

2017 National Convention
Grand Chapter Business
August 2-4, 2017
Washington, D.C.

National Constitution Proposed Amendments

Key: Proposed additions – underlined Proposed deletions – ~~strikeout line~~ through text

1. Proposed amendment submitted by Beta Lambda Chapter

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 5: Alumni Members

Alumni Members shall be ~~any Collegiate Members who have left or who have graduated in good standing from the sheltering institution of a Collegiate Chapter. Collegiate Members shall become Alumni Member if their Chapter becomes inactive whose Collegiate Chapter becomes inactive, or Collegiate Members in good standing who have met any of the following conditions:~~ any Collegiate Members who have left or who have graduated in good standing from the sheltering institution of a Collegiate Chapter. Collegiate Members shall become Alumni Member if their Chapter becomes inactive whose Collegiate Chapter becomes inactive, or Collegiate Members in good standing who have met any of the following conditions:

- i. Left the sheltering institution;
- ii. Graduated from the sheltering institution; or
- iii. Have one or less academic years left before graduation from the sheltering institution and is approved by the Collegiate Chapter to become an Alumni Member. The Member shall have completed at least one semester or two quarters as an Active Collegiate Member before becoming an Alumni Member under this provision.

Rationale of Amendment:

The rationale behind changing Article IV, Section 5 is three-fold:

- 1) Some Collegiate Members do not have the ability (i.e. finances, health, part-time student, etc.) to go nationally and/or locally inactive but they do not wish to resign from the Fraternity.
- 2) Some Collegiate Members do not have the time to dedicate to Phi Sigma Pi toward the end of their college career, but wish to remain a part of the organization.
- 3) It is brotherly to consider these requests on a case by case basis and offer flexibility based on various Chapter and/or Member needs.

2. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Section 9: Active and Inactive Collegiate Members

~~All Collegiate Members shall be considered Active, and thus subject to the attendance requirements and financial obligations of the Collegiate Chapter unless the Member has applied for, and been granted, one of the following:~~

~~A. National Inactivity~~

~~Collegiate Members who are currently participating in an accredited or academically recognized cooperative education program, internship or study abroad program which does not meet or hold classes at the sheltering institution shall be eligible for National Inactivity. Nationally Inactive Collegiate Members shall be exempt from paying National dues and shall not be subject to attendance requirements of the Collegiate Chapter. National Inactivity may only be granted by the National Office.~~

~~B. Local Inactivity~~

~~Locally Inactive Members are Active Members, with permission from their Collegiate Chapter, who do not wish to be active in Phi Sigma Pi's affairs. Further status of Inactive Members shall be left to the discretion of the Collegiate Chapter. Locally Inactive Members pay to the National Headquarters, via the Collegiate Chapter, the National Dues by the appropriate due dates.~~

2017 National Convention
Grand Chapter Business
August 2-4, 2017
Washington, D.C.

- A. All Collegiate Members shall be considered Active, and thus subject to the attendance requirements and financial obligations of the Collegiate Chapter, unless the Member becomes Inactive in one of the following ways:
1. Collegiate Members who are currently participating in an accredited or academically recognized program (such as a cooperative education program, internship, or study abroad program) which does not meet or hold classes at the sheltering institution shall be Inactive; or
 2. Collegiate Members who do not wish to be active in any of Phi Sigma Pi's affairs and are approved by their Collegiate Chapter shall be Inactive. Further status of Inactive Members shall be left to the discretion of the Collegiate Chapter.
- B. Inactive Members shall pay National Dues by the appropriate due date.

Block amendment with:

ARTICLE XV: NATIONAL FINANCES

Section 1: Dues

- ~~A. Active and Locally Inactive Members of All Collegiate Members Chapters shall pay National Dues to Phi Sigma Pi each semester or quarter of the academic year, by dates established by the National Council, through the Collegiate Chapter Treasurer or other method determined by the National Office. The Collegiate Chapter shall be responsible for ensuring all National Dues are submitted on time. Collegiate Chapters with sheltering institutions on a trimester or quarter system have the option, if deemed necessary by the National Office, to be assessed National Dues on a more frequent basis. However, the total annual National Dues charged in these instances shall be rounded up to the nearest whole dollar. Members shall pay all or part of the National Dues for the academic period in which the Member shall be inducted, as determined by the National Council.~~
- ~~B. Nationally Inactive Members shall be exempt from paying National Dues.~~
- BC. Unless an alternative method is approved by the National Office, each Each Chapter shall submit the appropriate form along with the respective National Dues by the dates established by the National Council.

Rationale of Amendment:

Over the past four academic years, there have been an average of 601 Nationally Inactive Members per year. However, many more Members are inappropriately listed as Nationally Inactive and the National Staff end up spending numerous hours verifying that those listed as Nationally Inactive actually meet the limited permissible criteria. One of the main reasons this verification is needed is to ensure that Chapters are submitting the appropriate amount of National Dues. This amendment would eliminate the need to verify Inactive Members, would allow inactivity for those who are not on campus to participate with their Chapter, and still allows Chapters to provide other forms of Inactivity based on the Chapter's needs.

3. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE VI: NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1: Composition

The National Council shall consist of the ~~eight (8)~~ five (5) National Officers ordered as follows: National President, Senior Vice President, National Secretary, Vice President of Finance, and the Vice President of Development. ~~Vice President of Membership Development, Vice President of Chapter Development, Vice President of Alumni Development and the Vice President of Philanthropy Development.~~ Current National Council Members shall only be considered as Alumni Members of Phi Sigma Pi. The National Council shall serve as the national leader for communication, technology, fund development, membership development, chapter development, alumni development, and philanthropy development.

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

Block amendment with:

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1: National President

The National President shall:

- A. Preside at all meetings of the Grand Chapter and the National Council;
- B. Serve as the chairperson and administrator of the National Development Committee;
- C. Appoint all Committee Members;
- D. Sign warrants drawn upon the Treasury, contracts entered into by Phi Sigma Pi, all Charters, and all Membership Certificates;
- E. Promote the general interests of Phi Sigma Pi;
- F. Ensure that all policies are carried out;
- G. Call for and receive reports desired from the National Officers, National Committees or Chapters;
- H. Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.

Section 2: Senior Vice President

The Senior Vice President shall:

- A. Temporarily serve in the absence or inability of the National President;
- B. Serve as the chairperson of the Committee on Constitution & Chapter Standards (ARTICLE XIV, Section 5);
- C. Advise on risk-management;
- D. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Senior Vice President.

Section 3: National Secretary

The National Secretary shall:

- A. Ensure the preservation of the National Constitution, Charters, Rituals, and all documents, records, and supplies of Phi Sigma Pi;
- B. Issue and sign all Charters and Membership Certificates;
- C. Ensure that accurate records of all proceedings of the Grand Chapter and National Council are maintained;
- D. Ensure that minutes of the Grand Chapter and National Council are made available to all ~~Collegiate Members and Alumni~~ Members within seven (7) days of their approval;
- E. Serve as the chairperson of the Awards, Scholarship, & Emblem Committee (ARTICLE XIV, Section 3);
- ~~F. Serve as the National leader for communication and technology development.~~

Section 4: Vice President of Finance

The Vice President of Finance shall:

- A. Sign warrants on the Treasury and contracts entered into by Phi Sigma Pi;
- B. Pay authorized warrants of the Grand Chapter when properly signed by the duly empowered ~~National Council Members~~ Officers or designated representatives;
- C. Ensure appropriate fiduciary and bookkeeping control procedures, such that a complete and accurate record of receipts and expenditures shall be maintained;
- D. Prepare Phi Sigma Pi's budget in conjunction with the Executive Director;
- E. Serve on the Personnel Committee, ~~and make reports at the regular meetings of the Grand Chapter and special reports when called upon by the National President~~ (ARTICLE XIV, Section 4);
- F. Make financial reports at the regular meetings of the Grand Chapter and special reports when called upon by the National President.
- ~~F. Serve as the National leader for the fund development;~~
- G. Serve as a liaison between National Council and the Phi Sigma Pi Foundation Board of Directors.

~~Section 5: Vice President of Membership Development~~

~~The Vice President of Membership Development shall:~~

- ~~A. Instruct Collegiate Chapters how to make efficient and effective use of The Ritual;~~
- ~~B. Propose changes to the National Guidelines on Initiation;~~
- ~~C. Ensure that Collegiate Chapter Initiation Programs are designed to produce committed, responsible, and active Members;~~

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

- ~~— D. Ensure that all Collegiate Chapters understand and support the National Guidelines on Initiation and Phi Sigma Pi policies;~~
- ~~— E. Be charged with the responsibility of seeing that Initiation Programs instill the ideals of Phi Sigma Pi and develop pride and commitment through learning, participation, and responsibility;~~
- ~~— F. Ensure that the history of Phi Sigma Pi is taught to Members.~~
- ~~— G. Serve as the National leader of membership development.~~

Section 6: Vice President of Chapter Development

The Vice President of Chapter Development shall:

- ~~— A. Ensure organization and installation of new Collegiate Chapters;~~
- ~~— B. Promote a professional Fraternity image through reviewing National public relations efforts and standards;~~
- ~~— C. Ensure all information pertaining to the growth and expansion of Phi Sigma Pi, is properly interpreted and disseminated;~~
- ~~— D. Ensure the development and education of regional leadership;~~
- ~~— E. Promote the continual education of Chapter Officers and aid in the development of Chapters;~~
- ~~— F. Promote communication and National unity among Regions and Chapters.~~
- ~~— G. Serve as the National leader of Chapter development.~~

Section 7: Vice President of Alumni Development

The Vice President of Alumni Development shall:

- ~~— A. Serve as the coordinating official for Alumni communications and activities;~~
- ~~— B. Advise all Chapters on current Alumni events and encourage Alumni attendance at National Conventions and all Phi Sigma Pi functions;~~
- ~~— C. Encourage positive and consistent communication among the Collegiate Chapters and the Collegiate Chapter's respective Alumni;~~
- ~~— D. Serve as the Grand Chapter's official liaison with Alumni and Alumni Chapters;~~
- ~~— E. Serve as the National leader of Alumni development.~~

Section 8: Vice President of Philanthropy Development

The Vice President of Philanthropy Development shall:

- ~~— A. Ensure all information pertaining to initiatives related to the National Philanthropy are disseminated to Collegiate and Alumni Chapters.~~
- ~~— B. Assist Chapters in the area of philanthropy development~~
- ~~— C. Develop and evaluate National Philanthropy related initiatives~~
- ~~— D. Serve as the official liaison between the National Council and the National Philanthropy~~
- ~~— E. Develop projects to educate Members and Chapters about the National Philanthropy~~
- ~~— F. Encourage participation of Collegiate and Alumni Chapters within the National Philanthropy~~
- ~~— G. Serve as the National leader on philanthropy development.~~

Section 5: Vice President of Development

The Vice President of Development shall:

- ~~— A. Serve on the National Development Committee;~~
- ~~— B. Actively work with the rest of the National Council to provide strategic direction and implement comprehensive development strategies to improve Phi Sigma Pi;~~
- ~~— C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Vice President of Development.~~

Block amendment with:

ARTICLE XIX: NATIONAL AWARDS

Section 1: Distinguished Service Keys

- A. The National Council shall be authorized to approve annually by ~~eight (8) votes~~ unanimous vote in the affirmative the award of a Distinguished Service Key to a Member who has rendered distinguished service to Phi Sigma Pi and has been nominated by a Chapter or a National Council Member. Members who have rendered particularly meritorious service to Phi Sigma Pi may be recommended for the award by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Chapter.
- B. The National Council shall be authorized to approve annually ~~by at least seven (7) votes in the affirmative for each recipient~~ the award of a Distinguished Service Key to a National Council

2017 National Convention
 Grand Chapter Business
 August 2-4, 2017
 Washington, D.C.

Member who has rendered distinguished service to Phi Sigma Pi. The award shall require an unanimous vote in the affirmative of the National Council Members, excluding the individual nominee being considered.

Rationale of Amendment:

This amendment modifies the National Council to a 5 member board. It also cleans up duties/responsibilities for all of the National Officers.

Over the past two decades, the National Fraternity has moved much of the tactical implementation of programs from the hands of the National Officers to the National Staff. Today, the National Council functions as the Board of Directors of Phi Sigma Pi, addressing the strategic direction of the Fraternity. We now have a well-defined National Staff whose full time jobs correspond with issues related to Alumni, Chapter, Membership and Philanthropy Development, no longer necessitating the need for separate specialized Development positions.

4. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE VI: NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 1: Composition

The National Council shall consist of the ~~eight (8)~~ seven(7) National Officers ordered as follows: National President, Senior Vice President, National Secretary, Vice President of Finance, and three (3) Vice Presidents of Development. ~~Vice President of Membership Development, Vice President of Chapter Development, Vice President of Alumni Development and the Vice President of Philanthropy Development.~~ Current National Council Members shall only be considered as Alumni Members of Phi Sigma Pi. The National Council shall serve as the national leader for communication, technology, fund development, membership development, chapter development, alumni development, and philanthropy development.

Block amendment with:

ARTICLE VIII: DUTIES OF THE NATIONAL OFFICERS

Section 1: National President

The National President shall:

- A. Preside at all meetings of the Grand Chapter and the National Council;
- B. Serve as the chairperson and administrator of the National Development Committee;
- C. Appoint all Committee Members;
- D. Sign warrants drawn upon the Treasury, contracts entered into by Phi Sigma Pi, all Charters, and all Membership Certificates;
- E. Promote the general interests of Phi Sigma Pi;
- F. Ensure that all policies are carried out;
- G. Call for and receive reports desired from the National Officers, National Committees or Chapters;
- H. Perform such other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office.

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The Senior Vice President shall:

- A. Temporarily serve in the absence or inability of the National President;
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2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

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- D. Ensure that minutes of the Grand Chapter and National Council are made available to all ~~Collegiate Members and Alumni Members~~ within seven (7) days of their approval;
- E. Serve as the chairperson of the Awards, Scholarship, & Emblem Committee (ARTICLE XIV, Section 3);
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Section 4: Vice President of Finance

The Vice President of Finance shall:

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- D. Prepare Phi Sigma Pi's budget in conjunction with the Executive Director;
- E. Serve on the Personnel Committee, ~~and make reports at the regular meetings of the Grand Chapter and special reports when called upon by the National President (ARTICLE XIV, Section 4);~~
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~~The Vice President of Membership Development shall:~~

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2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

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- ~~— C. Develop and evaluate National Philanthropy related initiatives~~
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- ~~— A. Serve on the National Development Committee;~~
- ~~— B. Actively work with the rest of the National Council to provide strategic direction and implement comprehensive development strategies to improve Phi Sigma Pi;~~
- ~~— C. Perform such other duties as may be assigned to the Vice President of Development.~~

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- B. The National Council shall be authorized to approve annually ~~by at least seven (7) votes in the affirmative for each recipient~~ the award of a Distinguished Service Key to a National Council Member who has rendered distinguished service to Phi Sigma Pi. The award shall require an unanimous vote in the affirmative of the National Council Members, excluding the individual nominee being considered.

Rationale of Amendment:

This amendment modifies the National Council to a 7 member board. It also cleans up duties/responsibilities for all of the National Officers.

Over the past two decades, the National Fraternity has moved much of the tactical implementation of programs from the hands of the National Officers to the National Staff. Today, the National Council functions as the

2017 National Convention
 Grand Chapter Business
 August 2-4, 2017
 Washington, D.C.

Board of Directors of Phi Sigma Pi, addressing the strategic direction of the Fraternity. We now have a well-defined National Staff whose full time jobs correspond with issues related to Alumni, Chapter, Membership and Philanthropy Development, no longer necessitating the need for separate specialized Development positions.

5. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 4: Election Procedure

Elections of the National Council shall be conducted at a meeting of the Grand Chapter with quorum.

General and special elections for National Council shall be conducted according to the following procedure:

- A. The candidate for each National Council position shall be given the opportunity to deliver a speech to the Grand Chapter. The order in which the candidates speak shall be determined by the drawing of lots. Immediately following each candidate's speech, the candidate shall be given the opportunity to answer questions posed by the Grand Chapter. During each candidate's speech and the following period of questions, no other candidates for the National Council position shall be present.
 - i. If a candidate has registered for the Grand Chapter Meeting and is not able to physically attend, they shall have the options including, but not limited to submitting a written speech which shall be read by a Member of the candidates choosing who is also registered for Grand Chapter. There shall be a period of questions allowed.
- B. After all of the candidates for each National Council position have been given the opportunity to speak and answer questions, the Grand Chapter shall enter a period of pro/con debate. The merits of each candidate shall be discussed in turn, in the order previously determined by the drawing of lots.
- C. Following debate, a vote shall be conducted by ballot. All ballots shall include an option to vote for none of the listed candidates'. Delegates shall rank all of the candidates, including the 'none of the listed candidates' option, in order of preference on their ballot. These votes shall be tabulated along with all the votes for listed candidates.
- D. The Chair shall appoint Tellers of Election ~~to collect and tally the votes.~~ The Tellers of Election shall not be candidates for National Council or Delegates or Alternate Delegates of the Grand Chapter. The Tellers of Election shall report the result of each vote to the Chair. The Chair shall announce the result of each vote.
- ~~E. In the event that no candidate for a National Council position, or the 'none of the listed candidates' option, has obtained a clear majority of the votes cast, a run-off vote shall be instituted. The two (2) ballot options for the National Council position receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on a new ballot, and a new vote shall be taken. This process shall be repeated until one (1) ballot option receives a majority vote.~~
- E. The Tellers of Election shall collect and tally the votes using an instant-runoff voting method.
 - i. The Tellers of Election shall tally each ballot's first place votes. If there is not a winner who receives a majority, the Tellers of Election shall remove the lowest-vote getter, or vote getters if there is a tie, and redistribute those ballots to their respective second place choice. The option 'none of the listed candidates' shall not be removed at any point.
 - ii. If the election is for a single open position, the Tellers of Election shall continue eliminating the lowest vote-getter and redistributing the ballots until a candidate or the option 'none of the listed candidates' has received a majority of the ballots.
 - iii. In situations where there is more than one open position, the Tellers of Election shall continue eliminating the lowest vote-getter and redistributing the ballots until the number of remaining candidates, or the option 'none of the listed candidates,' receiving a majority of the vote equals the number of open positions.
- F. Following the determination of a winner(s), the Tellers of Election shall report the election result of the vote to the Chair. The Chair shall announce the result of each election.
- ~~GF. A winning candidate for a National Council position who receives the majority vote in an election shall be considered the Officer-elect immediately following the announcement of the vote. In the event 'none~~

2017 National Convention
 Grand Chapter Business
 August 2-4, 2017
 Washington, D.C.

of the listed candidates' received a majority vote, the office shall be considered vacant after the installation of the newly elected National Council and filled by the vacancy policy in Article VII, Section 5.

Rationale of Amendment:

This amendment changes the election of National Officers to utilize an instant run-off voting method.

6. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE VII: ELECTION OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 4: Election Procedure

Elections of the National Council shall be conducted at a meeting of the Grand Chapter with quorum. General and special elections for National Council shall be conducted according to the following procedure:

- ~~A. The candidate for each National Council position shall be given the opportunity to deliver a speech to the Grand Chapter. The order in which the candidates speak shall be determined by the drawing of lots. Immediately following each candidate's speech, the candidate shall be given the opportunity to answer questions posed by the Grand Chapter. During each candidate's speech and the following period of questions, no other candidates for the National Council position shall be present.~~
 - ~~i. If a candidate has registered for the Grand Chapter Meeting and is not able to physically attend, they shall have the options including, but not limited to submitting a written speech which shall be read by a Member of the candidates choosing who is also registered for Grand Chapter. There shall be a period of questions allowed.~~
- ~~B. After all of the candidates for each National Council position have been given the opportunity to speak and answer questions, the Grand Chapter shall enter a period of pro/con debate. The merits of each candidate shall be discussed in turn, in the order previously determined by the drawing of lots.~~
- ~~C. Following debate, a vote shall be conducted by ballot. All ballots shall include an option to vote for none of the listed candidates'. These votes shall be tabulated along with all the votes for listed candidates.~~
- ~~D. The Chair shall appoint Tellers of Election to collect and tally the votes. The Tellers of Election shall not be candidates for National Council or Delegates or Alternate Delegates of the Grand Chapter. The Tellers of Election shall report the result of each vote to the Chair. The Chair shall announce the result of each vote.~~
- ~~E. In the event that no candidate for a National Council position, or the 'none of the listed candidates' option, has obtained a clear majority of the votes cast, a run-off vote shall be instituted. The two (2) ballot options for the National Council position receiving the highest number of votes shall be placed on a new ballot, and a new vote shall be taken. This process shall be repeated until one (1) ballot option receives a majority vote.~~
- ~~F. A candidate for a National Council position who receives the majority vote in an election shall be considered the Officer elect immediately following the announcement of the vote. In the event 'none of the listed candidates' received a majority vote, the office shall be considered vacant after the installation of the newly elected National Council and filled by the vacancy policy in Article VII, Section 5.~~
 - A. The Chair shall appoint Tellers of Election. The Tellers of Election shall not be candidates for National Council or Delegates or Alternate Delegates of the Grand Chapter. The Tellers of Election shall report the result of each vote to the Chair. The Chair shall announce the result of each vote. Following the determination of a winner, the Tellers of Election shall report the election result of the vote to the Chair. The Chair shall announce the result of each election.
 - B. For each Officer election, or set of elections where more than one candidate may be elected, each Delegate shall receive one ballot where they shall vote for up to the number of open positions by selecting their preferred candidate(s) or the option 'none of the listed candidates.' The votes shall

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

be in unranked order and a candidate may only receive one vote per ballot. Delegates may use as many of their available votes on 'none of the listed candidates' as they choose.

C. Should any number of candidate(s), equal to or less than the number of positions, receive votes on a majority of the first round ballots they shall be announced as an Officer-elect. If more candidates than the number of open positions receive a majority of votes on one ballot, then the candidate(s) with the most votes shall be announced as an Officer-elect.

1. The candidates for a run-off vote, if allowed, shall be determined as follows:

a. If the election is for a single open position with more than two candidates and none of the candidates receive votes on a majority of the first round ballots, a run-off vote shall be held consisting of the two candidates who received the most votes.

b. If the election is for more than one position with more candidates than open positions, and any number of those positions are not filled by enough candidates receiving votes on a majority of the first round ballots, a run-off vote shall be held. The run-off shall include a number of candidates equal to the number of open positions plus one.

c. A run-off vote shall not occur in any other circumstances.

d. A tie-breaking vote shall occur if needed to determine the candidates moving into the run-off vote.

2. Each Delegate shall receive one run-off ballot where they shall vote for up to the number of open positions by selecting their preferred candidate(s) or the option 'none of the listed candidates.' The votes shall be in unranked order and a candidate may only receive one vote per ballot. Delegates may use as many of their available votes on 'none of the listed candidates' as they choose.

3. Only one run-off round of voting shall occur.

D. A tie breaking vote shall occur only if a tie breaking vote would give a candidate the majority needed to win a majority or if otherwise specified in this Section.

E. Any position not filled under this Section shall be considered vacant after the installation of the newly elected National Council and filled by the vacancy policy in Article VII, Section 5.

Rationale of Amendment:

This amendment changes the election of National Officers to utilize a plurality voting method.

***7. Proposed amendment submitted by Vice President of Membership Development
Matt Peachey*****ARTICLE XIII: NATIONAL COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEES****Section 1: Composition**

The Standing Committees of the National Council shall be: Awards, Scholarship & Emblem Committee; Personnel Committee; Constitution & Chapter Standards Committee; National Ritual Committee; and National Development Committee.

Section 6: National Ritual Committee

The National Ritual Committee shall be chaired by a National Officer selected by the National President and shall include at least two (2) Alumni Members and two (2) Collegiate Members. All committee members shall be Active Members in good standing. Members shall serve for the duration of the National Council term after their appointment. The committee shall be responsible for maintaining the stylistic and historical integrity of the Ritual ceremonies by reviewing any proposed changes to the *The Ritual Ceremonies Book* and providing the Grand Chapter with any recommendations prior to voting. The committee shall also provide a source of consultation as may benefit any educational activities focused on the Ritual Ceremonies.

Block amendment with:

ARTICLE XXIV: AMENDMENTS**Section 2: Submission Guidelines**

A. Constitution and Chapter Standards and National Ritual Committee Initial Review

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

- _____ i. ~~All proposals for amendments to the National Constitution or *The Ritual Ceremonies Book* shall be submitted in writing for initial review to the Constitution and Chapter Standards Committee. Proposals for amendments to *The Ritual Ceremonies Book* shall be submitted for initial review to the National Ritual Committee. All proposals shall be submitted in writing via the National Headquarters at least one-hundred and fifty (150) days prior to the meeting of the Grand Chapter.~~
- ii. The Constitution and Chapter Standards Committee shall review all submitted amendments to the National Constitution, and the National Ritual Committee shall review all submitted amendments to *The Ritual Ceremonies Book*. Any proposal affecting both the National Constitution and *The Ritual Ceremonies Book* shall be submitted in its entirety to both committees for review of their respective content. Each committee shall and provide recommendations to the submitting entity to improve the amendment while maintaining the intent, within twenty (20) days.
- B. Submission
- i. After receiving recommendations back from the Constitution and Chapter Standards ~~or National Ritual~~ Committee the submitting entity has fifteen (15) days to determine which, if any, changes it would like to make, provided the original intent is maintained.
- ii. All final submissions shall be submitted in writing to the Constitution and Chapter Standards ~~or National Ritual~~ Committee via the National Headquarters at least one-hundred and fifteen (115) days prior to the meeting of the Grand Chapter.
- iii. Chapters submitting proposals for amendments shall include a copy of the meeting minutes at which the proposal was approved. Proposed amendments submitted without these documents shall not be considered by the Grand Chapter.

Section 3: Distribution of Proposed Amendments

Proposals for amendments to the National Constitution or *The Ritual Ceremonies Book*, which meet the requirements outlined in Section 2, as well as a report by the Constitution and Chapter Standards ~~or National Ritual~~ Committee outlining their recommendations as outlined in Section 2, shall be distributed to the membership of Phi Sigma Pi no later than ninety (90) days prior to the regular meeting of the Grand Chapter at which they will be considered. Once the proposed amendments are distributed, they must be considered, as distributed, by the Grand Chapter.

Rationale of Amendment:

The Ritual Ceremonies form the essence of the Fraternity from generation to generation. While the Constitution and Chapter Standards committee is responsible for a vital part of maintaining our Constitution, their focus is often on the more legalistic aspects of a proposed amendment. The nature of our Ritual requires focus not just on the consistency with the principles of the Fraternity, but requires attention to the style and performance of these ceremonies. C&CS may be asked to review dozens of amendments any given year, requiring tremendous focus that cannot be devoted to a potential change in our Ritual. This amendment creates a committee directly concerned with the integrity of our Ritual and able to devote more focus on the consistency of the message and our history. Additionally, as the National organization devotes more resources to teaching our Ritual, this provides for a group devoted to giving guidance and reflection for these initiatives, allowing for the more consistency in sharing our most valuable traditions.

8. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE XVIII: DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 5: Appeals

A Chapter or Member disciplined by the National Council shall have the following rights:

- A. Right of appeal to ~~National Council~~, Sanction Appeal Board or Grand Chapter.
- i. Periods of probation exceeding one calendar year, suspensions, expulsions and revocation of Charters may be appealed to the ~~National Council~~, Sanction Appeal Board and Grand Chapter per the following subsections.
- ii. All other discipline, except for delinquencies and summary suspensions, may only be appealed

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

to the National Council and the Sanction Appeal Board per the following subsections.

- iii. Discipline levied as a result of delinquencies shall be governed by Article XVIII, Section 1.

~~— B. Appeal to National Council~~

- ~~i. Within fourteen (14) days of being notified of disciplinary action according to Section 4, an appeal may be made back to the National Council by submitting a letter to the National Office explaining the reason for the appeal. The appealing party may submit any additional documentation and may request an opportunity to address the National Council.~~
- ~~ii. The National Council will review the appeal and within 14 days render a decision to uphold, reduce or nullify any disciplinary action. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of National Council is required to reduce or nullify any disciplinary action.~~
- ~~iii. The National Council will promptly notify the appealing party of the appeal decision according to the notice requirements of Section 4.~~
- ~~iv. The appeal decision by the National Council may only be appealed to the Sanction Appeal Board and potentially the Grand Chapter in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter A.~~

B.C. Appeal to Sanction Appeal Board

- i. Within fourteen (14) days of being notified of the disciplinary action according to Section 5 decision from the appeal in Subsection A, an appeal may be made to the Sanction Appeal Board by submitting a letter to the National Office explaining the reason for the appeal. The appealing party may submit any additional documentation and may request an opportunity to address the Sanction Appeal Board. Within fourteen (14) days of receiving notification of an appeal, the National Council shall submit a written letter to the Sanction Appeal Board explaining the National Council's disciplinary decision. In the event the Sanction Appeal Board grants a request by the appealing party to address the Sanction Appeal Board, the Sanction Appeal Board shall also allow the National Council to have a representative address the Sanction Appeal Board.
- ii. The Sanction Appeal Board will review the appeal and within 30 days of receiving the appellate materials render a decision to uphold, reduce, or nullify any disciplinary action. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Sanction Appeal Board is required to reduce or nullify any disciplinary action.
- iii. The Sanction Appeal Board will promptly notify the appealing party and the National Council, via the National Office, of the appeal decision according to the notice requirements of Section 4. The appeal decision by the Sanction Appeal Board may only be appealed to the Grand Chapter in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter A.

Rationale of Amendment:

The National Council is aware of all of the facts surrounding the conduct in question and the disciplined Chapter/Member was given an opportunity to submit a statement prior to the discipline being enacted. Thus, there is no new information provided to the National Council that would lead to a changed decision. Further, if exceptional circumstances do exist and are communicated to the National Council, the National Council could still decrease the discipline on their own decision. This change would merely affect the vast majority of situations by shortening the overall disciplinary process (which is common feedback that is received by those disciplined).

9. Proposed amendment submitted by Senior Vice President Erik "DUFF" Walschburger

ARTICLE XVIII: DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

Section 5: Appeals

A Chapter or Member disciplined by the National Council shall have the following rights:

- A. Right of appeal to National Council, Sanction Appeal Board or Grand Chapter.

- ~~i. Periods of probation exceeding one calendar year, suspensions, expulsions and revocation of Charters may be appealed to the National Council, Sanction Appeal Board and Grand Chapter per the following subsections.~~
- ~~ii. All other discipline, except for delinquencies and summary suspensions, may only be appealed to the National Council and the Sanction Appeal Board per the following subsections.~~

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

iii. Discipline levied as a result of delinquencies shall be governed by Article XVIII, Section 1.

ii. Summary suspensions may not be appealed.

iii. Chapter discipline resulting in suspension of a charter or revocation of a charter may be appealed to National Council, the Sanction Appeal Board, and Grand Chapter per the following subsections.

iv. All other disciplinary action may only be appealed to the National Council and the Sanction Appeal Board per the following subsections.

B. Appeal to National Council

i. Within fourteen (14) days of being notified of disciplinary action according to Section 4, an appeal may be made back to the National Council by submitting a letter to the National Office explaining the reason for the appeal. The appealing party may submit any additional documentation and may request an opportunity to address the National Council.

ii. The National Council will review the appeal and within 14 days render a decision to uphold, reduce or nullify any disciplinary action. A three-fourths (3/4) vote of National Council is required to reduce or nullify any disciplinary action.

iii. The National Council will promptly notify the appealing party of the appeal decision according to the notice requirements of Section 4.

iv. The appeal decision by the National Council may only be appealed to the Sanction Appeal Board and potentially the Grand Chapter in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter A.

C. Appeal to Sanction Appeal Board

i. Within fourteen (14) days of being notified of the decision from the appeal in Subsection BA, an appeal may be made to the Sanction Appeal Board by submitting a letter to the National Office explaining the reason for the appeal. The appealing party may submit any additional documentation and may request an opportunity to address the Sanction Appeal Board. Within fourteen (14) days of receiving notification of an appeal, the National Council shall submit a written letter to the Sanction Appeal Board explaining the National Council's disciplinary decision. In the event the Sanction Appeal Board grants a request by the appealing party to address the Sanction Appeal Board, the Sanction Appeal Board shall also allow the National Council to have a representative address the Sanction Appeal Board.

ii. The Sanction Appeal Board will review the appeal and within 30 days of receiving the appellate materials render a decision to uphold, reduce, or nullify any disciplinary action. A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Sanction Appeal Board is required to reduce or nullify any disciplinary action.

iii. The Sanction Appeal Board will promptly notify the appealing party and the National Council, via the National Office, of the appeal decision according to the notice requirements of Section 4. The appeal decision by the Sanction Appeal Board may only be appealed to the Grand Chapter in accordance with Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter A.

D. Appeal to the Grand Chapter

i. **Deadline to appeal**

1. Within 7 days of being notified of the decision from the appeal in Subsection BC, an appeal may be made by the disciplined Chapter to the Grand Chapter by submitting a letter to the National Office explaining the reason for the appeal.

2. When a decision on disciplinary action has been made by the National Council within 45 days of the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Grand Chapter and an appeal to Grand Chapter is allowed under Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter A, the disciplined party-Chapter may elect to appeal directly to the Grand Chapter by submitting a letter to National Office explaining the reason for the appeal.

ii. For all appeals, on the first day the Grand Chapter is convened, a vote shall be taken whether to hear the appeal.

1. The appealing party-Chapter and Sanction Appeal Board, if applicable, may make a brief statement to the Grand Chapter outlining the reason(s) the appeal should or should not be heard.

a. In cases of a Collegiate Chapter appealing, only a current Collegiate Member from the Chapter, or a Member who was a Collegiate Member of the Chapter during the time of the conduct in question, shall be entitled to represent the Chapter.

b. In cases of an Alumni Chapter appealing, only a current Alumni Member from the Chapter, or a Member who was an Alumni Member of the Chapter during the time of the conduct in question, shall be entitled to represent the Chapter.

2017 National Convention

Grand Chapter Business

August 2-4, 2017

Washington, D.C.

- ~~1. A majority of the voting Members at the Grand Chapter meeting shall be required to hear the appeal.~~
- ~~2. If the Grand Chapter declines to hear an appeal, the most recent disciplinary decision is upheld and shall remain in effect.~~

2. A majority of the voting Members at the Grand Chapter meeting shall be required to hear the appeal.

3. If the Grand Chapter declines to hear an appeal, the most recent disciplinary decision is upheld and shall remain in effect.

- iii. If the Grand Chapter decides to hear an appeal, the National President shall ensure the appeal hearing is added to the agenda of the Grand Chapter Meeting.
 1. Appeal Hearing
 - a. The Senior Vice President shall first provide a report to the Grand Chapter explaining the investigatory findings and the reason for the National Council's decision. The National President shall appoint another National Council Member to provide the report if the Senior Vice President is unavailable.
 - b. The appealing party Chapter may then make a presentation to the Grand Chapter as to why the disciplinary decision should be reduced or nullified, ~~subject to the same requirements of Article XVIII, Section 5, Letter C, numeral ii above.~~
 2. The Grand Chapter shall have the authority to reduce or nullify any disciplinary decision by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting Members present at the Grand Chapter Meeting.
 3. If the Grand Chapter declines to reduce or nullify the disciplinary decision, the most recent disciplinary decision is upheld and shall remain in effect.
- iv. The Grand Chapter's decision shall be final and may not be appealed

Rationale of Amendment:

By the time the appeal gets to Grand Chapter, it has been approved by the National Council (elected to represent the Grand Chapter), and in most cases, reviewed by the SAB (elected/appointed to serve). Neither the National Council or the SAB take disciplinary action lightly. By creating the SAB as the final review, it will save time at Grand Chapter, significantly shorten the disciplinary process, and allow a review by a cross section of the Brotherhood (National Council members, Collegiate Members, Alumni Members, and Past National Officers).

10. Proposed amendment submitted by National Secretary Natalie Mikkelson

ARTICLE XIX: NATIONAL AWARDS

Section 1: National Award Eligibility

- ~~A. The National Award Eligibility Period shall be from the start of one National Awards Banquet until the start of the following National Awards Banquet.~~
- ~~B. National Awards shall be given out at a National Awards Banquet and recognize Chapters' achievements during the most recent National Award Eligibility Period.~~
- ~~C. A Chapter must be in good standing at the time of the National Awards Banquet in order to be eligible for a National Award.~~
- ~~D. A Chapter is ineligible to receive a National Award if during any part of the National Award Eligibility Period, the Chapter:

 - ~~a. Has been more than 30 days Delinquent as defined in Article XVIII, Section 1; or~~
 - ~~b. Has been under disciplinary sanction levied by the National Council.~~~~

Rationale of Amendment:

Clarification of eligibility for National Awards.