

**Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity  
Meeting of the National Board of Directors  
December 12, 2015  
St. Louis, Missouri**

**National Directors in attendance:**

Richard W. Bennet III, Central Missouri '74	Grand President	2017
Christopher L. Bittman, Colorado '85	Grand Treasurer	2017
Thomas B. Jelke, Ph.D., Florida International '90	Grand Secretary	2017
David R. Calderon, CalPoly-Pomona '88	National Director	2017
Billy D. Maddalon, North Carolina State '90	National Director	2021
Daniel W. McVeigh, Texas Wesleyan '90	National Director	2017
Bradley C. Nahrstadt, Monmouth '89	National Director	2021
Victor K. Wilson, Georgia Renaissance	National Director	2017
Jeffrey A. Back, Cincinnati '18	National Director	2017
John L. Emery, Arizona '17	National Director	2017
Riley D. Shearer, Montana State '17	National Director	2017

**National Director not in attendance:**

Garry C. Kief, Southern California '70	National Director	2019
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**Headquarters Staff present:**

Brian C. Warren Jr., Virginia '04	Chief Executive Officer
Laura C. Curzi	Executive Coordinator
Seth D. Irby, Louisiana State '11	Managing Director, Fraternity
Orman W. Messersmith, Samford '99	Volunteer Services Director
Andrew J. Parrish, Georgia '13	Strategic Communications Director
Kyle F. Sutton, Cincinnati '12	Marketing and Communication Director & Strategic Projects and Analytics Director

**Guests in attendance:**

Edward H. Hammond, Emporia State '66	President, Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation
Jud Horras	Administrative Secretary, Beta Theta Pi
John W. Hartman, Missouri '61	Sigma Phi Epsilon District Governor
Richard W. Sweeney, Cincinnati Renaissance	Assistant Professor and Marketing Program Director, University of Cincinnati

**Call to order**

Grand President Richard W. Bennet III called the meeting to order on Saturday, December 12, 2015, at 8:27 a.m.

**NIC Membership**

Chief Executive Officer Brian C. Warren Jr. introduced Jud Horras of Beta Theta Pi. Horras is currently serving as Beta's chief executive officer and as the volunteer interim CEO of the NIC. Horras presented his vision for the NIC membership moving forward that includes robust sharing of best practices and

standards, unified presence on campuses, data transparency and benchmark rankings on a user review platform, coordinated crisis control, advocacy with higher education outreach and effective legal strategy, and council/board representation that is proportional to fraternity chapter size and dues. The current, fragmented industry is challenged without a unified brand and body of fraternities. Horras asked for SigEp's participation in the NIC moving forward.

Horras noted that the timeline for this improved plan is dependent on the hiring of a capable staff and CEO as this group will need to create programming, build out resource banks, strategically plan, etc. over the course of the next few months. The NIC's budget was insufficient in the past so an increase percent per year in membership is estimated to hire a capable CEO, increase IFC base lines and execute an effective public relations effort.

*Grand President Bennet called a recess at 10:15 a.m. and Horras left the meeting.  
Grand President Bennet reconvened the meeting at 10:25 a.m.*

Grand President Bennet noted that the Board has voted on multiple occasions not to participate in the group as there was no effective plan in place as robust as Horras' vision for NIC 2.0. Staff and Educational Foundation President Edward H. Hammond recommended that the Board move forward with membership to the NIC 2.0 group.

*National Director Bradley C. Nahrstadt moved the Board to pursue members with the NIC stating that Sigma Phi Epsilon's support and membership is contingent on CEO Brian C. Warren's discretion on the leadership of the NIC organization.*

*Seconded by Grand Secretary Thomas B. Jelke.*

*Motion passed by 11-0 vote.*

### **Higher Education Discussion**

Grand President Bennet led a discussion on SigEp's next steps from the ideas and discussion had with higher education professionals the previous day.

Improved staff visits to campus: Leverage relationships with host institutions and better prepare and encourage undergraduate chapter leaders to open line of communication with institution leaders. Encourage a better use of campus resources to address educational needs. National Director Riley D. Shearer enforced the need for regional directors to allocate time for the university and chapter leadership partnership to build affinity and support for chapters beyond staff visits.

Diversity, Sexual Assault and Masculinity Education: CEO Warren suggested a reevaluation and change to current EDGE Programming that encourages SigEp to better partner with universities and campuses and address issues through established campus programming and improved SigEp curriculum. The resources of spring EDGE planning will be allocated to effective evaluation, new curriculum and a new program plan. The calendar for spring EDGE is currently tentative with no contracts in place for the spring semester. Chapter targeted programming will be the only EDGE programming conducted during the 2016 spring season.

Alcohol Free Housing: Staff will work to compile an Alcohol Free Housing Task Force to research how this change would impact membership and insurance premiums, and how to potentially and effectively roll out, communicate and enforce such a change. Directors noted that substance-free housing should be included in the expansion model for chartering chapters and new housing, and that a need for alumni

involvement is crucial. Undergraduates will be included in the decision making and task force make up. Foundation President Hammond will report outcomes of the commission report, staff will speak with legal counsel on insurance incentives, programming at upcoming Carlsons will include round table discussions on substance-free housing and preliminary ground work will be set with the Alcohol Free Task Force before the Board reconvenes this spring.

University Partner Chapter: Heightened level of chapter achievement and RLC level. Group agreed that the label is not necessary but the focus on bettering partnerships with institutions is an expectation moving forward.

*Grand President Bennet called a recess at 11:00 a.m.*

*Grand President Bennet reconvened the meeting at 11:10 a.m.*

### **PR Task Force Update**

Richard Sweeney presented the work of the PR Task force in drafting a position statement for internal use in guiding and directing public relations and communication. The group hopes to finalize the message by the summer for integrated brand promotion. The group has also worked to pinpoint primary and secondary target audiences to better the method and drive of communications. A copy of the position statement will be circulated to the Board for review.

### **Indemnification and D&O Coverage**

Grand President Bennet reviewed discussions with Williams Mullen regarding Director Indemnification, D&O limits and policy endorsements. SigEp's lawyer at Williams Mullen, Douglas Nabhan has suggested the Board not raise the limits on current D&O coverage as the Fraternity's coverage is adequate nationally, and in the state of Virginia.

*Grand President Bennet called a recess at 11:45a.m.*

*Grand President Bennet reconvened the meeting at 12:30 p.m.*

### **Outside Directors**

Board discussed potential candidates for the remaining Outside Director role. Staff will move forward with asking potential candidates their interest and availability to join group. Report to be presented to Board at spring meeting.

### **Approval of Minutes**

*National Director Billy D. Maddalon moved the Board to approve the minutes from the October 22, 2015, conference call meeting.*

*Seconded by National Director Victor K. Wilson.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **Open Claims Report**

Open Claims report was provided to group.

### **Audit Committee Report**

Audit committee report will be circulated when available.

### **Chapter Action Votes**

Managing Director Seth D. Irby provided history of each chapter action and suggestions from staff for resolution.

*Grand Secretary Thomas Jelke moved the Board to withdraw the charter of Alabama Zeta at Huntington College.*

*Seconded by National Director David R. Calderon.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*National Director Calderon moved the Board to suspend the charter of New York Gamma at New York University and charges staff to aid New York Gamma in conducting a membership review and creating an eight person mentor committee.*

*Seconded by National Director Daniel W. McVeigh.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*Grand Secretary Jelke moved the Board to uphold Oklahoma Alpha's decision and deny Colton McCurley's appeal and suspend him from Oklahoma Alpha at Oklahoma State.*

*Seconded by National Director Wilson.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

*Grand Secretary Jelke moved the Board to uphold Texas Iota's decision and deny Brandon Selph's appeal and suspend him from Texas Iota at Texas Tech.*

*Seconded by National Director Calderon.*

*Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### **Future Meetings**

Board will have an in-person spring meeting in San Francisco, April 8-9, 2016. The Board will conduct a conference call meeting in January as a follow up before the Carlson Leadership Academies. Grand President Bennet postponed the July 2016 meeting to a date in late August or September; location and date to be determined.

### **Adjournment**

Grand President Bennet adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.