



2008 National Convention
Grand Chapter Business Meeting
August 7-8, 2008
Nashville, TN

National Constitution Proposed Amendments

Proposed additions = underlined

Proposed deletions = ~~strikeout line through text~~

NOT APPROVED

**1. Proposed amendment submitted by the Vice President of Membership Development
Patrick Herron**

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1, Subsection A

Initiates shall be undergraduate students participating in the Collegiate Chapter's Initiation Program. Upon entering the Collegiate Chapter's Initiation Program, the student must have completed a minimum of one (1) semester or one (1) quarter of college work, must have ~~two (2) semesters or four (4) quarters~~ one (1) semester or two (2) quarters left as undergraduate following the initiate semester, and must have at least a 3.00 Cumulative Grade Point Average on a 4.00 scale (where an A= 4.00). Active Members may be further designated based upon entrance into the Chapter, as follows:

Intent of Amendment:

This is the first of two amendments for subsection A. The above provides chapters with the ability to recruit prospective members with less restrictive guidelines on post induction enrollment status as currently dictated by the National Constitution. The amendment, if passed, will give each chapter the right to recruit and induct qualified members otherwise prohibited. This amendment, if passed, will give each chapter the right to maintain the original wording in their by-laws should they choose to do so.

NOT APPROVED

**2. Proposed amendment submitted by the Vice President of Membership Development
Patrick Herron**

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1, Subsection A

Initiates shall be undergraduate students participating in the Collegiate Chapter's Initiation Program. Upon entering the Collegiate Chapter's Initiation Program, the student must have completed a minimum of one (1) semester or one (1) quarter of college work, ~~must have two (2) semesters or four (4) quarters left as undergraduate following the initiate semester,~~ and must have at least a 3.00 Cumulative Grade Point Average on a 4.00 scale (where an A= 4.00). Active Members may be further designated based upon entrance into the Chapter, as follows:

Intent of Amendment:

This is the second of two amendments for subsection A. The above provides chapters with the ability to recruit prospective members with no restrictive guidelines on post induction enrollment status as currently dictated by the National Constitution. The amendment, if passed, will give each chapter the right to

recruit and induct qualified members otherwise prohibited. This amendment, if passed, will give each chapter the right to maintain the original wording or a less restrictive guideline in their by-laws should they choose to do so.

3. Proposed amendment submitted by the Senior Vice President Lisa Howard

ARTICLE IV: Membership
Section 1, Subsection

D. Alumni Members shall be any former Active or Inactive Members who have left or who have graduated ~~in good standing~~ from the sheltering institution of a Collegiate Chapter. Current National Council Members shall only be considered as Alumni Members of Phi Sigma Pi. An Alumni Member shall be designated as an Active Alumni if the Member is a member of an Alumni Chapter or the National Alumni Association of Phi Sigma Pi.

Intent of Amendment:

This deletion needs to be made because there are members who may graduate NOT in good standing and there is currently no form of membership for them. They still become alumni on the books and until we create another form of membership then this statement needs to be removed.

Though it may not be appealing to chapters that members may graduate in bad standing to become alumni, it may drive chapters to find programs to get members in good standing prior to graduation and/or expel them prior to leaving the university to that they are not to become alumni members.

4. Proposed amendment submitted by Gamma Phi Chapter at the University of Oklahoma

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP
Section 1

D. Alumni Members shall be any former Active or Inactive Members who have left or who have graduated in good standing from the sheltering institution of a Collegiate Chapter. Current National Council Members shall only be considered as Alumni Members of Phi Sigma Pi. An Alumni Member shall be designated as an Active Alumni if the Member is a member of an Alumni Chapter or the National Alumni Association of Phi Sigma Pi.

E. Temporary Alumni Members shall be any former Active or Inactive Members who have left or who have graduated from the sheltering institution of a Collegiate Chapter and have done so not in good standing. Temporary Alumni Members shall have the next semester/quarter immediately following their leaving or graduating to get back into good standing with the Collegiate Chapter. Once in good standing with the Collegiate Chapter, they will be considered an Alumni Member. Failure to obtain good standing will result in expulsion by the Collegiate Chapter.

Intent of Amendment:

Our Chapter is on a points system. Currently, there is nothing to prevent Brothers who have recently graduated/separated into paying any fine they accumulated during their final semester. When they actually graduate/separate they are in good standing. Once the semester is over (and forms turned into Nationals) this is not always the case. There is nothing to force these Brothers into paying their fines once they have received Alumni status. This amendment would ensure that all Alumni Members are truly in good standing with their chapter.

Withdrawn

5. Proposed amendment submitted by Gamma Sigma Chapter at Missouri State University

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5

Phi Sigma Pi Members in good standing may nominate qualified individuals to become Active or Honorary Members. Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be completed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Formal Induction at a prior called meeting with voting on the Initiates on the agenda. No less than forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given for this meeting. At least a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Active Members in good standing present at the meeting with quorum shall be required for confirmation.

Intent of Amendment:

This will allow for those Members in bad standing to be removed from the total number of Brothers considered in order to meet the 75% requirement. This will allow those Members not in good standing to remain in the room for and give debate and not result in an inaccurate total percentage for the vote.

APPROVED

6. Proposed amendment submitted by Gamma Sigma Chapter at Missouri State University

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5

Phi Sigma Pi Members in good standing may nominate qualified individuals to become Active or Honorary Members. Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be completed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Formal Induction at a prior called meeting with voting on the Initiates on the agenda. No less than forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given for this meeting. At least a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Active Members present and eligible to vote at the meeting with quorum shall be required for confirmation.

Intent of Amendment:

This amendment will allow chapters to determine an individualized chapter procedure for Induction voting requirements.

Out of order

7. Proposed amendment submitted by Gamma Sigma Chapter at Missouri State University

Article IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5

Phi Sigma Pi Members in good standing may nominate qualified individuals to become Active or Honorary Members. Voting shall be by secret ballot and shall be completed at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled Formal Induction at a prior called meeting with voting on the Initiates on the agenda. No less than forty-eight (48) hours notice shall be given for this meeting. At least a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Active Members present at the meeting with quorum shall be required for confirmation. To determine if a three-fourths (3/4) vote is achieved, each chapter shall select one of the following.

- A. Method of determination A: The total number of yes votes cast shall be divided the total number of all votes cast.
- B. Method of determination B: The total number of yes votes cast shall be divided by the total number of yes and no votes cast. This determination shall remove abstention votes from the total number of votes cast.

Intent of Amendment:

This allows chapters to decide if abstention votes will be considered in the total number of votes cast. This amendment recognizes that often times those Members wishing to not voice an opinion, but whom are required to vote, can cause a qualified initiate to not be inducted.

8. Proposed amendment submitted by the Senior Vice President Lisa Howard

ARTICLE XV: HOUSE CORPORATIONS AND CHAPTER HOUSING

Section 1. No unincorporated Chapter shall own or lease real property *under any circumstances unless the Chapter has been incorporated under the laws of the state in which the property shall be located.*

Section 2. A Chapter shall have the right to form a house corporation. ~~The Chapter shall submit a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation to the National Office as a permanent record.~~ A nonprofit corporation may be incorporated by Chapter members under the laws of the state in which the property shall be located for the purpose for owning or leasing real property. The Corporation must include in its Articles of Incorporation the mission statement of Phi Sigma Pi and submit all governing documents with the incorporation application. The Chapter shall submit a copy of the Certificate of Incorporation to the National Office.

Section 3. Before a Chapter seeks incorporated status from the state, it must request and be granted approval from the National Council. If approval is granted, all documents filed to obtain incorporated status must also be provided to the National Council.

Section 4. Any nonprofit corporation that owns or leases real property is required to maintain liability insurance on all real property owned or leased and is required to maintain any other insurance as required by the National Council on all real property owned or leased.

Section 5. All Chapters owning or leasing property shall appoint a responsible party to make reports to the National Headquarters each academic term.

Section 6. Any corporation that wishes to display any of the fraternity's marks on the exterior of any structure, shall seek, and must be granted, written approval from the National Council to do so and must comply with any stipulations required by the National Council.

ARTICLE XXII: PROHIBITIONS

Section 7. A Collegiate Chapter or an Alumni Chapter shall not own or lease real property in the name of Phi Sigma Pi or in the Chapter's name, except by means of a house corporation. Title to real property shall be acquired only by an incorporated Collegiate Chapter or an Alumni Chapter in the state in which the property shall be located. ~~Chapters owning or leasing property shall appoint a responsible party to make reports to the National Headquarters each academic term.~~

Intent of Amendment:

This amendment is a much needed change to update this section. This Article has not been amended since the constitution was originally written and is completely dated, especially now that we have chapters with housing.

The goal of this amendment is that the National Office can help those Chapters looking to incorporate and/or find chapter housing so that they may understand the responsibility that comes along with having a house. It will as well allow the National Office to help the Chapter understand the process and how to get it done in an active and timely manner.

APPROVED

Section 6. To read, "Any corporation that wishes to "permanently" display..."

Because Chapters who do have housing have increased liability, it will have to be required that insurance be held on that property. We will require any chapters to hold that insurance which is required of us to have per our insurance agent.

This provides guidelines for chapters seeking to get housing, explains how they would go about doing that, and provides the fraternity with liability in the situation. In working with the National Council, National Staff, C&CS Committee, insurance agent, attorney, and Beta Nu Chapter who has experience in this process, we together, have developed this amendment.