

Resolution #GCC21-23

Exploring Gender Inclusivity

WHEREAS

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP of the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Bylaws states that “Eligibility for membership shall not, in any way, be affected or determined by race, color, religion, age, physical disability, ethnic background, sexual orientation, creed, or national origin.”; and

WHEREAS

ARTICLE II – MEMBERSHIP of the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Bylaws continues that “Limitation of membership to a small, selective group of men, and the exclusion of women from membership is deemed to be consistent with the purposes for which the Fraternity was founded and Article I hereof.”; and

WHEREAS

ARTICLE V – CHAPTERS, CHARTERS, AND AVCs under UNDERGRADUATE CHAPTER OPERATING PROVISIONS states that “No chapter may create, recognize, or support a women-only auxiliary group or program that is associated with said chapter.” ; and

WHEREAS

ARTICLE IX – AMENDMENTS: SECTION 4 under SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE states that “No member or chapter shall engage in, tolerate or condone any form of sexist or sexually abusive behavior, be it physical, mental, or emotional in nature. This includes any actions that are demeaning to women or men including, but not limited to verbal or physical harassment and sexual assault by individuals or members acting together.”; and

WHEREAS

The language in Sigma Phi Epsilon’s national bylaws and other documents treats gender as binary, when we live in a world with increasing awareness that gender is not always binary; and

WHEREAS

Sigma Phi Epsilon membership is currently inclusive to all who identify as male; and

WHEREAS

There is limited space in Greek communities across the country for non-binary individuals to engage; and

WHEREAS

Sigma Phi Epsilon must consider that the future of Greek organizations in the United States may be gender inclusive, which could also expand the recruitment pool; and be it

RESOLVED

That ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES: SECTION 4 — RISK MANAGEMENT POLICIES OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY, under SEXUAL ASSAULT AND ABUSE shall be revised: “No member or chapter shall engage in, tolerate or condone any form of sexist or sexually abusive behavior, be it physical, mental, or emotional in nature. This includes any actions that are demeaning to any ~~women or man~~ *person* including, but not limited to verbal or physical harassment and sexual assault by individuals or members acting together.”; and be it

RESOLVED

That the National Board of Directors will assign the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, to evaluate and review all issues of gender throughout the structure of Sigma Phi Epsilon; and be it

RESOLVED

The findings and recommendations from this committee will be presented as a report prior to the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave.

Committee: Resolutions Purple Committee
Committee Recommends: Pass as amended
Grand Chapter Action: Pass as amended

Ian Pitt, Chairman, Resolutions Purple Committee
57th Grand Chapter Conclave - Denver, Colorado - July 28 - 31, 2021