



# OMEGA PHI ALPHA

## **Legislative Agenda for Discussion** Convention 2022

**Approved by Legislation Committee**

April Carroll, Chair

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## Overview

This document provides detail on all proposed amendments to our national constitution and bylaws. It is important that voting delegates discuss these amendments with fellow members.

These proposed amendments are quite substantive. This means that during Convention, each amendment will be separately considered, discussed, and voted on.

It is important to note that ratification of amendments to:

- the national **constitution** requires an **affirmative vote of three-fourths** of the ballots cast by voting delegates.
- the national **bylaws** require an **affirmative vote of two-thirds** of the ballots cast by voting delegates.

All ratified amendments to the national constitution and bylaws take effect upon the final adjournment of Convention.

# Proposed Constitutional Amendments

## Constitutional Proposal #1

### Author:

Emilee Girard

### Which portion of the document would be amended?

Any article, section, clause, and point of the constitution where members of Omega Phi Alpha are referred to as “sisters”, “sisters”, and “sisterhood”.

### This section currently reads as follows:

In any articles, sections, or subsections where the term “sister”, “sisters”, or “sisterhood” is used.

### The proposed amendment:

Change sister to sibling, sisters to siblings.

Change sisterhood to friendship (i.e., sisterhood director would become friendship director).

### What is the rationale behind this amendment?

I understand this is a large task to change due to its relevance in our history, rules, and regulations, as well as our songs and merchandise, but I believe the hard work to make an amazing organization more inclusive is worth all of the work to make such change. To refer to members of OPA as “siblings” provides a gender-neutral way of speaking within your chapter. It has been proven time and time again that by referring to someone as their preferred pronouns, this decreases suicide rates substantially. By using gender-neutral terms, we are allowing our chapters to grow and expand to be inclusive of all gender expressions. This means more love, more service, more friendships, and stronger families. I believe the term “siblings” also promotes the ideas and values that surround family. Within society, family is seen as a collective unit that through thick-and-thin stick together in order to be each other’s support and love always. This is personally how I view the Alpha Kappa chapter of OPA at the University of Kansas. OPA is my family, my fellow bees are my siblings, a term I feel as a much deeper feeling and understanding than sister.

# Proposed Bylaws Amendments

## Bylaws Proposal #1

### Author:

Emilee Girard

### Which portion of the document would be amended?

Any article, section, clause, and point of the constitution where members of Omega Phi Alpha are referred to as “sisters”, “sisters”, and “sisterhood”.

### This section currently reads as follows:

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### The proposed amendment:

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## Bylaws Proposal #2

### Author:

Juanita Wade

### Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article III, Section 3, Clause 3

### This section currently reads as follows:

A member may have up to two chapter granted leave of absence terms. After two leave of absence terms, a sister must petition the National Standards Board by contacting the National Standards Board chair for any additional leave of absence terms. All petitions must be filed by September 15 for the fall semester and February 15 for the spring semester.

### The proposed amendment:

A member may have up to two non-consecutive chapter granted leave of absence terms. After two leave of absence terms, a sister must petition the National Standards Board by contacting the National Standards Board chair for any additional leave of absence terms. All petitions must be filed by September 15 for the fall semester and February 15 for the spring semester.

### What is the rationale behind this amendment?

By taking leaves of absence non-consecutively, we would decrease the possibility of a member considering dissociation due to continued involvement after their first leave of absence semester.

## Bylaws Proposal #3

### Author:

Jenna Zielinski

### Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article VIII, Section 1, Clause 15

### This section currently reads as follows:

Each new member must individually participate in 75 percent of the new member class required projects.

### The proposed amendment:

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.

### What is the rationale behind this amendment?

On the National level, we already require a minimum of 10 service for each active member. This will make the new member requirements mirror the active member requirements. This will better prepare new members as they transition to active members as it keeps the requirements consistent. On the local level, many chapters already have this requirement. This will help set a standard for all our chapters.

## Bylaws Proposal #4

### Author:

Jenna Zielinski

### Which portion of the document would be amended?

Article VIII, Section 1, Clause 19

### This section currently reads as follows:

All new members are required to take and pass the national new member test with a score of 85 percent.

### The proposed amendment:

All new members must complete OPA 101 and maintain a quiz average of 85 percent. New members may retake quizzes to meet this requirement. All new members must~~are required to take and~~ pass the national new member test with a score of 85 percent.

### What is the rationale behind this amendment?

All new members need to be required to take OPA 101 to learn about the organization and its history. The quizzes make sure that new members are retaining the knowledge. Chapters are required to accommodate learning disabilities and may contact the collegiate membership team for more assistance on this. It is important that Omega Phi Alpha has knowledgeable members as they transition into active and then alumni members. This also ensures that Omega Phi Alpha has knowledgeable leaders at both the local and national levels. Maintaining this quiz average throughout the new member process will help new members better prepare for the national exam. All of OPA 101 is already standardized to ensure all new members are receiving the same information with the same delivery. New members are able to complete this on their own time through OPAPortal and may seek assistance from the membership director or the collegiate membership team. This allows chapters to optimize their time during new member meetings. On the local level, many chapters already have these requirements. This will help set a standard for all our chapters.