

Resolution GCC23-7

Access to Ritual Task Force Proposals During Grand Chapter Conclave

WHEREAS

In 2019, the 56th Grand Chapter charged the Ritual Task Force with considering whether “the Ritual should, as a whole or in part, be reevaluated, reconstructed or reaffirmed;” and

WHEREAS

In 2021, the Ritual Task Force presented a framework for restructuring the Ritual to the 57th Grand Chapter to resolve long-standing issues with the Ritual; and

WHEREAS

The 57th Grand Chapter adopted the Ritual Task Force’s framework and charged the Task Force to draft a revised Ritual and Guide in accord with that framework for presentation to the 58th Grand Chapter in 2023; and

WHEREAS

The Ritual Task Force has completed drafts of a revised Ritual and intends to present these drafts for the 58th Grand Chapter’s consideration; and

WHEREAS

The Ritual Task Force highly desires that the Grand Chapter’s voting members review the proposed revisions to **The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon** before voting on them; and

WHEREAS

The security of the Ritual should be maintained during these reviews; and

WHEREAS

The proposed revisions to the Ritual include ceremonies similar to the current Epsilon and Brother Mentor Rites of Passage; and

WHEREAS

Longstanding confusion about Ritual secrecy might cause Grand Chapter delegates and alternates to believe that they are not eligible examine the proposed drafts; and

WHEREAS

Equal Rights and Responsibilities is a philosophical tenant of the Balanced Man Program, the cornerstone of the SigEp experience; and

WHEREAS

The Ritual prohibits revealing “secrets of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity” “to anyone not eligible to receive them,” but neither provides a list of what is “secret” nor defines “eligibility;” and

WHEREAS

On May 22, 2020, the National Board of Directors approved interpretive guidance on what information is a fraternity “secret” and who is “eligible to receive” these secrets; and

WHEREAS

The 58th Grand Chapter deems it necessary and beneficial to temporarily modify the Board’s interpretive guidance so that all delegates and alternates can examine the Ritual Task Force’s proposed revisions; therefore, be it

RESOLVED

That, for the duration of the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave, all delegates and alternates are eligible to receive any information contained in the Ritual Task Force’s proposed revisions to the Ritual and Guide; and be it

RESOLVED

That a reading room be established in the Ritual Committee’s meeting room, in which National Directors, District Governors, and all chapter delegates and alternates may inspect the Ritual Task Force’s proposed revisions to the Ritual; and be it

RESOLVED

That members of the Ritual Task Force and Headquarters staff shall restrict access to the reading room and to the printed copies of the Task Force’s drafts using a sign-in and sign-out process, such that only National Directors, District Governors, chapter delegates and alternates, and Ritual Task Force members are eligible to see the proposed Ritual draft; and be it

RESOLVED

That no copies of the Task Force’s Ritual drafts shall leave the reading room, and all printed copies of the drafts shall be destroyed at the end of the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave.

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

Samuel Kolar, Chairman, Ritual Committee
58th Grand Chapter Conclave – San Antonio, TX – August 2-6, 2023