



OMEGA PHI ALPHA

Legislative Consent Agenda

Convention 2024

Approved by Legislation Committee

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Overview

This is a consent agenda, which means the proposals herein will be considered and voted on as a collective group without discussion. The Legislation Committee considers these amendments low-impact, and mostly administrative in nature to reflect current terminology and practice.

However, because the constitution and bylaws require different proportions of affirmative votes cast to be ratified, the consent agenda will be considered in 2 phases. 1 agenda will be considered for constitutional amendments and 1 agenda will be considered for bylaws amendments.

All revisions to the national constitution and bylaws will take effect upon the final adjournment of Convention.

Proposed Constitutional Amendments

Constitutional Consent Proposal #1

Author:

Alyssa Bernhardt (Alpha Zeta)

Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article III, Section 6

This section currently reads as follows:

- Section 6. An active member may be granted a one-semester leave of absence upon approval of the Chapter Standards Board. This status reflects a temporary condition that prohibits the active member from meeting active member requirements.
- Clause 1. An active member whose course of study removes them from the main campus will automatically be granted leave of absence status from the Chapter Standards Board.
 - Clause 2. The Chapter Standards Board may grant a member an emergency leave of absence for the remainder of the term at any point during the semester. This status does not relieve the member from financial obligations owed to the chapter prior to the emergency leave of absence being granted.
 - Clause 3. The local chapter will not place any requirements on any member who is on a leave of absence.

The proposed amendment:

- Section 6. An active member may be granted a one-semester leave of absence upon approval of the Chapter Standards Board. This status reflects a temporary condition that prohibits the active member from meeting active member requirements.
- Clause 1. An active member whose course of study removes them from the main campus will automatically be granted leave of absence status from the Chapter Standards Board. This applies in the event of a consecutive LOA semester or a third LOA request.
 - Clause 2. The Chapter Standards Board may grant a member an emergency leave of absence for the remainder of the term at any point during the semester. This status does not relieve the member from financial obligations owed to the chapter prior to the emergency leave of absence being granted.
 - Clause 3. The Chapter Standards Board may grant a member a leave of absence in the event that the member is placed on academic probation by the university or the member's GPA no longer meets the minimum requirements of the chapter. This can be granted one time per member. This applies even in the event of a consecutive LOA semester or third LOA request.
 - Clause 4. The local chapter will not place any requirements on any member who is on a leave of absence.

What is the rationale behind this amendment?

When chapters encounter a situation where a member is on academic probation or does not meet the minimum requirements of the chapter, there is no clear guidance on next steps. The purpose of this addition is to clarify that an LOA semester should be provided to members who are on academic probation.

Constitutional Consent Proposal #2

Author:

Board of Directors

Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article III, Section 7, Clause 1, Point E

This section currently reads as follows:

E. Violating national policies as stated in Article III of the national constitution.

The proposed amendment:

E. Violation of any national policy upon review of the National Standards Board.

What is the rationale behind this amendment?

In 2022, we passed legislation to remove Article III in its entirety from the National Constitution moving all policies to live in separate documents on OPAportal available to all members.

This clause references the removed article and was overlooked. It should be updated since national policies are no longer in the Constitution, and potential violations will be reviewed by the National Standards Board.

Proposed Bylaws Amendments

Bylaws Consent Proposal #1

Author:

Jenna Zielinski (Omega)

Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article VII, Section 1

This section currently reads as follows:

- Section 1. Every chapter must adhere to the following national rules regarding new membership:
- Clause 1. Each new member must be in good standing with the university.
 - Clause 2. There will be a pinning ceremony for new member induction and activation. The local chapter will determine when new members should wear their pins.
 - Clause 3. New member pins or ribbons are to be worn above the heart on all suitable attire as determined by the local chapter. New members should not wear their pins in any situations that conflict with the national drug and alcohol policy. Disciplinary actions are not to be taken by local chapters in consequence to new member pins and their wear.
 - Clause 4. Every new member is required to have a new member book that includes national new member material. The local chapters will decide when they should carry it and how it is made.
 - Clause 5. Each chapter must make a mid-year recruitment check and report the progress of each new member. New members should have one-half of their local requirements completed at this time and reminders of deficiencies should be made.
 - Clause 6. New members must attend at least one active meeting per new member period as designated by the chapter in order to provide better relationships between actives and new members.
 - Clause 7. Upon activation, the new member class will present a gift to their chapter.
 - Clause 8. Each new member class will select an outstanding new member who will be recognized as established by the local chapter.
 - Clause 9. Any new member not adhering to the standards of Omega Phi Alpha is to be brought before all available members of the chapter's executive board for review. If the board feels the reasons given warrant investigation, then it should take place at the next active meeting.
 - A. All meetings, reviews, and/or investigations should be well documented.
 - B. This documented information should include written confirmation that any new member in question was made aware of her infractions and their consequences.
 - C. Signatures of the chapter president, membership officer, and new member should be included in the documentation.
 - D. If new members have been duly notified and choose not to attend or provide an alternate time for said meeting, notation of this should be included in the documentation and signed by the chapter president and membership officer.
 - Clause 10. A new member will be dropped from the recruitment process if attendance is not in accordance with local regulations. An excuse in writing should be given to the new member educator or other stipulated person for any meeting missed.
 - Clause 11. New member activation outfits are to be all white with no jewelry worn except the new member pins.
 - Clause 12. At least one big sister/little sister function is to take place before the end of the recruitment period. To qualify as a function for credit, the function must be attended by at least 75 percent of the big sisters and 75 percent of the little sisters.

- Clause 13. At least one new member/active function is to take place before the end of the new membership period. To qualify as a function for credit, the function must be attended by at least 75 percent of the new member class and half of the active chapter.
- Clause 14. Each new member class is required to participate in a new member-planned project in each of the following areas of service: university community, community at large, members of the sorority, and nations of the world. In order for each project to count, 75 percent of the new member class is required.
- Clause 15. Each new member must individually participate in 75 percent of the new member class required projects.
 - A. Each new member must complete a minimum of 10 service hours during the new member process.
- Clause 16. Each new member class is encouraged to participate in one active planned President's Project and one active-planned Permanent Project.
- Clause 17. Each new member class is required to plan and carry out a fundraising project to raise money for their activities. At least 75 percent of the entire new member class must participate.
- Clause 18. All new members must complete their local and national requirements.
- Clause 19. All new members must complete OPA 101 with an overall quiz average of 85 percent by the end of the new member period. New members may retake quizzes to meet this requirement. All new members must pass the national new member test with a score of 85 percent.
- Clause 20. A new member may retake one section of the national new member test in order to improve their score. If retaking the one section does not improve the score to an 85 percent or higher, they will be dropped from the new membership.
- Clause 21. All new members must pay a new member fee and an activation fee as determined by the local and national organization.

The proposed amendment:

- Section 1. Every chapter must adhere to the following national rules regarding new membership:
 - Clause 1. Each new member must be in good standing with the university.
 - Clause 2. There will be a pinning ceremony for new member initiation and activation. The local chapter will determine when new members should wear their pins.
 - Clause 3. New member pins or ribbons are to be worn above the heart on all suitable attire as determined by the local chapter. New members should not wear their pins in any situations that conflict with the national drug and alcohol policy. Disciplinary actions are not to be taken by local chapters in consequence to new member pins and their wear.
 - Clause 4. All new members must participate in a new member retreat.
 - Clause 5. Each chapter must make a mid-semester new member process check and report the progress of each new member. New members should have one-half of their local requirements completed at this time and reminders of deficiencies should be made.
 - Clause 6. New members must attend at least one active member chapter meeting per new member period as designated by the chapter in order to provide better relationships between actives and new members.
 - Clause 7. Upon activation, the new member class will present a gift to their chapter.
 - Clause 8. Any new member not adhering to the standards of Omega Phi Alpha is to be brought before the chapter standards board for review. If the board feels the reasons given warrant investigation, then the new member should be called for a hearing with the chapter standards board. The chapter president and membership director should be present.
 - A. All meetings, reviews, and/or investigations should be well documented.

- B. This documented information should include written confirmation that any new member in question was made aware of their infractions and the consequences.
 - C. If the new member has been duly notified and chooses not to attend or provide an alternate time for said meeting, notation of this should be included in the documentation and may lead to the new member being immediately dropped from the new member process.
- Clause 9. A new member will be dropped from the new member process if attendance is not in accordance with local regulations. An excuse in writing should be given to the membership director or other stipulated person for any meeting missed.
- Clause 10. New member activation outfits are to be all white with no jewelry worn except the new member pins.
- Clause 11. At least one big sister/little sister function is to take place before the end of the recruitment period. To qualify as a function for credit, the function must be attended by at least 75 percent of active members and 75 percent of new members.
- Clause 12. At least one new member/active function is to take place before the end of the new membership period. To qualify as a function for credit, the function must be attended by at least 75 percent of the new member class and half of the active chapter.
- Clause 13. Each new member class is required to participate in a new member-planned project in each of the following areas of service: university community, community at large, members of the sorority, and nations of the world. In order for each project to count, 75 percent of the new member class is required to participate.
- Clause 14. Each new member must complete a minimum of 10 service hours during the new member process before activation.
- Clause 15. Each new member class is required to participate in one service project planned by the active chapter.
- Clause 16. Each new member class is encouraged to participate in one active planned President's Project and one active-planned Permanent Project.
- Clause 17. Each new member class is required to plan and carry out a fundraising project to raise money for their activities. All new members are required to participate in the new member fundraiser.
- Clause 18. All new members must complete all local and national requirements at least one week prior to activation.
- Clause 19. All new members must complete OPhiA 101 with an overall quiz average of 85 percent by the end of the new member period. New members may retake quizzes to meet this requirement. All new members must pass the national new member test with a score of 85 percent.
- A. OPhiA 101 must be conducted in the platform mandated by the national organization.
- Clause 20. A new member may retake one section of the national new member test in order to improve their score. If retaking the one section does not improve the score to an 85 percent or higher, they will be dropped from the new membership.
- Clause 21. All new members must pay all dues and fees as determined by the local and national organization.

What is the rationale behind this amendment?

A lot of the new member requirements and information we have listed in the by-laws currently are outdated and not aligned with what our chapters are currently completing.

The Chapter Health Team has also experienced chapters not having their new members meet all of the requirements and still becoming active members. It is important to streamline the process for consistency across all chapters and to make

the process for new members seamless as they transition into life as an active member. The goal is for the new member process to mimic life as an active member as much as possible. This will set up everyone for success.

Some wording was updated and fixed for clarity.