

**Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity
National Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes**

**July 25, 2005
Telephone Conference Call**

National Directors in attendance:

Dr. James F. Robeson, Cincinnati, 1959	Grand President	2005
Christopher L. Bittman, Colorado 1985	Grand Treasurer	2005
David O. Chang, Pepperdine, 2004	National Director	2005
Garry C. Kief, Southern California, 1970	National Director	2005
Elliot A. Silver, Duke, 2004	National Director	2005
Roger H. VanHoozer, Washburn, 1972	National Director	2005
Phillip A. Cox, Indiana, 1984	National Director	2007
The Hon. Archer L. Yeatts, III, Richmond, 1964	National Director	2007
Bert J. Harris, III, Florida, 1974	National Director	2009

Headquarters staff participants:

Craig D. Templeton, Kansas, 1981	Executive Director
Bayard V. Gennert, Case Western, 2002	Legislative Coordinator
David J. Graziano, St. John's, 2003	Director of the Balanced Man Initiative
Christopher M. McCaw, Appalachian State, 2003	Director of Chapter Services
Christopher T. Minnis, Truman State, 2000	Director of Operations
Julie Ross	Controller
E. Scott Thompson, II, S. Mississippi, 1999	Director of Communications
John D. Weir, Purdue, 2001	Director of Real Estate

Directors not in attendance:

Matthew C. Rodrigue, Maine, 2004	National Director	2005
Jeffrey D. Prouty, Iowa State, 1978	National Director	2009

I. Call to Order

After a brief discussion of proceeding without the Grand President who would not be able to join the call until later, the Board agreed without objection for Grand Treasurer Christopher L. Bittman to chair the meeting until such time as the Grand President joined the call. Brother Bittman called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Bert J. Harris, III: To approve the minutes as previously distributed.

Seconded by: Roger H. VanHoozer

Passed.

II. Grand Treasurer's Report

Investment Consolidation with Foundation—Grand Treasurer Bittman reported that the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation had requested the Fraternity consider a consolidation of assets for reduction of fees and greater access to investments.

Motion by VanHoozer: To have the Investment Committee explore and report back to the Board in January, 2006, its recommendation as to whether to consolidate Fraternity and Foundation funds.

Second by Bert J. Harris, III

Passed.

Audit Committee Charter—Grand Treasurer Bittman presented a proposal for the Board to adopt the charter for the Audit Committee. National Director Archer L. Yeatts, III, clarified that the ex officio members of the committee are to be non-voting members.

Motion by Archer L. Yeatts, III: To adopt the charter as clarified.

Second by Harris.

Passed.

The Grand Treasurer called on Executive Director Craig D. Templeton and Controller Julie R. Ross to report on progress of the annual audit. They reported progress on schedule for delivery of draft reports to the Audit Committee prior to Conclave.

The Grand Treasurer reviewed the preliminary financial statements for fiscal year's end.

The Grand Treasurer proposed the 2005-2006 Financial Plan indicating expenses of \$5,652,527, including almost \$700,000 in Grand Chapter Conclave expenses. Brother Bittman described it as a reasonably conservative plan.

Motion by Philip A. Cox: To approve the 2005-2006 Financial Plan as proposed.

Seconded by Garry C. Kief.

Passed.

III. Grand President's Report

Grand President James F. Robeson joined the call meeting at 1:45 p.m.

The Grand President proposed appointments to the Investment Committee.

Motion by Christopher L. Bittman: To confirm the Grand President's appointments of Phillip N. Maisano, Belmont Abbey College, 1969, to a one-year remaining term and Kurt T. Phares, University of Nebraska, 1979, to a two-year remaining term on the Fraternity's Investment Committee.

Seconded by Harris.

Passed.

National Housing Corporation President Harris and Grand President Robeson advised the Board of the National Housing Corporation's plan to expand the NHC Board of Trustees by one member and appoint two new Trustees, one to fill an expired term being vacated by Brother Arthur J. Hurt, III, Davidson, 1988, and an additional Trustee to a new term. Brother Yeatts pointed out that the NHC Bylaws require the NHC Trustees to amend its own Bylaws with regard to the number of Trustees.

Motion by Archer L. Yeatts, III: To confirm the Grand President's appointment of Murl R. Richardson, Texas A & M, 1976, to the NHC Trustees and the appointment of Timothy J. Harmon, Washington, 1982, contingent upon the NHC Trustees amending the Bylaws to allow an eighth Trustee.

Seconded by Harris.

Passed.

IV. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Craig D. Templeton reviewed performance on achieving the Headquarters staff's goals for the year. Brother Templeton reported that Christopher T. Minnis has been promoted to Director of Operations and John D. Weir to the expanded authority as Director of Real Estate. Brother Templeton reviewed goals set by the staff for the coming school year at its recent retreat.

Director of Chapter Services Christopher M. McCaw proposed discontinuation of the Alumni Advisory Council at Samford University, Alabama Gamma; continuing an Alumni Advisory Council at Pennsylvania State University, Pennsylvania Eta; and establishing an Alumni Advisory Council at Baldwin-Wallace College, Ohio Zeta.

Motion by Roger H. VanHoozer: To adopt the staff's recommendations for Alumni Advisory Councils.

Seconded by Kief.

Passed.

Motion by Harris: To adopt the staff's recommendations for chapters to be placed on, taken off or remain on notice to be closed as outlined on pages 39-41 (Appendix A) of the Board meeting book.

Seconded by Kief.

Passed.

Brother McCaw recommended the Board remove the charter from the chapter at Eastern Michigan University, Michigan Lambda. Brothers Robeson and Cox contributed discussion of their meeting with the chapter's representatives at the Carlson Leadership Academy.

Motion by Kief: To remove the charter of the Michigan Lambda Chapter at Eastern Michigan University, effective July 31, 2005.

Seconded by Harris.

Passed.

Brother McCaw recommended the Board remove the charter, effective immediately, from the chapter at Temple University, Pennsylvania Mu, for risk management and behavioral problems.

Motion by Yeatts: To remove the charter of the Pennsylvania Mu Chapter at Temple University.

Seconded by Kief.

Passed.

Brother Kief requested the staff provide records of chapter participation in Carlson Leadership Academy and Grand Chapter Conclaves in future recommendations of charter actions by the Board of Directors.

Brother Harris reported on NHC Limited Liability Companies currently operating seven chapter facilities, the NHC's Alumni Communications Program and fund-raising efforts and mortgage lending operations.

Director of Operations Christopher T. Minnis reported on plans and Board schedules for the upcoming Grand Chapter Conclave.

The Board discussed a proposal from Conclave Legislative Director Gene Schurg to:

1. Divide the Student Nominations Committee into two groups to allow initial interviews of a greater number of undergraduate candidates to select for final interviews by the combined committee prior to nomination.
2. Request the Student Nominations Committee submit a slate of at least six candidates for the three positions and allow no nominations from the legislative floor.
3. Increase publicity of the deadline for nominations/applications to the committee.
4. Résumés of candidates on the committee's slate be distributed for review and consideration by delegates prior to the final legislative session.

The general consensus of the Board was to provide these proposals to the Student Nominations Committee at its orientation for it to decide as it sees fit to the Grand Chapter to adopt any procedural changes to the nominating process. The Board declined to consider procedural changes to the nominating process.

Motion by VanHoozer: To propose Grand Chapter amendment of Article III of the Fraternity's Bylaws governing the powers and authorities of the National Board of Directors. (Appendix B)

Seconded by Cox.

Passed.

Motion by Cox: That the Board propose combining new member and brother fees into a single fee of \$295.

Seconded by Bittman.

Passed.

Brother VanHoozer advised that Grand Chapter adoption would require complete revenue and proposed expense data. The staff offered to assist Brothers Bittman, VanHoozer and Cox in preparing the Grand Treasurer's presentations of the fee legislation.

Motion by VanHoozer: That the Board propose increasing the minimum chapter GPA to 2.6 beginning in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Seconded by Yeatts.

Passed.

Motion by VanHoozer: That the Board propose increasing the minimum GPA required for individual membership in a chapter to 2.5.

Seconded by Yeatts.

Passed.

The Grand President introduced discussion of raising the Strategic Plan's goal for national member average GPA to 3.15. It was the consensus of the Board to await celebration of passing the existing 3.0 benchmark before considering "moving the bar" up.

Executive Session

The Board went into closed Executive Session to consider Conclave Awards and personnel matters.

Adjournment

The Grand President adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board will be at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 10, 2005, at the Nashville Renaissance Hotel at the 49th Grand Chapter Conclave.