



## **Resolution 2 Removing the Phi Challenge**

### **WHEREAS**

The Sigma Phi Epsilon single mission of “Building Balanced Men” relies on true alignment with all facets of our organizational operations, membership development, recruiting, and Ritual Rites of Passage to enable members to fully understand the expectations value the experience; and

### **WHEREAS**

The Balanced Man Program and the Ritual together form the basis of our fraternal learning experience using single tier membership which is strengthened by the philosophical tenets of (1) Living the Ritual, (2) Continuous Development (3) Mentoring, (4) Equal Rights and Responsibilities and (5) Accountability; and WHEREAS All chapters are Balanced Man Program chapters with no Traditional Pledge Model chapters remaining; and

### **WHEREAS**

Member Development without lapsing is a requisite component of any member continuing as a member in good standing; and

### **WHEREAS**

Current Sigma and Phi Rites of Passage which originated during the early development of the Balance Man Program in 1992 to add encouragement to proceed in the absence of a Lapsing provision still create tiered levels of membership; and

### **WHEREAS**

The most powerful and long lasting of any Rites of Passage remains the Epsilon Rite of Passage where members are provided the true meaning of our Sigma Phi Epsilon; and

### **WHEREAS**

The individual areas of development of SigEp, Intellectual, Physical Health & Wellness, Leadership and Professional remain the important factors in the continuous development experience and the current focus time frames of (1) Sigma Challenge: Adjust and acclimate to the chapter, campus and community (2) Phi Challenge: Growing and developing as a balanced man (3) Epsilon Challenge: Leading and serving as a balanced man (4) Brother Mentor Challenge: Preparing yourself and your chapter for the future, are inconsistent in timing with how college students individually develop; and

**WHEREAS**

The current Member Development Programming Guide has a schedule in which some members do not experience the Epsilon Rite of Passage until their 2nd year in the Sigma Phi Epsilon thereby creating inconsistency in Equal Rights by not understanding the true meaning of our Fraternity until that time; and

**WHEREAS**

The current format has not eliminated hazing in our chapters, including hazing during some local rituals which are primarily targeted toward newer members and this delayed access to true and full membership is the element that creates an ongoing opportunity for hazing to occur while a reduced timeframe to gain full membership will reduce this hazing opportunity; and

**WHEREAS**

The token and sign remain fraternal link of all ages and Alumnus members have difficulty understanding member status and understanding whether they can share the token and sign further demonstrating inconsistency in Equal Rights and Tiered Membership; and

**WHEREAS**

The delay of Epsilon Rite of Passage Ritual experience and the existing Tiered Membership designation as Sigma Challenge and New Member creates and opportunity for chapters to utilize “traditional local” rituals that are inconsistent with Sigma Phi Epsilon values and beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**

The delayed experience of the Epsilon Rite of Passage inherently delays and/or minimizes the exposure to the Tenet “Living the Ritual” and additional exposure to the Epsilon Rite of Passage by participating and viewing several time allows a member to engage deeper in this meaning with himself and his brothers; and

**WHEREAS**

Sigma Challenge, Phi Challenge, Epsilon Challenge and Brother Mentor Challenge still allows a perpetuation of multiple tiers of membership; therefore be it

**RESOLVED**

That the reference to any individual tiers via “Challenges” shall be eliminated from the BMP, BMP Programming Guide and the BMP App and the BMP/BMP app elements will be referred to by the specific Areas of Development (SigEp,

Intellectual, Physical Health & Wellness, Leadership and Professional) or as simply as Continuous Development; and be it

**RESOLVED**

That the Headquarters Staff will work to remove the Phi Rite of Passage and re-evaluate or reconstruct or reaffirm the Sigma Rite of Passage for relevance; and be it **RESOLVED** That headquarters staff shall take any additional actions necessary to implement this realignment with the philosophical tenets while maintaining a strong Balanced Man Program; and be it

**RESOLVED**

That each chapter shall be required to conduct the Epsilon Rite of Passage for all new members not later than four weeks following registration as a member to provide additional support of Equal Rights and Living the Ritual; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**

That all members initiated prior to this Conclave who have not experienced the Epsilon Rite of Passage shall experience the Epsilon Rite of Passage as soon as practical and not later than September 15, 2019.

Committee: Ritual Committee  
Committee Recommends: TBD  
Grand Chapter Action: TBD

Jon Eramian, Chairman, Ritual Committee