Gnome Club Preamble to Constitution

The Gnome Club was founded on March 9, 1897 at Throop Polytechnic Institute. As a social group, it soon became a living group and then a fraternity. When the College moved to its present campus, the fraternity house was established at 289 South Madison Avenue. When the Student Houses were opened in 1931, fraternity houses were closed and most were disbanded. The Gnomes continued socially and President Lee DuBridge approved the recruiting of new members from the graduating senior class. Thus the Gnome Club continues as a vital organization with new members from among graduating seniors, graduate students, faculty, and others with kindred interests.

CONSTITUTION OF THE GNOME CLUB OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Article I
The name of this Society shall be THE GNOME CLUB OF THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. The motto is "Courage, Loyalty and Truth." The emblem shall be a Gnome Owl perched on the Crescent Moon.

Article II
The object and purpose of this Society shall be to promote and maintain ties of friendship between members of all graduating classes within the principles of Courage, Loyalty, and Truth and thereby encourage active involvement of all members in Caltech affairs.

Article III
Persons shall be admitted to membership by a majority vote of members present in person or by written proxy at the Founders' Night meeting held annually on March 9, or other duly noticed meeting after being recommended for membership by the Board of Directors based on recommendations received from various campus organizations and offices. All candidates for membership shall be seniors or graduate students in good standing, alumni, faculty or friends of Caltech.

Article IV
The officers shall be: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian. All officers shall be elected annually by vote of the members present in person or by written proxy at the annual meeting (Founders' Night) or other duly noticed meeting. A list of nominees shall be submitted by the Board, and nominations from the floor shall be in order. If more than one person shall be nominated for the same office, the person receiving the greatest number of votes shall be elected to the office in question.
Article V
The Board of Directors shall consist of the officers, the immediate past President and at least four Directors at Large, to be selected by the President. The Directors shall meet as often as necessary as determined at the discretion of the President. They shall publish a Directory of members as necessary, and shall have full power to govern between meetings of the members.

Article VI
The President shall have the power to appoint Committees as needed, and to designate a member to Chair each Committee. The President shall be an ex-officio member of each Committee.

Article VII
A quorum at a meeting of the members shall be fifteen members. The official functions shall be: Founders’ Night, the Summer Party, and the Holiday Gathering, all of which official functions also shall constitute regular meetings of members.

Article VIII
The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order shall govern the conduct of meetings of this Society, in all cases in which they are applicable, except to the extent, if any, that they are inconsistent with this Constitution.

Article IX
Upon dissolution of this Society, all assets of this Society remaining after payment of all lawful debts and obligations of this Society shall be disbursed to the Gnome Scholarship Fund or if such fund shall not then be in existence, to the most similar scholarship fund maintained by the California Institute of Technology.

Article X
This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members attending in person or by proxy the annual meeting (Founders’ Night) or other duly noticed meeting of members. Proposed changes to the Constitution must be submitted to the Board and published in the Gnome Gnews not less than twenty (20) days prior to the founders’ Night annual meeting or other meeting at which such changes are to be considered.