

Resolution GCC23-21

Adopt the Revisions to The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon

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” to address several issues; and

WHEREAS

From 2019 to 2021, the Ritual Task Force thoughtfully and deliberately considered this charge and submitted a detailed report to 2021 Grand Chapter Conclave; and

WHEREAS

In that 2021 report, the Ritual Task Force agreed with the judgment of the 56th Grand Chapter, identifying numerous issues with the current Ritual, including an incompatibility the principles of Equal Rights & Responsibilities, unnecessary redundancy, ineffective Ritual study, and burdensome time and manpower requirements; and

WHEREAS

As a result, the Ritual Task Force recommended that the current Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon be reconstructed in accordance with the principles outlined in the 2021 report; and

WHEREAS

The 57th Grand Chapter Conclave adopted the recommendations in the Ritual Task Force’s 2021 report and charged the Task Force to draft a reconstructed Ritual by the 58th Grand Chapter Conclave in accordance with the 2021 report; and

WHEREAS

Over the past two years, the Ritual Task Force’s committee on Ritual Restructuring, half of whom are undergraduates or alumni who graduated within the past three years, has completed drafts of a reconstructed Ritual according to the specifications of the 57th Grand Chapter Conclave; and

WHEREAS

In accordance with the 57th Grand Chapter Conclave’s charge, the Ritual Task Force has solicited and implemented feedback from alumni and undergraduate members, including at District Governor calls, Carlson Leadership Academies, Undergraduate Advisor Council meetings, Chapter Presidents, National Board meetings, and Zoom seminars; therefore, be it

RESOLVED

That the revised edition of **The Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon** submitted to the Ritual Committee at this Conclave be adopted as the official Ritual of Sigma Phi Epsilon, effective no earlier than August 1, 2024; and be it

RESOLVED

That should any nonmaterial edits be required between the approval of this resolution and the publication of the revised **Ritual and Guide of Sigma Phi Epsilon**, the National Board of Directors is authorized to approve these final edits on behalf of the Grand Chapter; and be it

RESOLVED

That Headquarters staff make necessary adjustments to the SigEp Store and New Member logistics to conform with the changes made in the Ritual, such as the inclusion of the Founders Badge in the New Member Kit; and be it

RESOLVED

That the Ritual Task Force be continued for another two years; and be it

RESOLVED

That the Task Force, with the assistance of the Headquarters staff, be charged with implementing the revised Ritual, publishing the revised Ritual, and developing implementation guidance for chapters; and be it

RESOLVED

That this guidance include the following items identified by the Grand Chapter as vital for successful implementation:

- ❖ A timeline for when the Rite of Brotherhood should be performed on new members to both ensure single-tiered membership and sufficient time for ritual education for new members
- ❖ Ritual education for new members to ensure no attrition results from improper or insufficient preparation for the Rite of Brotherhood
- ❖ Flexible implementation guidance for chapters with variable sizes and campus recruitment restrictions
- ❖ Communication of specific requirements for ritual exposure that ensure the value of the ritual experience is not diminished
- ❖ Proper classification of public Phi, Epsilon, and Brother Mentor celebrations in relation to the Balanced Man Program
- ❖ Training for Headquarters Staff and direction on how Headquarters Staff shall train undergraduate chapters, and fraternity officials (e.g. Chapter Counselors), on implementation, and be it finally

RESOLVED

That the **Grand Chapter Bylaws and Administrative Policies and Procedures**, Article III Section 14 be amended as follows (~~strike through~~ indicates removal of text; *italics* indicates new text):

Section 14: Questions presented to the Grand Chapter shall be decided by a majority vote, a quorum being present, except the following, which shall be decided by a two-thirds vote:

- (a) Questions involving the expenditure of money for which provision is not specifically made; and
- (b) The removal of or the infliction of punishment upon a member of the National Board of Directors; and
- (c) Changes ~~in the Ritual~~ to *The Ritual Rite of Brotherhood of Sigma Phi Epsilon of the Fraternity*; and
- (d) Those required in Robert's Rules of Order.

Committee: Ritual Committee
Committee Recommends: Pass as Amended
Grand Chapter Action: TBD

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