

**Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity**  
**Meeting of the National Board of Directors**  
**Sept. 18, 2018**  
**Via conference call**

**National Directors in attendance:**

Christopher L. Bittman, Colorado '85	Grand President
Billy D. Maddalon, North Carolina State '90	Grand Secretary
Daniel W. McVeigh, Texas Wesleyan '90	Grand Treasurer
Charles E. Amato, Sam Houston State '70	National Director
Bruce W. Anderson, Texas-Austin '71	National Director
Thomas B. Jelke, Ph.D., Florida International '90	National Director
Garry C. Kief, Southern California '70	National Director
Bradley C. Nahrstadt, Monmouth '89	National Director
Victor K. Wilson, Georgia Renaissance	National Director
Kyle J. Clark, Loyola Marymount '18	Student Director
Jacob H. West, Missouri State '18	Student Director

**Headquarters staff in attendance:**

Brian C. Warren Jr., Virginia '04	Chief Executive Officer
Gary L. Huff, Central Arkansas '91	Chief Financial Officer
Paul Andersen, Northern Iowa '16	Sr. Chapter Services Director

**Call to Order**

*Grand President Christopher L. Bittman called the meeting to order on Sept. 18, 2018, at 4:00 p.m. Eastern time.*

**Campus Updates**

Before addressing the established agenda, Chief Executive Officer Warren provided three updates on campus situations with the potential to have national or system-wide implications.

Warren first addressed a developing situation at Yale University involving a student group challenging the single-sex status of fraternities on the Yale campus. The student group, Engender, has retained counsel and filed a complaint in the state of Connecticut against all Yale fraternities. The complaint has been shared with SigEp's insurance carrier so that counsel can be assigned. The NIC is engaged, and NIC CEO Jud Horras will address the situation during his presentation at the fall meeting in Boulder.

Warren moved on to provide an update on the West Virginia Beta Chapter at West Virginia University (WVU). After speaking with WVU President Gordon Gee and meeting with staff and volunteers, roughly 50 members walked back their decision to disaffiliate from SigEp. The staff is continuing to work with volunteers to ensure a West Virginia Beta Chapter continues with members committed to SigEp's expectation for all chapters. The staff will also remain in close contact with President Gee to strengthen our partnership as he works to improve the quality of the WVU Greek experience.

Lastly, Warren made the Board aware of two student deaths at the University of Minnesota and California State University-Northridge. Given recent attempts to reform Greek systems across the

country, Warren committed to making SigEp a contributing member to those reforms as they continue throughout the 2018–2019 academic year.

### **Cox Volunteer Institute**

Warren reminded the directors that SigEp has tested three years of Cox Volunteer Institute programming. He asked the directors to anticipate a report via email recommending pivots to the program to make the Cox Institute a more impactful experience to volunteers.

### **Board Governance**

Warren informed the directors that Dr. Amy Hecht of FSU accepted the invitation to join SigEp's National Board of Directors and that he will be working to schedule an orientation conversation and get future meetings on her calendar.

### **Fiscal Year 2018 Financial Statements**

Chief Financial Officer Gary Huff presented 2018 fiscal year-end financial statements for the Fraternity, Foundation and Lead Fund. He noted that the line items align with the audit reports and that the accounting team has completed its work of automating financial reports. This accomplishment will allow the accounting staff to provide timely and accurate financial statements to the Finance Committee and National Board of Directors.

Huff went on to share that the Fraternity and Foundation both ran surpluses. The Lead Fund's deficit was due to Conclave, which continues to run at a significant loss. The staff committed to following up with Grand Treasurer McVeigh to discuss registration fees for future Conclaves and build a financial model that moves to program close to break-even.

### **Chapter Situations**

Senior Chapter Services Director Paul Andersen provided an update on the New Hampshire Alpha Chapter, highlighting the chapter's recent sanctions from Dartmouth College and the staff's subsequent conversations with the college's administration. Given the chapter's history of risky behavior and unwillingness to adjust its operations or implement any system of accountability, the staff recommended the national directors withdraw the New Hampshire Alpha charter.

*Director Garry C. Kief moved the Board to withdraw the New Hampshire Alpha charter and to require an asset protection agreement be executed before limited staff resources are dedicated to reestablishing the chapter.*

*Director Billy D. Maddalon seconded the motion.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

Andersen moved on and provided a summary of Connecticut Epsilon's suspension by the Quinnipiac University administration. The staff recommended that the Board mirror the university's decision and suspend the chapter's charter for two years.

*Director Kief moved the Board to suspend the Connecticut Epsilon charter for a two-year period.*

*Director Victor Wilson seconded the motion.*

After further discussion, Director Jelke requested that the issue be tabled for further discussion at the fall meeting. Grand President Bittman agreed to table the motion so that a longer, in-person conversation can occur in Boulder, Colorado.

### **Appeal**

Andersen reviewed the standards board situation at the Alabama Beta Chapter at the University of Alabama involving Logan Davis.

*Director Charles E. Amato moved the Board to overturn the expulsion decision and remand the decision back to the chapter's standards board.*

*Director Kief seconded the motion.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **Adjournment**

Chief Executive Officer Warren reminded the directors of the upcoming meeting in Boulder, Colorado, on October 5 and 6. He thanked Grand President Bittman for hosting everyone and committed to sharing an updated agenda via email.

*Grand President Bittman adjourned the meeting at 5:04 p.m. Eastern time.*