



Legislative Position Statements

1. Amendment to add Assistant Grand Tau

The Executive Board **supports** this legislation. In particular, understanding the Fraternity's finances can have a steep learning curve, and building a pipeline of trained volunteers instead of asking them to "learn on the job" is a significant positive for our organization's overall long-term financial health, particularly since we are a smaller organization with limited resources. Since the organization is run as a small, non-profit business, HQ Staff and the Grand Tau must be aware and aligned across a number of areas including (but not limited to) annual budgeting, investments, liquidity, legally-required reserves, cash flow, and accounts receivable. Understanding and managing the finances of our organization is not trivial. We have been trailing the Assistant Grand Tau concept and it has been a positive addition to the volunteer corps over the past year, particularly in building relationships with chapters to understand their individual situations, and when unexpected membership issues arise, reduce outstanding accounts receivable balances through collaboratively-developed payment plans.

This legislation *does not* mean that an Assistant Grand Tau will automatically be elected to be Grand Tau position at a future Grand Chapter, but it *does* mean the Grand Chapter democratic body will have a larger pool of qualified candidates to elect from for the Grand Tau position, which we believe is a strong positive for the organization. It should also be noted that while the Assistant Grand Tau is invited to join Executive Board meetings to share a report, they *do not* have a vote during those meetings.

2. Amendment regarding special badge

The Executive Board **supports** this legislation. Given the changes to the Constitution & Acts in 2014 to add sexual orientation to the non-discriminatory clauses, we support making it explicitly clear that acceptance of our Brothers' sexual orientation is consistent across all privileges afforded a member.

3. Amendment for transgender clarification

The Executive Board **supports** this legislation. After discussion at Grand Chapter 2016, the democratic body asked the Executive Board to form a committee and study the issue of transgender students within the context of Fraternity membership. Further workshops will be held during Grand Chapter 2018 to help educate our members around this issue, but ultimately the Executive Board believes this legislation to be necessary and appropriate from the fraternal, moral, and legal perspectives.

4. Amendment to Pledge Ceremony

The Executive Board **supports** this legislation. After discussion at Grand Chapter 2016, the democratic body asked the Executive Board to form a committee and study the issue of transgender students within the context of Fraternity membership. Further workshops will be held during Grand Chapter 2018 to help educate our members around this issue, but ultimately the Executive Board believes this legislation to be necessary and appropriate from the fraternal, moral, and legal perspectives.

5. Amendment to add Grand Officer term limits

The Executive Board **supports** this legislation. While limiting volunteer involvement over the long term may initially be considered a negative, the legislation is written to purposefully allow the Grand Chapter democratic body to override those limits if our members believe the Fraternity is best served by a volunteer's continued involvement on the Executive Committee. This legislation will serve as a "forcing function" to ensure that the volunteer pipeline continues to be developed, and Brothers are given the opportunity to serve. While appreciative of their service, it is not healthy for the Executive Committee to have members serving for so long -- for example, Grand Alpha Palladino has now served on the Executive Committee for 14 years. The Nominating Committee will still manage the overall process of nominating the seven Grand Officers (though further changes to that process will be discussed during the Grand Chapter 2018 business sessions), but this will ensure that volunteers are consistently afforded the opportunity to serve.

6. Amendment to add NHC Savings Assessment

The Executive Board **does not support** this legislation. chapters should be able to save and manage their own funds as they see fit, even if that means not saving at all. Additionally, there are also a number of chapters that already have savings accounts managed by Housing Corporations, Endowment Boards, Alumni Chapters, and so forth. It is not clear to the Executive Board if there is enough benefit to a majority of chapters to support the introduction of a new fee.

7. Amendment to NHC Operations Assessment

The Executive Board **does not support** this legislation. We are still very early on into the National Housing Corporation lifespan (as it has operated less than 10 years of our 168-year history), and it is not clear to the Executive Committee that there is enough benefit to a majority of chapters to support the proposed increase to the current fees. In particular, it is unclear where this number came from, or what the National Housing Corporation's needs are -- for example, does an increase to \$25.00 per man per year allow for the first disbursement of funds to be pulled in by 5 years? 20 years? At that time, would it allow for a new chapter house to be built, or would it only allow for a refurbishment of an existing chapter facility? How would it be decided where those funds are disbursed? The Executive Committee is looking to the National Housing Corporation to make the financial forecast, process, and decision-making much clearer, in order to submit legislation for the empirical and reasonable increase of annual fees on the undergraduate population.