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 8:* 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.

*Section 9:* It shall be the duty of all officers to represent the organization and its members in a respectful, inclusive, and considerate manner.

*Section 10:* Officers in training may be implemented if there's interest. They shall shadow either President, Vice-President, Treasurer, or Secretary during the Spring semester before elections to create confidence, knowledge, and transparency within the society.

*Section 11:* The Faculty Advisor for the Chapter (who also is a member of the Chapter Executive Committee, which is made up of the Faculty Advisor and the Four Officers, or the Chapter Council) will be consulted, and offer input, with regards to eligible candidates, and in support of fair election processes, wherever needed.

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## **ARTICLE V**

### **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.

*Section 4:* There is no official requirement regarding the frequency of Council meetings. At least one or more Council meetings per academic year (ideally one or more per semester) is encouraged, and one or more Council meetings per academic year should include the Faculty Advisor. Any number of Council meetings, on Council discretion, can include the Faculty Advisor. Council meetings that include the Faculty Advisor can interchangeably be known as Executive Committee meetings, as the Executive Committee consists of the Council, plus the Faculty Advisor.

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## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Executive Committee**

*Section 1:* The Executive Committee will consist of the Council (Four Officers) and the Faculty Advisor to the Chapter. The Executive Committee will consult and meet as needed throughout

the academic year. One or more Executive Committee meeting/s are strongly encouraged per academic year, however there is no official required number of meetings per academic year. Council meetings, and Executive Committee meetings, can also be one-in-the-same meetings at the discretion of Council members, and the Executive Committee is simply the Council plus the Faculty Advisor to the Chapter.

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## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Meetings**

*Section 1:* Regular chapter meetings will be held at least once per academic semester. Meeting more frequently, wherever possible, for instance twice per semester (ideally near the opening and close of each semester) or even approximately once per month, is highly encouraged and most welcomed.

*Section 2:* Special meetings shall be called by the President, in consultation with all Council/Chapter Officers, as needed or desired. Special meetings can also include additional participants, such as Alumni, additional Women's and Gender Studies Faculty, and other invitees.

*Section 3:* The business meeting for the National Chapter (the Alpha Chapter) of Iota, Iota, Iota shall be conducted annually at the National Women's Studies Association conference. The Council/Officers, Faculty Advisor, and active/voting members of the Providence College chapter are welcome to attend this annual business meeting for the National Chapter.

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## **ARTICLE VII**

### **Quorum**

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

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## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Amendments**

*Section 1:* Amendments to this constitution must be presented to the Executive Committee (Council plus the Faculty Advisor) for approval before they are submitted to the full chapter for vote. Amendments must reflect/be consistent with the purpose of the Providence College Chapter of the Triota honor society (outlined in Article II above).

*Section 2:* New Amendments, changes to Amendments, and Provisions can be proposed by all active members of the chapter, however, as stated in Section 1 above, these new Amendments, Amendment Changes, or Provisions must be submitted to and approved by the Executive Committee before they are submitted to the full chapter, wherein they will require a three-fourths vote of active/voting members of the chapter.

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**ARTICLE IX**  
**Enacting Clause**

*Section 1:* This Constitution shall become effective upon approval of the Inaugural Council and the inaugural Faculty Advisor (the Inaugural Executive Committee).