

## **Resolution #GCC21-3 Provisional Guidance on Streamlining Ritual Performance**

### **WHEREAS**

The Ritual represents the common beliefs of Sigma Phi Epsilon's membership; and

### **WHEREAS**

The current structure of Sigma Phi Epsilon's Ritual Rites of Passage can create resource and logistical challenges for Chapters; and

### **WHEREAS**

The Ritual Task Force, in an accompanying resolution, recommends the Grand Chapter undertake reconstruction of the *Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon* to be presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter; and

### **WHEREAS**

The Fraternity experience would benefit from various modifications to the current Ritual before a long-term revision could be prepared and approved; and

### **WHEREAS**

Article II, Section 16, of the Grand Chapter Bylaws prescribe that "Each member shall experience the ritual rites of passage in the manner and form prescribed in the *Ritual*;" and

### **WHEREAS**

The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon directs not only what is said and done but which Chapter officers are to perform which roles; and

### **WHEREAS**

Executing Ritual ceremonies should be as easy as possible to encourage its regular performance and understanding without substantially impacting its meaning and nature; therefore, be it

### **RESOLVED**

That Article II, Section 16, of the Grand Chapter Bylaws be amended to read as follows (~~strikethrough~~ indicates removal of text; *italics* indicates new text):

~~**Section 16.** Each member shall experience the ritual rites of passage in the manner and form prescribed in the *Ritual*.~~

**Section 16.** *Each member shall experience the ritual Rites of Passage in the manner and form prescribed in the The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon with the following exceptions, which may be used at the Chaplain's discretion:*

*(a) Multiple Ritual teams from the same chapter may be used so more than one ceremony may be performed at one time.*

*(b) Any member of a chapter who has passed through a given Rite of Passage may help officiate at the performance of that or of any preceding Rite of Passage.*

*(c) The Interpretations of Rites of Passage may be done at a different time and place from the associated Rite of Passage.*

*(d) Interpretations may be done virtually as long as they are done “live” and not recorded using the prescribed Ritual equipment and maintain appropriate decorum.*

*(e) A chapter may take two or more candidates simultaneously through the Phi Rite of Passage.*

*(f) A chapter may conduct the Brother Mentor Rite of Passage as a group ceremony.*

**FURTHER RESOLVED**

That, with passage of this Resolution, members of the next Ritual Task Force are tasked with creating the specific instructions for executing the interim changes contained in the other sections of this Resolution by October 15, 2021, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**

That the Ritual Task Force’s instructions for executing these interim changes shall include, but shall not be limited to, specifying the maximum time period following a Rite of Passage during which a chapter shall perform the associated Interpretation; and be it

**FINALLY RESOLVED**

That the guidance in this resolution is not effective until the release of the specific implementation wording from the Ritual Task Force or the Headquarters staff.

Committee: Ritual Committee  
Committee Recommends: Pass as amended  
Grand Chapter Action: Pass

Nick Amaro, Chairman, Ritual Committee  
57<sup>th</sup> Grand Chapter Conclave – Denver CO – July 28 – 31, 2021