

# **Western - 2017 Provincial Council Meeting**

## **HOW TO USE THIS LEGISLATION BOOKLET AT PROVINCIAL COUNCILS**

This document describes in detail a Bylaw amendment that passed at the 2016 Northeastern Provincial Council (and was discussed by all Provincial Councils at the 2016 meetings) and will be considered at the 2017 Grand Chapter Congress in August. Bylaw amendments must achieve a 2/3 majority vote at Congress to pass.

Ritual proposals from the Fraternity Board of Directors may also be provided to the Council for consideration at a later date.

No “national policy” proposals were submitted. Proposals related to National Policy and Procedures may be discussed and voted upon by the Council, but ultimately all National Policy and Procedures are administered by the Fraternity’s elected Board of Directors. The Board, of course, will take any recommendation passed by a majority vote of the Provincial Council very seriously.

- Any language with ~~strike throughs~~ would be deleted if the proposal or amendment passes.
- Any language listed in ALL CAPS indicates language that would be added if the amendment or proposal was adopted.
- Language in *italics* is included occasionally for explanatory purposes.

### **EXAMPLE:**

~~Bylaw~~ - would be deleted

BYLAW - would be added

*Bylaw* - would be an explanatory note offering more detail or interpretation

# PROPOSALS

## PROPOSAL 1 – Bylaw Amendment

### ***SUBMITTED BY:***

Gamma Upsilon Chapter, Alexa Strauss, 231 Forest Street, Babson Park, MA

***DATE:*** December 22, 2015

### ***Summarization of the Proposal/Recommendation.***

Change procedure of Election of Pledges from Article XII Section 11 of National Bylaws to move announcement of favorable or unfavorable outcomes to the end of all voting and discussion. Current procedure reveals outcomes favorable or unfavorable immediately after discussion of each candidate. Current procedure, creates potential to shift focus off individual qualities and instead on quantitative size of the pledge class and interpersonal relations of already accepted candidates. This is a disadvantage to candidates towards the end of deliberation period for the chapter. Names of all pledges with favorable votes would be announced at the same time at the end of the deliberation period with this change.

### ***Proposal Details (and/or exact Policy or Bylaw Language proposed -- use ALL CAPS for new language and ~~strikethrough~~ for deletions.)***

Current Bylaw Article XII. Section 11. “Election of Pledges”:

Section 11. Election of Pledges --- Except as provided hereinafter, no person shall be initiated into this Fraternity except through a Collegiate Chapter and by a secret vote of the members of said chapter, in good standing, constituting a quorum present at a regularly called meeting as may be defined by the Bylaws of the chapter and the Laws of this Fraternity. All elections to pledgship in this Fraternity shall be by secret ballot. To ensure against mistake, should twenty percent (20%) of the members present and voting, or five (5), whichever is greater, negative votes appear in the ballot box on the name of a prospective pledge, a second ballot shall be immediately taken. If twenty per cent (20%) of the members present and voting, or five (5), whichever is greater, negative votes appear in the ballot box on the second ballot, the prospective pledge shall be considered rejected. Before any ballot is cast, the ballot box, if used, shall be shown to the President, the Senior Vice President, and the Vice President-Chapter Operations, who shall severally vouch for the emptiness of the same. All qualified members of the chapter present shall vote. Failure to vote shall be construed as a favorable vote for the candidate. After all such members have voted, the ballot shall be declared closed, the same inspected, and the votes counted by the President, Senior Vice President and the Vice President-Chapter Operations. The declaration of these officers announcing the vote favorable or unfavorable to election shall be final. Should the name of the same prospective pledge be proposed and rejected a third time, the same prospective pledge shall never be proposed again in that chapter. The votes concerning prospective pledges described herein must be held before the individuals in question are formally accepted as pledges. Should the prospective pledge receive a favorable election, but be unable to accept pledgship, an election must be held in any subsequent academic term in which the prospective pledge’s name is proposed again.

Proposed Bylaw Article XII. Section 11. “Election of Pledges”:

Section 11. Election of Pledges --- Except as provided hereinafter, no person shall be initiated into this Fraternity except through a Collegiate Chapter and by a secret vote of the members of said chapter, in good standing, constituting a quorum present at a regularly called meeting as may be defined by the Bylaws of the chapter and the Laws of this Fraternity. All elections to pledgship in this Fraternity shall be by secret ballot. To ensure against mistake, A SECOND BALLOT WILL BE IMMEDIATELY CAST. SHOULD THE CANDIDATE BE ACCEPTED ON THE FIRST BALLOT, THE SECOND BALLOT IS NULL AND VOID. Should twenty percent (20%) of the members present and voting, or five (5), whichever is greater, negative votes appear in the ballot box on the name of a prospective pledge FOR BOTH BALLOTS, a second ballot shall be immediately taken. ~~If twenty percent (20%) of the members present and voting, or five (5), whichever is greater, negative votes appear in the ballot box on the second ballot,~~ the prospective pledge shall be considered rejected. Before any ballot is cast, the ballot box, if used, shall be shown to the President, the Senior Vice President, and the Vice President-Chapter Operations, who shall severally vouch for the emptiness of the same. All qualified members of the chapter present shall vote. Failure to vote shall be construed as a favorable vote for the candidate. After all such members have voted, the ballot shall be declared closed, the same inspected, and the votes counted by the President, Senior Vice President and the Vice President-Chapter Operations. The declaration of these officers announcing the vote favorable or unfavorable to election shall be MADE AT THE END OF ALL DISCUSSION AND VOTING OF POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR THE CHAPTER AND SHALL BE final. Should the name of the same prospective pledge be proposed and rejected a third time, the same prospective pledge shall never be proposed again in that chapter. The votes concerning prospective pledges described herein must be held before the individuals in question are formally accepted as pledges. Should the prospective pledge receive a favorable election, but be unable to accept pledgship, an election must be held in any subsequent academic term in which the prospective pledge's name is proposed again.

***Recommended implementation date and logic for selecting this date***

Start of academic year after next Grand Chapter Congress (September 2017), though Board of Directors can advise for a different implementation date.

***Positive aspects of implementing Proposal/Recommendation***

Implementation of this proposal leads to voting and reveal of the entire pledge class (its members and its size) at the end of deliberations without re-vote or re-discussion.

- Keeping the number secret until the end of voting and discussion creates a fairer environment for candidates for pledgship because it allows for discussion to be consolidated and not completely affect voting results. This fairer environment is created by increasing anonymity of the number of pledges with favorable votes throughout the deliberation process, which has in the past affected how members vote on candidates for pledgship.
- This process minimizes quotas that may hinder the amount of pledges elected to the chapter.

***Negative aspects of implementing Proposal/Recommendation***

Implementation of this proposal leads to voting and reveal of the entire pledge class (its members and its size) at the end of deliberations without re-vote or re-discussion.

- Chapter members may feel regret if they see a pledge class too big or too small
- Chapters will need to budget carefully for a certain number of pledge pins and manuals

***Provide a brief cost analysis of the Proposal/Recommendation (if applicable)***

Any costs foreseen to change this bylaw would be at the individual chapter level based on increased or decreased number of pledges elected to the chapter

**NOTES:**

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Passed

Passed as amended

Failed

*2016 Provincial Council Outcomes (by majority vote):*

- North Central — Failed
- Northeastern — Passed
- South Central — Failed
- Southern — Failed
- Western — Passed