

## **Resolution # GCC21-6**

### **Create Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee**

#### **WHEREAS**

Sigma Phi Epsilon consists of three primary operating constituencies – the national Fraternity, undergraduate chapters, and alumni volunteers, coaches and mentors who provide advice and counsel to undergraduate chapters – all working together cooperatively to promote and foster the ideals and principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon; and

#### **WHEREAS**

Sigma Phi Epsilon has long recognized the value of of alumni and volunteer mentors, coaches and experts and their contribution to the long-term success of undergraduate chapters and the National Fraternity; and

#### **WHEREAS**

A long-standing principle of Sigma Phi Epsilon, as reflected by the philosophy of past Grand President Philip Cox, is that behind every great chapter is a committed and engaged group of volunteers; and

#### **WHEREAS**

In light of the importance of Sigma Phi Epsilon's alumni and volunteers to fulfillment of the Fraternity's mission, it is imperative that the national Fraternity commit resources, training and support for its alumni and volunteers in order to create and sustain an effective corps of alumni and volunteers not only for the support of the Fraternity's undergraduate chapters but to harness the education, expertise and experience of its alumni and volunteers for the general betterment of the Fraternity; and

#### **WHEREAS**

More than 2,500 alumni and volunteers currently serve Sigma Phi Epsilon in formal roles, including as members of the National Board of Directors, District Governors, Alumni and Volunteer Corporation officers and directors and at-large AVC members, coaches and mentors to undergraduate members, as faculty for the Fraternity's leadership and development programs, as faculty fellows and content providers in SigEp Learning Communities and in other support roles; and

#### **WHEREAS**

Sigma Phi Epsilon's Headquarters staff necessarily has limited financial resources which sets limits on the size of its professional staff and its ability to invest financially in other resources; and

**WHEREAS**

For most of the last several decades, Sigma Phi Epsilon’s Headquarters staff has only as one full-time professional staff person committed exclusively to volunteer training and support; and

**WHEREAS**

As restructured for the 2021-2022 academic year, the Fraternity’s Chapter Services staff will expand to four Chapter and Volunteer Services Directors who will assume the “point-of-contact” responsibilities of the Volunteer Services Director, but still remain responsible for direct undergraduate chapter support thereby necessarily limiting the amount of time they can commit to developing volunteer training and support; and

**WHEREAS**

Sigma Phi Epsilon has available to it a vast supply of alumni and volunteers with experience and expertise in relevant disciplines (including but not limited to higher education, personnel development, success coaching, mentoring, and substantial direct experience working with and as alumni and volunteers, etc.) to supplement the Fraternity’s professional staff and assist them in developing volunteer-related training and support and other initiatives, such as the Philip A. Cox Institute; and

**WHEREAS**

It is common practice for the Fraternity to harness the experience of alumni and volunteers to provide counsel and guidance to Fraternity initiatives and the Headquarters staff implementing such initiatives; and

**WHEREAS**

Sigma Phi Epsilon during Covid has actively examined and/or reimaged nearly every aspect of Fraternity operations, except ongoing alumni and volunteer support; and

**WHEREAS**

The national Fraternity currently has several committees devoted to many aspects of Fraternity operations, except alumni and volunteer support, to supplement and advise the National Board of Directors and the Headquarters staff, including but not limited to the Fundraising Committee, Growth Committee, District Governor Committee, Ritual Task Force, Tragos Quest to Greece Steering Committee, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, SigEp Learning Community Committee and Mental Health Task Force, in addition to many other advisory bodies previously created either through legislation or by appointment of the Grand President or the National Board of Directors; and therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**

That the Article IV of the Grand Chapter Bylaws, be amended to read as follows (~~strike through~~ indicates removal of text; *italics* indicates new text, paragraphs will be renumbered as necessary):

*Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee*

*Section 64. The Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee shall be a standing committee of the Grand Chapter.*

*Section 65. The purpose of the Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee shall be to evaluate alumni- and volunteer-related issues on an ongoing basis in coordination with and make recommendations to the Fraternity's National Board of Directors and chief executive officer, as appropriate, to promote the creation, maintenance and support of a sustainable system of diversified and engaged volunteers and related AVC organizations to provide ongoing mentoring, support and advice to the Fraternity's undergraduate chapters, with a particular focus on alumni and volunteer recruitment and placement, training, ongoing support, curriculum design and development, mentoring, modalities for evaluating volunteer engagement and performance, and Alumni and Volunteer Corporation related matters.*

*Section 66. The National Board of Directors shall appoint a chairman at each Conclave. The chairman shall serve a two-year term at the pleasure of the National Board of Directors and be eligible to serve multiple terms.*

*Section 67. The Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee shall consist of up to 12 members appointed by the National Board of Directors to serve at the pleasure of the National Board of Directors for two-year terms. Committee members are eligible to serve multiple terms.*

*Section 68. The Alumni and Volunteer Advisory Committee be vested with the power to create such subcommittees as the chairs or the committee shall determine to be necessary to fulfill the committee's mandate.*

(note: Amended by original submitter)

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|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| Committee:            | Resolutions Purple Committee |
| Committee Recommends: | No Action                    |
| Grand Chapter Action: | No Action                    |

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