Constitution of the Phi Mu Chapter of Beta Beta Beta National Honor Society

Article I - Name

The name of this society shall be Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society. Westminster College will house the Phi Mu chapter.

Article II - Purpose

The Purpose of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society shall be to function as an honor and professional society for students of the biological sciences. Its activities shall be designed to stimulate interest, scholarly attainment, and investigation in the biological sciences, and to promote the dissemination of information and new interpretations among students of the life sciences.

Article III - Insignia

Section 1. The official emblem of the Society shall be a shield-shaped key upon which are engraved a coiled serpent and the three initials of the organization.

Section 2. The coat of arms shall be that officially adopted by the 1947 Biennial Convention.

Section 3. The pattern copies of the key and coat of arms maintained in the national archives shall be the official design.

Section 4. The colors of the Society shall be red and green.

Section 5. The flower of the Society shall be a red rose of the type commonly referred to as American Beauty.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. The membership shall be divided into six classes: regular, associate, graduate, honorary, alumna/us and corporate. Beta Beta Beta is a non-discriminating organization that does not consider age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, physical handicap, socioeconomic status, or sexual preference.

Section 2. Regular members shall be:

a) Undergraduate majors in biological science at Westminster College.

b) Shall have completed at least one term of the second year of a four-year curriculum or its equivalent.
c) Shall have completed at least three term courses in biological science, of which at least one is not an introductory course, with an average grade of B or its equivalent in those biology courses.

d) Shall be in good academic standing, with an overall grade point average of 3.0 or greater.

Only regular members may hold the constitutionally specified chapter offices, vote on chapter membership nominations and national questions, and represent the chapter or vote at national conventions.

Section 3. Graduate members shall be faculty members actively serving in the biological sciences. They may participate in the local activities of any chapter except for the holding of constitutionally specified chapter offices and voting on chapter membership and national matters. They may attend district or national conventions, and, upon special designation, represent their original chapter at a national convention. They shall not be eligible for undergraduate awards.

Section 4. Associate members shall be those undergraduates whose interests include the life sciences in some significant way but who are ineligible for regular membership. Associate members shall be eligible to participate in all local, district, and national activities except those specifically reserved to regular members by this constitution.

Section 5. Chapter honorary members may be elected by any chapter in recognition of significant accomplishment as biologists, or of outstanding service to the chapter.

Section 6. Biology majors who have graduated from Westminster prior to this chapter’s installation may become alumni members of the new chapter. Alumni members will receive an individual subscription to BIOS. Regular members who have become inactive may become Alumni members with payment of the appropriate fee.

Section 7. Corporate members shall be corporations, institutions or other organizations which support undergraduate education in the biological sciences. A corporation may be elected to membership by a majority of the National Executive Committee. Corporate members will be listed in each issue of BIOS and each corporate member will receive a membership certificate for display. Each corporate member will also have the privilege of providing a display at the national or district conventions.

Section 8. National honorary members may be elected by the biennial convention on nomination by the national officers. (Any member or chapter may propose prospective nominees.) Such membership shall be reserved for persons of outstanding accomplishment and stature in one or more of the biological sciences or persons rendering outstanding service to Beta Beta Beta.

Section 9. Regular, graduate and honorary members may wear the official insignia and shall remain members for life unless removed under the provisions of Section 11.
Associate members are affiliated with the local chapter and may not wear the official insignia. Unless they qualify for regular membership, this affiliation shall terminate automatically when they cease to be undergraduate students.

Section 10. Members shall be nominated to the various categories by a committee that includes both regular members and faculty. Election shall be by at least a majority vote of the regular members present at a regular meeting.

Section 11. A regular member transferring from one institution to another shall be automatically eligible for membership in a chapter in his new institution unless he does not qualify under the normally prescribed requirements of his new chapter.

Section 12. It is assumed the Phi Mu chapter will require high standards of scientific conduct in their nominees and members. No person shall be refused nomination on any basis other than failure to meet requirements in this constitution or in chapter by-laws.

Section 13. A regular member of the Phi Mu chapter may be removed from chapter membership only for cause by a vote of 3/4 of the entire voting membership. Any such removal must be approved by the chapter advisor (counselor) and is subject to appeal to the National Executive Committee.

Section 14. Any requirements of the Phi Mu chapter which differ from those of the national organization shall be submitted to the chapter advisor and the District Director for approval. In case of disagreement or conflict between local requirements or local action and this constitution, the matter shall be referred to the National President for adjudication subject to final appeal to the National Executive Committee.

Section 15. The National Executive Committee shall, from time to time, adopt such by-laws, regulations, and definitions as are necessary to accomplish the equitable and reasonable application of these provisions.

**Article V – Chapter Officers**

Section 1. The Phi Mu chapter of Beta Beta Beta shall elect a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, and an historian from among its regular members.

Section 2. The duties of these officers shall be those normally assigned to such offices.

Section 3. These officers should hold office for one year. The time of election and the time for assumption of duties shall be specified in the chapter by-laws.

Section 4. At the same time it elects officers, a chapter shall, if necessary, elect a chapter advisor (counselor) from among the biological sciences faculty. The advisor shall be, or shall become by this election, a graduate member. An advisor shall serve for a term of not more than three years but may be re-elected. The prospective regular members of a new chapter shall elect the first advisor (counselor) prior to the installation of the chapter.
Section 5. The chapter advisor (counselor) shall assist and advise the chapter and especially its officers in carrying out the chapter programs and aid in developing new policies and programs that contribute to its local effectiveness. He/She shall serve as permanent custodian of chapter records and funds making sure that they are maintained in good order and that each successive group of chapter officers are informed as to their responsibilities. He/She may delegate custodial duties during the academic year but shall check and reclaim all records and funds at the close of each academic year.

Section 6. Chapter officers are responsible for submitting promptly and in correct form such reports as are requested by the national and district officers. Chapter advisors shall review such reports for accuracy prior to submission.

BY-LAWS

By-Law I - Membership Conditions

Section 1. Regular and graduate members become members of Beta Beta Beta through a chapter and thus have both national and chapter membership. Once initiated, they are:

a) national members for life unless removed for cause in accordance with Article IV, Section 11 of the national constitution and

b) chapter members so long as they remain matriculated students in the chapter's home institution and meet their obligations to the chapter as specified by its by-laws.

Section 2. Associate members terminate both national and chapter or club membership when they graduate or otherwise terminate their matriculation in the chapter's home institution, unless:

a) they have previously been elected to regular membership, or

b) they are absent on approved leave-of-absence which permits their return.

Note: Fee credit for prior associate membership will apply toward national dues upon elevation to regular membership, regardless of where the associate membership was granted.

By-Law II - Initiation Fees

Section 1. Members shall pay prior to initiation, through the chapter or club, the following national initiation fees:

a) regular member: $30.00

b) graduate member: $30.00
c) associate member: $20.00

d) associate member becoming a regular member $10.00

e) chapter or club honorary member: $30.00

f) national honorary member: none

g) alumna/us member: $30.00 annually

h) corporate member: $500.00 or more annually

Section 2. Upon receipt of the initiation fee, the national Secretary-Treasurer will forward appropriate membership certificates to the chapter or club.

Section 3. For each regular, graduate and honorary member registered at the National Office, the chapter shall receive a two year subscription to BIOS. For each associate member registered, the chapter shall receive a one year subscription to BIOS. Each member shall have the option of receiving personally the subscription associated with his/her membership upon the payment of $1.00 for each subscription year in addition to the initiation fee.

Section 4. Associate members who subsequently become regular members shall receive a reduction of the fee for regular membership as detailed in By-Law 1. The chapter shall receive a one year subscription to BIOS for each such member, subject to the option listed in Section 3.

By-Law III - Fiscal Year and Audit

The fiscal year for the Society shall be from October 1 to September 30. The financial accounts shall be audited by a certified public accountant beginning for the fiscal years 1981 and 1982 and biennially thereafter. The complete audit/report shall be made available to the national officers prior to the annual meeting of the National Executive Committee, and an audit report summary shall be published biennially in the journal of the Society.