



BETA THETA PI
— MEN OF PRINCIPLE —

Legislative Proposals

186th General Convention

July 31 – August 3, 2025

Board of Trustee Candidates

John H. Stebbins, *Emory* '92 – General Secretary

J. Nicholas Gilson, *Utah* '03 – Trustee

Rodrevious K. Kelley, *Florida State* '14 – Trustee

J. William Romero, Jr., *UNLV* '95 – Trustee

Proposal 1 – Standardize Chapter Officer Elections

Proposal 2 – Chapter Reporting Requirements

Proposal 3 – Scholastic Requirements for Initiation



**John H. Stebbins, *Emory* '92
Nominee for General Secretary**

John H. Stebbins, *Emory* '92 has been nominated to serve a second term as General Secretary.

A graduate of Emory University in 1992, Brother Stebbins earned a Bachelor of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting. As a collegiate member, John served the Gamma Upsilon Chapter as Treasurer (1989-1991) and President (1990-1991).

As an alumnus, John's service to the Fraternity is extensive. He has previously served in many leadership positions including Chapter Counselor for Emory (1992-1995), Emory House Corporation Vice President / Treasurer (1992-present), District 43 Chief (1993-1995), District 19 Chief (1993-1997), Regional Director (1997-2001), Vice President of the Board of Trustees (1999-2000), General Fraternity Treasurer (2000-2006), Treasurer of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation (2010-2015), President of the General Fraternity House Corporation (2018-2022), and currently serves as General Secretary (2022-present). Additionally, he has served on numerous task forces and committees including the *Men of Principle* Initiative Development Team (1997-2001), Chairman of the Ritual Review Task Force (2005-2007), Administrative Secretary Search Task Force (2007), Campaign Cabinet member for the *Promises to Keep*® Campaign (2012-2016) and the *Build the Bridge* Campaign (2022-present), a Day of Giving Ambassador (2020-present), a member of the Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (2020-2024), and a member of the Code and Ritual Review Task Force (2021-2022).

Professionally, John is the founding partner and principal at Concentric Investments, where he is responsible for all accounting and finance functions and a member of the investment committee for real estate and private equity investments. He holds a current license as a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to his current role, John was the Chief Financial Officer at RidgeWorth Capital Management (2000-2017).

Outside of work, Brother Stebbins was previously active in the Georgia Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation, having previously served as its Treasurer (2007-2010) and Chairman (2010-2011).

John and his wife, Leslie, have two children, Lauren and Grant. They reside in Atlanta, Georgia.



**J. Nicholas Gilson, *Utah* '03
Nominee for Trustee**

J. Nicholas Gilson, *Utah* '03 is thrilled to be nominated to serve as a member of the Board of Trustees. Nick graduated from the University of Utah with a degree in Psychology and a minor in Philosophy, with the initial goal of attending law school. However, after filling out his first round of applications, he received an offer to work at his favorite local camera store, Pictureline. This had always been a dream job, given his passion for photography.

Nick re-engaged with his home chapter at Utah in 2008 as the chapter was struggling in many ways. Ultimately, the decision was made to temporarily close the chapter and re-establish it after a brief absence from the campus. During the re-establishment process Nick served as the communications advisor for the chapter, a role that he held until 2018. In that time, he also became involved with the chapter's alumni Board of Directors, serving as the communications chair, helping to coordinate the chapter's centennial celebration and publish a book commemorating the chapter from 1913 – 2013. In 2015, he assumed an acting role as the President of the Gamma Beta House Corporation, which he took on full time a year later and held until 2025.

In 2018, Nick was honored to be appointed to the District 35 Chief to support our chapters in Colorado and Utah. He was later promoted to the role of Northwest Regional Chief in 2020, a role that he continues to hold. He has also served as a facilitator at numerous leadership programs for both Beta collegians and volunteers, several model initiations at General Conventions, as well as a member of the Membership Status Review Committee (MSRC). He readily credits his numerous roles locally and at the General Fraternity level for both shaping him into the person he is today, but also heavily impacting his view that our membership is truly a lifelong experience. He is also an avid collector of Beta Theta Pi books, keepsakes, and membership pins from the 19th century.

Nick lives just outside of Salt Lake City, Utah with his Beta Sweetheart, Alyson, and their two children, Judd (11) and Isla (7). Alyson frequently attends Convention with him, and he remains committed to engaging her one day as a Beta volunteer (she's a hard nut to crack). His passion for photography has continued, affording him opportunities to work with major global brands such as Citrix, Microsoft, National Geographic, and Hyatt Hotels. He has also served as a photo consultant on two presidential campaigns and consulted the White House photographer's team on multiple occasions. He is currently a minority shareholder and Vice President for Pictureline, the store that derailed his law school plans 20 years ago. In his free time, he enjoys travel with his family, cycling, shooting photos, and maintaining two classic BMW's, much to Alyson's frustration.



Rodrevious K. Kelley, *Florida State '14*
Nominee for Trustee

Rod is a first-generation college student from McCormick, South Carolina. Rod attended Furman University and was an incredibly involved student leader. Upon graduation with a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration (2006), Rod leveraged his student leadership experience into a professional role supporting living/learning community programming in residence life at his alma mater. Rod's Higher Education journey took him to Tallahassee, Florida, where he acquired his masters of science degree in Higher Education from Florida State University (2010). Rod's work in the Florida State community included student conduct, crisis management, academic advising, transfer student support, classroom instruction, and student organization advising. Rod returned to Furman University in August 2021 as the inaugural Assistant Dean of Student Conduct. His duties include administration of the university's student conduct system, strategic planning and execution of the institution's first-generation college student initiatives, and regulation and annual maintenance of policies and procedures affecting student life.

Rod's service to Beta Theta Pi began in fall 2013 when the General Fraternity began the refounding process for the Delta Lambda Chapter at Florida State University. Rod was identified as a Friend of Beta whose commitment to the growth and development of collegiate men could be an asset to the FSU chapter. Shortly after, the brothers of the Delta Lambda Chapter initiated Rod into our brotherhood. Rod served the Delta Lambda Chapter as its risk management advisor and attended various leadership programs, including Regional Keystone Leadership Conferences and General Conventions. A highlight of Rod's experience with the chapter, the chapter received their charter at the 179th General Convention and subsequently hosted their Installation Ceremony to celebrate this accomplishment. While at Florida State, Rod was recognized for his contributions to the chapter, winning the Mary B. Coburn Outstanding Faculty/Staff Member Award (2015), FSU Advisor of the Year (2019), and IFC Chapter Advisor of the Year (2021).

In December 2022, the General Fraternity called on Rod to serve as Chapter Counselor for the Zeta Lambda Chapter at Furman University. During his tenure as Chapter Counselor, Rod has supported the chapter through its continued growth in membership as well as an expansion in its advisory team support. In April 2024, Rod was

recognized by the university community as Outstanding Advisor for Fraternity & Sorority Life and Student Organization Advisor of the Year.

Rod has also continued to answer the call of Beta, supporting General Fraternity initiatives and programs such as serving as a small group facilitator for the Wooden Institute and Regional Keystone Leadership Conferences, breakout session presenter for Advisor Academy, and member of the education subcommittee for the Fraternity's Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

Rod resides in Greenville, South Carolina. He enjoys spending his free time with friends, supporting collegiate athletics, and staying in touch with family.



**J. William Romero, Jr., *UNLV '95*
Nominee for Trustee**

J. William “Willie” Romero, Jr. *UNLV '95* has been nominated to serve a second term as a Trustee on the Board of Trustees. Willie’s prior service to the Fraternity includes serving on the Foundation Board of Directors in 2012. He was reappointed one year later (2013) and elected Vice Chairman of the Foundation at the 177th General Convention in 2016. Serving the Beta Theta Pi Foundation as Development Committee Chair, Romero served as a major gift area volunteer fundraiser for two \$20MM+ national campaigns and has agreed to assist with Beta’s future capital campaigns. Willie was the inaugural speaker for the John Reily Knox Club’s annual General Convention dinner and has attended several regional fundraising events. Romero is also a proud member of the Bridge Builders Society, having named the Fraternity in his estate plan. Beyond his service to the Foundation, Willie also assisted Beta in their expansion at the University of New Mexico (2020-2022) and served as a Commissioner on the Fraternity’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee 2.0.

Willie is a founding father (#2 on the roll) at the Zeta Kappa Chapter at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). He is a 1995 graduate of the university with a bachelor of arts degree in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations and a minor in Spanish. Romero earned his master of arts degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Globalization from Dartmouth College. Willie’s professional work includes serving as the Director of Development at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, Indiana, Director of Annual Giving at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, Associate Director of the Dartmouth College Fund at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire, and the Annual Giving Programs Development Officer at UNLV.

Romero, a northern New Mexico native, was President of UNLV’s Student Senate, president of Beta Theta Pi (1994), a member of Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, a member of the Catholic Newman Club, and was on the Board of Directors for the Interfaith Student Center. At Dartmouth College, Willie was the inaugural winner of the Dartmouth Graduate Student Community Award and served on the Latino Faculty and Administrative Board. Romero was selected by his peers as the New Mexico Knight of the Year, was President of

his church's Parish Council and Chaired the Parish Finance Council. Most recently, Willie was the Financial Secretary for his local Knights of Columbus Council.

Willie resides in Arvada, Colorado where he is Major Gift Officer at Regis University. There he works with alumni, parents, and friends to develop impactful philanthropy goals.

186th General Convention Legislation Proposals (2025)

1. Basic Information

1. Your full name

Jacob Tidwell

2. Your chapter

East Carolina University/Epsilon Alpha

3. Your graduation year (use 4 digits, ex: 2021)

2004

4. Your email address

jacob.tidwell@beta.org

5. Please list other sponsors (if any). Include full name, chapter (please use campus name), and graduation year

6. Title of your proposal

Standardize Chapter Officer Elections

7. List the Article(s), Chapter(s), and/or section(s) of The Code of Beta Theta Pi or other governing documents affected

Chapter VII The Chapters - This proposal would insert three new sections related to the timing and execution of chapter officer elections.

8. Write out your proposal for new, revised or deleted language in The Code (or other governing document)

This proposal seeks to add Sections 3-5 below and then renumber the sections that follow.

Proposed changes:

***NEW* SECTION 3. Chapter Officer Terms:** All chapter officers will serve a term of one full calendar year, from January to December, beginning on the date selected by each chapter. Each officer term must officially begin no later than January 30 of each year.

***NEW* Section 4. Chapter Officer Elections:** All chapter officers must be confirmed by at least a majority of eligible chapter members voting.

A. A chapter may utilize a higher voting standard if such a standard is approved by the chapter and included in their local chapter bylaws.

B. Elections must occur no later than November 30 of each year.

***NEW* Section 5. Exceptions to Chapter Officer Terms and Elections:** Exceptions to these requirements may be requested of the General Secretary or his designee.

A. A request for an exception must be submitted in writing, utilizing the form or process established by the Administrative Office.

B. The chapter's request for an exception must include:

a. Any campus-specific policies or practices that have bearing on chapter officer terms, such as institutional rules requiring specific officer terms, deferred recruitment schedules, and non-standard academic calendars.

b. Any chapter-specific policies or practices that have bearing on chapter officer terms, such as their local constitution and bylaws.

c. The limited timeframe of the requested exemption or request that the exemption be permanent.

d. A proposed alternative calendar of chapter officer terms, election deadlines and reporting deadlines.

C. If an exception is granted by the General Secretary or his designee, updated chapter officer terms, election deadlines, and reporting deadlines will be established for the chapter.

a. If an exception is not granted by the General Secretary's designee, the decision may be appealed directly to the General Secretary for his review and affirmation or denial.

b. If an exception is not granted by the General Secretary, the decision may be appealed directly to the Board of Trustees for their review and affirmation or denial.

This would also require the renumbering of the remaining sections (Sections 6-9) and updates to any related references throughout the Code.

9. Write 1 - 2 paragraphs of analysis or justification for your proposal (you also may attach a file using the link below)

Our Code is meant to provide direction, structure, and procedures to ensure consistency throughout the domain. When the Fraternity and its chapters find themselves acting in unison toward a goal or operational standard, it's wise for us to ensure our governing document(s) reflects how we are operating in today's environment.

While chapters have autonomy in certain decisions and operations, the logistics surrounding chapter officer elections and transitions is one area that would benefit from consistency within the Fraternity, regardless of the campus where our chapter(s) operate. Each year, chapters throughout the domain conduct a wide variety of chapter officer election processes, including vast differences in how nominations, speeches, slates, selection, etc. are managed, all of which occur on a wide variety of timelines. These differences in chapter officer elections infuses variety in chapter operations that is frequently a detriment to the General Fraternity, as it creates differences between chapters and results in hardship in the delivery of officer education, General Fraternity programs, and communication with chapters. This proposal seeks to solidify an elections deadline and establish a process for chapters to seek an exception.

10. If you prefer, you may attach your justification using this link (please use a PDF or Word document)

[Officer Elections Proposed Language for Chapter VII The Chapters.pdf](#)

11. How will your proposal benefit undergraduate chapters and collegiate and alumni members, now and in the future?

This proposal is intended to add some consistency into the Fraternity's chapter-level operations, which will bolster the ability for chapter officers to engage with their peers throughout the domain. It will also ensure chapter officers are appropriately elected and reported on a timeline that aligns with the General Fraternity's winter leadership development programs. This change will also provide more time between chapter officer elections and the execution of programs, which will positively impact chapter operations such as budgeting, calendar planning, confirming substitutions for attendees, etc. This proposal will also positively impact the General Fraternity's ability to communicate with the appropriate officer(s) in advance of a program, to ensure they have accurate information on event logistics, expectations, registration fees, etc. Finally, this will ensure the critical operation of electing chapter officers occurs prior to significant holidays, final exams, commencement, and other end-of-term activities.

12. How is your proposal aligned with Beta Theta Pi's mission, vision and values?

This effort to standardize chapter officer elections will allow us to build on several Fraternity concepts and values. First, our focus on the cultivation of the intellect will allow this critical chapter operation (officer elections) to occur earlier and avoid negatively impacting our members as they navigate the holidays, final exams, and end-of-term responsibilities. In our mission to "Develop men of principle for a principled life", our promise to members is that their collegiate experience will better prepare them for their life and career after college. By providing adequate structure for chapter officer elections throughout the domain, Beta will better prepare those officers and the members they serve to join the world of work which operates with similar structures. As the "Leadership Fraternity", this effort will also allow the General Fraternity to better market and communicate our leadership development opportunities, whether at the local chapter level or by participating in focused Fraternity leadership development programs

CHAPTER VII THE CHAPTERS

SECTION 1. ...

SECTION 2. *Officers:* The officers of each chapter shall be collegiate members as defined by [Chapter VIII, Section 1\(B\)\(a\)](#) in good standing and regularly enrolled in the college or university at which the chapter is located, consisting of at least a president, secretary, pledge educator, risk manager, recruitment chair, alumni relations chair and treasurer. The President of each chapter shall be responsible for safekeeping all property of the General Fraternity loaned to his chapter.

SECTION 3. *Chapter Officer Terms:* All chapter officers will serve a term of one full calendar year, from January to December, beginning on the date selected by each chapter. Each officer term must officially begin no later than January 30 of each year.

Section 4. *Chapter Officer Elections:* All chapter officers must be confirmed by at least a majority of eligible chapter members voting.

- A. A chapter may utilize a higher voting standard if such a standard is approved by the chapter and included in their local chapter bylaws.
- B. Elections must occur no later than November 30 of each year.

Section 5. *Exceptions to Chapter Officer Terms and Elections:* Exceptions to these requirements may be requested of the General Secretary or his designee.

- A. A request for an exception must be submitted in writing, utilizing the form or process established by the Administrative Office.
- B. The chapter's request for an exception must include:
 - a. Any campus-specific policies or practices that have bearing on chapter officer terms, such as institutional rules requiring specific officer terms, deferred recruitment schedules, and non-standard academic calendars.
 - b. Any chapter-specific policies or practices that have bearing on chapter officer terms, such as their local constitution and bylaws.
 - c. The limited timeframe of the requested exemption or request that the exemption be permanent.
 - d. A proposed alternative calendar of chapter officer terms, election deadlines and reporting deadlines.
- C. If an exception is granted by the General Secretary or his designee, updated chapter officer terms, election deadlines, and reporting deadlines will be established for the chapter.
 - a. If an exception is not granted by the General Secretary's designee, the decision may be appealed directly to the General Secretary for his review and affirmation or denial.
 - b. If an exception is not granted by the General Secretary, the decision may be appealed directly to the Board of Trustees for their review and affirmation or denial.

SECTION 36. *Treasurer; Accounting System:* The treasurer shall promptly collect all dues and assessments levied by the chapter or by the Convention. He shall keep accurate account thereof in accordance with the [Chapter Accounting Standards](#) or other Board of Trustees approved compliance options. He shall be responsible for the collection and immediate payment of General Fraternity fees, as set forth in [Chapter XII](#), of the Laws.

SECTION 47. *Books; Inspection and Audit:* The books of the chapter treasurer or those of other chapter officers handling money shall at all times be open to the inspection and audit of the

General Treasurer, the District Chief, the General Convention or the designee of any of these.

SECTION 58. *Chapter Roll:* Each chapter shall keep a roll, in the uniform official roll book of the fraternity, with entries in the order of initiation or transfer, beginning with the charter members. A number once assigned to a member shall not thereafter be changed. All entries recorded must also be submitted to the Administrative Office on the [prescribed form](#).

SECTION 69. *Chapter Reporting:* The chapter shall conduct timely official correspondence and reporting to the Administrative Office. The Administrative Office will inform the chapter of the required method to transmit such reports.

- A. Within 72 hours of election to notify the Administrative Office of the names of all officers of the chapter;
- B. Send to the Administrative Office within 72 hours after initiation, an initiation report of each initiate, and within 72 hours of date of pledge induction, the notice of admission of each affiliate;
- C. Report to the General Secretary and Administrative Office each expulsion or resignation from the fraternity including supporting documentation. See Discipline Chapter XIII, Section 4 for reporting requirements of Trial By Chapter;
- D. Report Risk Management incidents with 24 hours of the chapter being made aware of such incident;
- E. Send promptly to the editor of the fraternity magazine all items of interest relating to the welfare, progress and contemporary history of the chapter, and to see that all requests sent by the editor are answered promptly;
- F. Update names and addresses of alumni in the General Fraternity directory;
- G. Make such other reports as may be required by the General Secretary, Board of Trustees, Administrative Office or District Chief.

186th General Convention Legislation Proposals (2025)

1. Basic Information

1. Your full name

Ethan Bell

2. Your chapter

University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh/Zeta Zeta

3. Your graduation year (use 4 digits, ex: 2021)

2016

4. Your email address

ethan.bell@beta.org

5. Please list other sponsors (if any). Include full name, chapter (please use campus name), and graduation year

6. Title of your proposal

Chapter Reporting Requirements

7. List the Article(s), Chapter(s), and/or section(s) of The Code of Beta Theta Pi or other governing documents affected

Chapter VII The Chapters, Section 6.

8. Write out your proposal for new, revised or deleted language in The Code (or other governing document)

SECTION 6. Chapter Reporting: The chapter shall conduct timely official correspondence and reporting to the Administrative Office. The Administrative Office will inform the chapter of the required method to transmit such reports.

...

B. Within 72 hours of the Pledge Induction Ceremony, or of pledges or anticipated future pledges moving into the chapter home, send notice of admission and registration of each affiliate to the Administrative Office.;

C. Send to the Administrative Office within 72 hours after initiation, an initiation report of each initiate, and within 72 hours of date of pledge induction, the notice of admission of each affiliate;

...

9. Write 1 - 2 paragraphs of analysis or justification for your proposal (you also may attach a file using the link below)

This section of the code already requires new members (pledges) to be reported within 72 hours of induction. The proposal seeks to adjust the language to include potential new members (not yet inducted pledges) that move into chapter facilities before induction to be reported within a 72 hour window as well. The primary purposes is to get those members under the fraternity's insurance coverage in the event that an incident occurs.

In the event that a future new member is reported after move in but chooses to resign or is no longer a good fit, the fraternity would intend to provide additional grace with roster adjustments to not penalize the chapter.

Attached is the original language and the proposed language change redlined for everyone's convenience.

10. If you prefer, you may attach your justification using this link (please use a PDF or Word document)

[Proposal Supplemental Language.docx](#)

11. How will your proposal benefit undergraduate chapters and collegiate and alumni members, now and in the future?

Getting new members onto our rosters sooner will only help us better support them as they enter their new fraternity experience. First and foremost, as listed above, getting them into our insurance program will ensure they are protected in the event of an incident taking place. Having timely reporting in this space also helps the fraternity identify retention trends between move in and induction and then from induction to initiation. When the fraternity sees success in this space, we're able to coach others on how to replicate the positive experience. In the event we see "negative" trends, we can provide assistance to chapters on how to retain potential members who have said "yes" to Beta Theta Pi.

12. How is your proposal aligned with Beta Theta Pi's mission, vision and values?

Ensuring new members and those future new members are on our insurance helps us better provide mutual aid and assistance if an incident occurs.

CURRENT LANGUAGE

SECTION 6. *Chapter Reporting:* The chapter shall conduct timely official correspondence and reporting to the Administrative Office. The Administrative Office will inform the chapter of the required method to transmit such reports.

- A. Within 72 hours of election to notify the Administrative Office of the names of all officers of the chapter;
- B. Send to the Administrative Office within 72 hours after initiation, an initiation report of each initiate, and within 72 hours of date of pledge induction, the notice of admission of each affiliate;
- C. Report to the General Secretary and Administrative Office each expulsion or resignation from the fraternity including [supporting documentation](#). See Discipline [Chapter XIII, Section 4](#) for reporting requirements of Trial By Chapter;
- D. Report Risk Management [incidents](#) with 24 hours of the chapter being made aware of such incident;
- E. Send promptly to the editor of the fraternity magazine all items of interest relating to the welfare, progress and contemporary history of the chapter, and to see that all requests sent by the editor are answered promptly;
- F. Update names and addresses of alumni in the General Fraternity directory;
- G. Make such other reports as may be required by the General Secretary, Board of Trustees, Administrative Office or District Chief.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

SECTION 6. *Chapter Reporting:* The chapter shall conduct timely official correspondence and reporting to the Administrative Office. The Administrative Office will inform the chapter of the required method to transmit such reports.

- A. Within 72 hours of election to notify the Administrative Office of the names of all officers of the chapter;
- ~~B. Within 72 hours of the Pledge Induction Ceremony, or of pledges or anticipated future pledges moving into the chapter home, send notice of admission and registration of each affiliate to the Administrative Office.~~
- ~~B-~~ C. Send to the Administrative Office within 72 hours after initiation, an initiation report of each initiate, ~~and within 72 hours of date of pledge induction, the notice of admission of each affiliate;~~
- D. Report to the General Secretary and Administrative Office each expulsion or resignation from the fraternity including [supporting documentation](#). See Discipline [Chapter XIII, Section 4](#) for reporting requirements of Trial By Chapter;
- E. Report Risk Management [incidents](#) with 24 hours of the chapter being made aware of such incident;
- F. Send promptly to the editor of the fraternity magazine all items of interest relating to the welfare, progress and contemporary history of the chapter, and to see that all requests sent by the editor are answered promptly;
- G. Update names and addresses of alumni in the General Fraternity directory;
- H. Make such other reports as may be required by the General Secretary, Board of Trustees, Administrative Office or District Chief.

186th General Convention Legislation Proposals (2025)

1. Basic Information

1. Your full name

Mike Wortman

2. Your chapter

University of Nebraska-Lincoln/Alpha Tau

3. Your graduation year (use 4 digits, ex: 2021)

1970

4. Your email address

mwortman66@gmail.com

5. Please list other sponsors (if any). Include full name, chapter (please use campus name), and graduation year

6. Title of your proposal

Scholastic Requirements for Initiation

7. List the Article(s), Chapter(s), and/or section(s) of The Code of Beta Theta Pi or other governing documents affected

Chapter XIV Scholarship

8. Write out your proposal for new, revised or deleted language in The Code (or other governing document)

See Attached

9. Write 1 - 2 paragraphs of analysis or justification for your proposal (you also may attach a file using the link below)

See Attached

10. If you prefer, you may attach your justification using this link (please use a PDF or Word document)

[Code Change Scholastic Requirement for Initiation.pdf](#)

11. How will your proposal benefit undergraduate chapters and collegiate and alumni members, now and in the future?

The current language is opaque and doesn't allow chapter officers and volunteers to clearly understand the scholastic requirement to join the fraternity. Instead of asking them to research individual campus requirements, we are putting the requirement in clear language directly into the Code.

12. How is your proposal aligned with Beta Theta Pi's mission, vision and values?

Academic success is tied to personal growth that we strive to help each new member attain as they are initiated.

Legislative Proposal

Purpose: To clarify Scholastic Requirement for Initiation

Submitter: Mike Wortman, *Nebraska '70*, Scholarship Commissioner

CURRENT LANGUAGE

CHAPTER XIV SCHOLARSHIP

SECTION 1. *Scholastic Requirement for Initiation:* Every candidate for initiation into Beta Theta Pi must obtain, for the term immediately prior to his initiation, a grade point average of not less than the minimum average grades required for graduation by the school or college in which he is enrolled. This requirement may be waived or modified by the Board of Trustees upon a showing of undue hardship to the chapter involved.

PROPOSED LANGUAGE

CHAPTER XIV SCHOLARSHIP

SECTION 1. *Scholastic Requirement for Initiation:* Every candidate for initiation into Beta Theta Pi must obtain, for the term immediately prior to his initiation, a grade point average of not less than 2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent for college-level coursework, or 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent for high school coursework.

Each chapter or colony may establish a minimum grade point average in its bylaws in excess of this standard. This requirement may be waived or modified by the General Secretary upon a showing of undue hardship to the chapter, colony, or individual involved. This requirement shall not apply to *Special Initiations* as defined in Chapter VIII, Section 1(F).

REDLINED CHANGES

CHAPTER XIV SCHOLARSHIP

SECTION 1. *Scholastic Requirement for Initiation:* Every candidate for initiation into Beta Theta Pi must obtain, for the term immediately prior to his initiation, a grade point average of not less than ~~the minimum average grades required for graduation by the school or college in which he is enrolled.~~2.5 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent for college-level coursework, or 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or its equivalent for high school coursework.

Each chapter or colony may establish a minimum grade point average in its bylaws in excess of this standard. -This requirement may be waived or modified by the ~~Board of Trustees~~General Secretary upon a showing of undue hardship to the chapter, colony, or individual involved. This requirement shall not apply to *Special Initiations* as defined in Chapter VIII, Section 1(F).

RATIONALE

The current language is opaque and doesn't allow chapter officers and volunteers to clearly understand the scholastic requirement to join the fraternity. Instead of asking them to research individual campus requirements, we are putting the requirement in clear language directly into the Code.

CROSS REFERENCES

CHAPTER VIII STATUSES

SECTION 1. *Status of Members:*

F. Special Initiation:

- (a) Initiation upon recommendation of the chapter: A chapter may initiate any male non-student who exhibits the principles of Beta Theta Pi deemed worthy by his efforts and continued interest in a chapter of Beta Theta Pi provided:
 - 1. He meets the qualifications in Article II, Section 2(a), (c) and (d);
 - 2. His qualifications have been presented to and approved by the District

Chief, and the District Chief notifies the Chief Executive Officer of such approval;

3. Anyone so initiated, must pay the portion of the General Fraternity membership fee payable upon initiation.

(b) Initiation upon recommendation of the Board of Trustees: Any male who exhibits the principles of Beta Theta Pi deemed worthy by his efforts and continued interest in Beta Theta Pi may be elected by the Board of Trustees for initiation into the Fraternity provided:

1. Those elected shall be initiated at such time as the Board of Trustees may direct.
2. Those elected under this section shall be enrolled in the General Fraternity Roll Book.
3. No student enrolled in an institution where there is a chapter or colony of Beta Theta Pi may be initiated under the provision of this section.
4. Anyone so initiated shall be required to pay an amount set by the Board of Trustees, not to exceed the cost of the Badge, Shingle and the Baird Fund fee.
5. The man so elected under this section meets the requirements of Article II, Section 2(A).

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 2. *Qualifications:* Any regularly enrolled male student, graduate or undergraduate, of a college or university for which there is an established chapter or colony of Beta Theta Pi may become a member of the fraternity provided:

- A. He is not a member of any similar fraternity or association;
- B. He completes the pledgeship normally prescribed by the chapter or colony proposing to initiate him, unless the period of pledgeship is waived by written approval of the General Secretary;
- C. The chapter or colony to which his name is proposed shall express confidence in his character and qualifications, including scholarship requirements set forth in Chapter XIV of the Laws, by electing him at a meeting duly called, by vote of its collegiate members upon such vote as its collegiate members shall determine with complete autonomy;
- D. He is formally initiated into the chapter or colony so electing him.