



GAMMA RHO KAPPA

ANCIENT GREEK HONOR SOCIETY

Dear Faculty Member, Instructor of Greek, or Graecophile,

Greetings! *Χάρεις σοί*. You are likely receiving this letter of invitation because of your instrumental role of impacting students by teaching Greek.

I want to extend to you an invitation to participate in *Gamma Rho Kappa* (ΓΡΚ), an international Greek Honor Society that recognizes outstanding achievements in the study of Ancient Greek language, literature, and culture. This Greek honor society is comparable to the Hebrew honor society, *Eta Beta Rho*, but has no formal relationship with it. You can participate by helping to form a local chapter of ΓΡΚ.

Available for download is Charter Constitution 5.0 of *Gamma Rho Kappa*. It explains the purposes, scope, and basic guidelines for the formation of local chapters. Essentially, a chapter begins with a faculty or instructor who functions as a sponsor (or students who find such a person) and then gauges and garners interest in such a society within the context of their institution (I worked with our Provost and Registrar). Then, the sponsor facilitates the election of an initial student executive committee, then customizes the Charter Constitution for their local needs, and invites students and faculty who qualify to join. At Asbury, we were able to get the assistance of the Registrar to find students who would qualify and then we extended an invitation for them to consider joining.

In 2014 we formed the first local chapter at Asbury Theological Seminary that included over a dozen graduate students (MDiv and MA in Biblical Studies) and doctoral students in biblical studies. Several dozen students now have graduated and were formally recognized at commencement (along with students of other honor societies). They received and wore a custom-made medallion with the ΓΡΚ seal. Each chapter may choose how best to recognize and honor their graduating members. During the school year, typically we meet monthly with some presentation offered by faculty, students, or visiting scholars. At our Asbury Seminary chapter, we've enjoyed talks given by notable scholars such as N. T. Wright, Craig S. Keener, Craig A. Evans, Scot McKnight, Vernon K. Robbins, Steven E. Runge and many others. All in all, we are excited about the possibilities to encourage excellence in the pursuit of Greek studies, the continued use of Greek in one's life, and serving our respective academic communities and local churches and communities with our presence and activities.

If you have any questions, please contact me. Also, feel free to forward this cover letter and the ΓΡΚ Charter Constitution to other instructors or students elsewhere who might be interested in forming a chapter.

Peace to you!

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