187th Beta Theta Pi General Convention Minutes

Friday, July 31, 2026, Afternoon Session

Call to Order

Roll Call

Instructions by Convention President-Elect Adam Schultz, *Virginia Tech* '98

Comments by Fraternity President Jonathan Brant, *Miami* '75

Comments by Chief Executive Officer Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03

Proceedings Officially opened

Comments by Chairman-Elect of Committee of the Whole Karl Edelman, *Michigan* '86

Comments by General Secretary John Stebbins, *Emory* '92

Appointment of the General Convention Officers

- Slate of officers
    - Brother Adam Schultz, *Virginia Tech* '98, for convention president.
    - Brothers John M. Stanton, III, *Centre* '89, Randal J. Master, *Hanover* '82, William R. Gerth, *Cincinnati* '71, Lloyd Erwin "Erv" Johnson, *Idaho* '53, Frederick F. Brower, *Miami* '53, Michael E. Gibbons, *Kenyon* '74, and Steven A. Wilson, *Cincinnati* '66, as convention vice presidents.
    - Brother Kevin Levy, *American* '16 for convention parliamentarian.
    - Brother Jason Steckel, *Case Western Reserve* '92 for convention secretary.
    - Brother Eric Buller, *Miami* '19 for convention marshal.
    - Brother Karl J. Edelmann, *Michigan* '86, as committee of the whole chairman.
    - Brothers Ethan Bell, *Wisconsin-Oshkosh* '16, Grant Steffen, *Wisconsin-Oshkosh* '22, Remy McClain, *Truman State* '19 and Jacob Tidwell, *East Carolina* '04, as floor managers
- No objections; slate of Convention Officers passes with unanimous consent

Convention President **Adam Schultz, *Virginia Tech* '98** moves to allow non-members into the legislation hall for the duration of our convention at the discretion of the chair and the marshal.

- Second: ***John Stanton*, Centre '89**
- Motion passes by unanimous consent

Introduction of Convention Officers

- General Fraternity President Jonathan Brant, *Miami* ‘75
- General Secretary John Stebbins, *Emory* ’92
- General Treasurer Ken Bryan, *MIT* ’88
- Trustees:
    - Scott Fussell, *Middle Tennessee State* ‘95
    - Nick Gilson, *Utah* ‘03
    - Rod Kelley, *Florida State* ‘14
    - Aaron Kozuki, *Washington in St. Louis* ‘05
    - Mike Okenquist, *Villanova* ’94
    - Willie Romero, *UNLV* ’95
    - Robert Selsor, *Missouri* ‘82
    - Nick Sexton, *Eastern Kentucky* ’11, and
    - Joel Stern, *U.C. Riverside* ’94
- Chief Executive Officer Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* ’03
- Collegiate Commissioners
    - Dominik Dempsey, *Wisconsin-Oshkosh* '27
    - Jack Eastone, *Kentucky* '27
    - Tyler "T.J." Hockett, *Florida State* '25
    - Henry Jonas, *Appalachian State* '25
    - Joseph Kosak, *Furman* '26
    - Curtis McEwen, *Toronto* '27, and
    - Brenden Mercado, *Utah* '26
- General Fraternity Officers
    - Archivist and Historian Zachary T. Haines, *Miami* ’05
    - Assistant Historian Ryan Westberry, *Clemson* ’98
    - Alumni Affairs Commissioner and Advisory Council
    - Commissioner Mike Okenquist, *Villanova* ’94
    - Chorister Brock Johnson, *Oklahoma State* ’09
    - Belonging and Wellness Commissioner Ryan King, *Southern Illinois* ‘01
    - Insurance Commissioner David Schawe, *Louisville* ’06
    - Scholarship Commissioner Mike Wortman, *Nebraska* ‘70
    - We’re also joined today by officers of the General Fraternity House Corporation, Beta Theta Pi Foundation Board of Directors, members of the Advisory Council, and a host of regional and district chiefs.

Committee on Credentials and Registration Report

- **Landon Kreger, *Oklahoma State* ’29** states that the Committee on Credentials and Registration is pleased to report the following registration numbers for this General Convention of Beta Theta Pi:
    - 534 total people registered and 473 people present.
        - 171 total delegates.
        - 121 in attendance with voting privileges
        - 4 not in attendance with voting privileges

        - 31 in attendance without voting privileges
        - 8 not in attendance without voting privileges.
        - 58 general fraternity officers
        - 46 alumni and guests
    - The committee maintains the standard as outlined in Chapter 1, Section 3 of the Code:
        - All chapters are entitled to representation except:
            - Chapters which are not in good standing or probation, except those entitled to representation if the Board of Trustees so directs pursuant to Chapter II, Section 3 of the Laws,
            - Chapters that have not paid all fees and assessments accrued at least 15 days prior to an announced Convention, and
            - Chapters that have failed to submit a scholarship report in a timely manner as required by Chapter XIV of the Laws.
    - The General Fraternity identified July 16, 2026, as the financial deadline for 15 days prior to the start of convention.
    - With these standards, 18 chapters did not meet the financial deadline and 14 chapters have not reported their updated academic information.
    - There are 19 chapters ineligible due to their colony or downgraded status. Finally, of the 32 credentialed alumni associations.
- **Landon Kreger, *Oklahoma State* '29** moves to approve the Minutes of the 186th General Convention
    - Minutes are approved by unanimous consent

Committee on Charters Panel One Report - Temple

- Submitted by **Carson Katzmann, *Illinois* '28**
- The Committee on Charters Panel 1 moves to offer the following recommendations to the Colony at Temple University. Prioritize Quality Over Rapid Growth Continue Developing the Advisor Team Chapter Consistency. Additional comments were given to the individual colony.

Committee on Charters Panel One Report – New Hampshire

- Submitted by **Carson Katzmann, *Illinois* '28**
- The Committee on Charters Panel 1 moves to offer the following recommendations to the Colony at the University of New Hampshire. The Committee commends the colony on its continued success and encourages them to sustain this momentum. This Committee has no additional comments.

Committee on Charters Panel One Report – Mississippi State

- Submitted by **Carson Katzmann, *Illinois* '28**
- The Committee on Charters Panel 1 moves to make the following recommendations to the Colony of Mississippi State. Revisit 2025-2026 Planning Documents Strengthen the Academic Success Plan Broaden Member Participation with

Expanded Presentation for future Colony Reviews. The Committee has provided the Colony with additional recommendations directly.

Committee on Charters Panel Two Report – Nebraska at Omaha

- Submitted by **Bobby Gratzer, *Florida Gulf Coast* '27**
- The Committee on Charters - Panel 2 recommends:
  A planned transition retreat, create strong transition and change in leadership
  Some praise, very well at planning and handling in the right manner.
  Grow relationships with Lincoln and Creighton chapters.
  Continue to use the beta scholarship for recruitment.
  Recommend applying for charter next year based on how recruitment goes in the fall.

Committee on Charters Panel Two Report – Kennesaw State

- Submitted by **Bobby Gratzer, *Florida Gulf Coast* '27**
- Focus on building numbers, while ensuring the quality of the NM's Use the Beta Scholarship as a recruiting strong suit Have all/most of members involved in chapter business to ensure workload is even More on campus outreach and involvement (Focus) Build GPA Review chartering guidelines and make sure goals align with them and not just setting them but making sure that there is an action plan in place to achieve said goals Ensure 100% of the membership is either serving an exec position or providing support in other areas of chapter operations

Committee on Chapters Panel One Report - Arizona

- Submitted by **Logan Feinstein, *Wisconsin* '29**
- The Committee on Chapters Panel 1 moves to provide the following sentiments and recommendations to the Colony at Arizona University:
  The committee recognizes and congratulates the colony at Arizona University for its diligence and success in areas such as risk management, financial health, and philanthropic involvement.
  The committee recommends that the colony continue to work diligently in these areas and recommends that the Arizona University colony revise their education programming to include a greater emphasis on camaraderie, risk management, and overall compliance with general fraternity policies such as adherence to the Son of the Stars New member education program.
  Also, we recommend that the colony leadership encourages pledges and the pledge educators to engage in meaningful discussions about education and ritual material.
  Additionally, it is recommended that the colony continue to utilize advisor and General Fraternity resources to support with anticipated recruitment challenges.
  Finally, the committee recommends that the colony work to improve community involvement and find ways to engage in leadership and advocacy within the greater fraternal community.

Committee on Chapters Panel One Report - Auburn

- Submitted by **Logan Feinstein, *Wisconsin* '29**
- The Committee on Chapters Panel 1 moves to provide the following recommendations to the Colony at Auburn University: The committee recommends that the colony at Auburn University establish a commitment to a no-tolerance hazing policy with meaningful education surrounding hazing prevention and conduct reform. It is also recommended that the colony thoroughly evaluates recent issues they have faced in this area and that they hold a meeting to review all relevant risk management policies that pertain to their campus and greater community with the involvement of their District Chief or another General Fraternity member present in order to mitigate future issues from occurring and to clarify important compliance policies and procedures moving forward. The committee also recommends that the chapter explores solutions to specific problems with pledge education and Chapter meeting disruptions by formalizing processes and encouraging appropriate involvement between brothers and pledges that contribute to less distractions. Finally, the committee also recommends that the colony increase community involvement with campus organizations as well as pursue additional leadership opportunities through the greater fraternal community.

Committee on Chapters Panel Two Report – West Chester

- Submitted by Submitted by **Ryan Black, *James Madison* '27**
- The Committee on Chapters, Panel 2 recommends continued support for the West Chester Colony as it works toward chartering. The committee recognizes the colony's strengths, including: -Strong academic performance. -Positive brotherhood programming and member engagement. The committee also identified several areas that should remain priorities before chartering:
  Completing and implementing a comprehensive set of bylaws.
  Establishing a stronger institutional structure with clearly defined executive officer responsibilities.
  Developing measurable and achievable recruitment goals to improve membership growth.
  Securing a committed faculty advisor.
  Strengthening relationships with nearby Beta chapters for mentorship and support.
  Continuing to emphasize risk management and organizational stability while recognizing that chartering should be viewed as the result of sustained chapter development rather than the sole objective. The committee believes that continued progress in these areas will position the West Chester Colony for long-term success and eventual chartering.

Committee on Chapters Panel Two Report – Central Florida

- Submitted by Submitted by **Ryan Black, *James Madison* '27**

- The Committee on Chapters, Panel 2 recommends continued support for the Central Florida as it works toward chartering. The committee recognizes the colony's strengths, including:
  Strong academic performance.
  Improved financial performance, with dues collection increasing to approximately 83%.
  Continued growth in membership and chapter operations.
  The committee also identified several areas that should remain priorities before chartering:
  Strengthening alumni relations to build a more engaged alumni network.
  Establishing a strong Alumni Advisory Board to provide mentorship and long-term institutional support.
  Improving member retention by reducing the gap between recruitment and initiation.
  Continuing to strengthen financial sustainability as the chapter transitions into its new housing arrangement.
  Exploring long-term housing solutions, including the development of a housing corporation to support chapter operations and property management.
  The committee believes the chapter has made meaningful progress since its reestablishment and encourages it to pursue chartering while continuing to strengthen its alumni engagement, retention efforts, and organizational infrastructure.

Committee on Chapters Panel Three Report - Hanover

- Submitted by **Trenton Winter, *Butler* '28** and **Julian Sanderson, *Knox* '27**
- The Committee on Chapters was pleased to meet with the Iota Chapter at Hanover. The chapter demonstrates: They have shown they live by Beta values. They have shown growth even with a sophomore executive team. For the continued success of chapter, the committee recommends: Implement the responsibility of risk to all brothers in the chapter to ensure member safety. Continue to host risk management workshops and trainings. Use resources to manage the transition to house from chapter.

Committee on Chapters Panel Four Report - Vanderbilt

- **Adrian Cerezo Lizarribar, *Denver* '27**
- The Committee on Charters moves to amend the Beta Lambda Chapter at Vanderbilt University's letter of good standing with directives and in light of the difficulty communicating and meeting deadlines The current language is "Should the chapter leadership fail to follow through on these sanctions, it would be a testament to a failure of accountability and would place the Beta Lambda Chapter in jeopardy of further status downgrades" and we recommend it be amended to "Should the chapter leadership fail to follow through on these sanctions, it would be

a testament to a failure of accountability and will result in further status downgrade for the Beta Lambda Chapter."
    - Passes by unanimous Consent

Committee on Chapters Panel Four Report – Colorado State

- Submitted by **Adrian Cerezo Lizarribar, *Denver* '27**
- The Committee on Charters affirms the General Fraternity's accountability process for the Epsilon Kappa Chapter at Colorado State University.

Committee on Chapters Panel Five Report – Cal State Chico

- Submitted by **Patrick Cadigan, *Case Western Reserve* '28**
- The Committee on Charters met with Cal State Chico to review its progress during the 2025–2026 academic year. The committee recognizes the colony's comprehensive New Member Education program, which emphasizes Beta Theta Pi's core principles and teachings. The colony also benefits from a strong 96% dues-collection rate, improving housing capacity, and substantial alumni support that its leadership has utilized effectively. Following its review, the committee recommends that the Epsilon Iota Chapter: Raise its 2.77 GPA to meet or exceed the all-men's and all-campus averages. Continue to navigate their dual involvement in the university-recognized IFC and the NIC-recognized Independent Fraternity Council. Ensure alignment with Son of the Stars materials for New Member Education. Utilize the Men of Principle Scholarship for recruitment and ensure the scholarship is given to academically qualified non-fraternity men.

Committee on Chapters Panel Five Report – UC Berkeley

- Submitted by **Patrick Cadigan, *Case Western Reserve* '28**
- The Committee on Charters met with the UC Berkeley Chapter to review their progress during the 2025-2026 academic year. The committee reviewed the progress of the chapter during a committee hearing. Following the presentation, the committee has discussed the following recommendations for the Omega Colony:
  An academic quarter consistent new member education program with a stronger emphasis on local history.
  Encourage stronger attendance at Beta Leadership events, specifically the Wooden Institute.
  Stronger organization of finances pertaining to dues and housing costs.
  A plan to maintain and use the chapter house for internal and external events.
  Strengthen local alumni connection, specifically for help with recruitment and ritual.

Committee on Finance and Risk Management

- **Jack Bredeson, *Boise State* '27** reports, the Committee on Finance and Risk Management has received a report on the state of the fraternity's finances and found:

    - The general fraternity saw a significant increase in member recruiting, thus leading to a much higher revenue than expected under such category.
    - The committee saw a continued surplus of 3+ years in the cash reserves for the general fraternity.
    - The rise of new member dues is due large in part to a period of time where new member dues were unchanged and keeping account with the CP cap.
    - Delegates, please note the usage of affordability scholarships is vital to bringing in new members with affordability issues. Please use what you are given.
    - The general fraternity saw a very high over budget in technology which was due to the new MyBeta system, which has caused significant improvement to systems for all chapters and administration. We expect this overage to not continue into the new fiscal year.
- The Committee on General Fraternity Finance and Risk Management moves to approve the financial report for Fiscal Year 2026.
    - Passes by voice vote

Committee Nominations of General Fraternity Officers

- **Nathan Nevenhoven, *Iowa State* '28** reports, the Committee on Nominations of General Fraternity Officers met on July 15th, 2026 with three members of the committee absent. We interviewed one candidate for President, and four candidates for the Board of Trustees. Discussion was had on the qualifications, experiences, and visions of each candidate. We found the candidates to be exemplary Betas, with a clear passion, capability, and strategy to drive Beta Theta Pi successfully into the future. Therefore, the committee voted unanimously to advance the following slate of candidates and recommends their election by the 187th General Convention: Board of Trustees: R. Thomas Reeves, *Eastern Kentucky* '99, Michael R. Okenquist, *Villanova* '94, J Bryant M. E. Fiesta, *UC Irvine* '16, and W. Scott Fussell, *Middle Tennessee State* '95; President of the General Fraternity: Robert T. Grand, *Wabash* '78
    - Approved by voice vote
- Comments by **Bob Grand, *Wabash* '78**
  Thanks to God, my BETA Sweetheart, Melody, my BETA sons Ryan and Kyle, and my many friends and mentors for supporting me throughout my journey.
  Thank you to Jonathan Brant for his years of service.
  Also, a big thank you to the present leaders of Beta Theta Pi that nominated me and for all my undergraduate brothers who voted for me.
  As I enter this new role, I am impressed with the success of our brotherhood. Sure, we have some challenges, but we are positioned much better to handle them than many of our other fraternal friends.
  My work on your behalf will start with these simple tasks :
  First. Promote the leadership training of our undergraduate brothers so that they arrive at graduation prepared to make meaningful contributions to society. These programs set us apart from others on our campuses.

Second. Promote more alumni Involvement with undergraduates. By encouraging more activities and promoting volunteer roles, we can foster a culture of thoughtful mentorship and mutual aid and assistance.
Third. Ask everyone to make a financial commitment to our effort. The amount is not material rather the participation of all validates the value of our fraternal experience.
At our initiation, we made several commitments to this fraternity. Our board and staff will often reference them in order to keep Beta Theta Pi a good and great fraternity.
God bless you all.
Blessed to be a Beta.

- Comments by **Bryant Fiesta, *UC Irvine* '16**
  Brothers—first and foremost, thank you.
  I'd like to begin with gratitude, because what happened in this hall a few moments ago is not something achievable in isolation nor something I envisioned when joining this fraternity as a sophomore.
  What has meant the most to me since accepting the badge of Beta Theta Pi hasn't been the events or the titles—it's the people. In my approach to relationships, I've always preferred having four quarters than a hundred pennies. I value deep, authentic connections that can hold weight, and Beta has given me those: brothers who have been with me through life's milestones and are dauntless enough to share in each other's joys and griefs; Friends of Beta who have held me to a higher standard, pushing me to live our ritual explicitly and persistently; an incredibly supportive Beta Sweetheart who I probably wouldn't have met had it not been for the Administrative Office placing me in the right place at the right time.
  That's the fraternity I've come to love, and it's the reason I'm honored to serve as one of your Trustees—not the three letters on paper, but the people who, through every painstaking decision and every thoughtful action, tirelessly uphold them and give Beta Theta Pi life and purpose.
  Let me offer three commitments as I take on this role. First, I'll be accessible. Remember: in this fraternity, we have no ranks, no degrees, no official privileges. If you need to reach me, if we need to sort through differences, or if you'd like to hold me accountable, I'll be readily available.
  Second, I'll continue to put others before self. As Betas, we're obliged to a life of service to our communities. As John Wooden, Purdue '32, famously said, "you can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you." That phrase is easy to recite and harder to live, and I intend to live it in this role by prioritizing the common good.
  Third, I will bring diligence to the questions that deserve our attention, no matter how uncomfortable, so that we can get on with the important work of building a brotherhood that lasts, growing toward our highest moral, social, and intellectual potential, and making every person who worthily wears the badge or bears the name of Beta Theta Pi feel they belong, all guided by our Three Great Principles and Seven Obligations.

Again, thank you for your trust and for the privilege of the work ahead. I'm proud to be a Beta, and I'm grateful to share in this experience with all of you.

- Comments by **Scott Fussell, *Middle Tennessee State* '95**
  It was overwhelming to be elected the first time, but it's even more so now because what you're telling me by reelecting me is to keep going, is to keep going. That's the message that I'm hearing.
  And so the message I hope that you will hear from me is Yeah, there's good to be done. Let's freaking go.
  So many of you have heard me talk about Beta Theta Pi being life-changing for a lifetime. You've heard me say that more than once or twice. And I believe that to be true because I'm living it. I live it every day. And today is a perfect example.
  And it's important, but it's not, it's not at all surprising that the life change I've experienced through Beta Theta Pi has been solely, solely driven by deep, rich friendship. As the song says, friendship did give our order birth.
  And if we dig into our ritual, which we did early, which I loved our exercise earlier. So thanks everybody who put that together and led us through it. What you'll notice in our ritual is it is basically a how-to guide for friendship. It's a how-to guide. It's impossible to read it and not pull those pieces out.
  I think we have guests in the room, so I'll refrain from sharing the additions to that, but it is a how-to guide. It's in our DNA. It's what we do. It is our business. And as Knox said, friendships can carry us, but we have to pursue it. We have to nurture it. We have to commit to keeping Unsullied the friendship inspired by the first few words of our motto. When we do, when we pursue that Unsullied friendship. When we do so relentlessly and with purity, a new member or pledge class president in this case may just summon the courage to introduce himself to a board member visiting his chapter, proceed to ask a lot of questions over the next 36 years, resulting in experiences and relationships I never imagine.
  Did you have the opportunity to serve that incredibly generous mentor 36 years later? Thank you. The way that the pursuit of friendship is authentic and spiritually generous, an unlikely connection can develop into a 30-year life-giving relationship between two kids from completely different faith traditions and geographical backgrounds. Where the only thing weird about their friendship being fueled by care and compassion and conversations that never end without telling each other you love each other, where the only thing weird about that is it's not weird. Thank you, John.
  When the pursuit of friendship is willing to take a professional and personal risk or two, an able staff member from Little Tennessee State may be offered the opportunity to connect with a student leader at EKU and then find himself serving and learning more than 30 years later. When the pursuit of friendship is driven by care and kindness, you give yourself an opportunity to connect with two district chiefs who just may spend the next 30 years of your life being a steady and steadying force. And you may find yourself serving and learning from your wife's first boss and a fraternity legend.

Friendship did give her a birth. It is what makes us impactful. It is what fuels the life change that we all have access to. But it's more difficult than ever.
We learned this morning, I heard my friend Jimmy from Florida talked about how isolation on college campuses is more prevalent than ever. Way too easy to hop on her phone and do some screens and scroll for days or hop on a video game. We are being begged to isolate ourselves. So we've got to get intentional about these friendships. Those friendships are fueled by trust.
And trust is not created by offering to help others Trust is created and nurtured by asking for it. Trust is not created by offering through help. It is created by asking for help.
So I'm asking for your help, for us to serve you really well, for us to help you have access to the kind of friendships that will change your life that we have all had the access to, we've all been blessed with. We need your help. We need you to let us know what we can do. We need you to ask for our help so we can help you.
So with that, I am so grateful for the opportunity to have another three-year run and excited about where we're headed. And there's a lot of work to get done.
So we're excited to get after it and excited to join you in pursuit of this friendship that can be absolutely like changing.
Thank you, everyone.

- Comments by **Tom Reeves, *Eastern Kentucky* '99**
  Brothers, wow, as I mentioned, I graduated at the end of the 1900s. I hate the name drop, but I'm going to name drop for a moment.
  When I went through summer orientation, long before I knew what Beta Theta Pi was, Martin Cobb, Martin Cobb in here, Martin Cobb was my summer orientation leader. And then he was chapter president when I became a Beta.
  But my road to become a Beta was a little bumpy. I didn't get a bid the first time. I went through Rush and I had some friends who were in high school ahead of me and they were in other fraternities and they recruited me and I wasn't feeling it. And the advice they kept giving me was, you can go to one of our other friends' fraternities, that's fine, but not Beta.
  And so midway through rush week, I decided, I'm gonna go check out Beta. What's this Beta thing about? And I did. And I instantly felt at home.
  But I didn't connect in early enough for whatever reason, or maybe Beta wasn't ready to, didn't feel home with me yet. And I didn't get that and it hurt. And then I ran into a few of those brothers and said, come back out. And they encouraged me. And I did.
  And it turned out to probably be the best thing that ever happened to me for a number of reasons. One of the biggest reasons is I go through winter, I get a bid and we get hit by a snowstorm. And it shut down campus for two weeks and I'm the only pledge. And they tell me there's this other guy and he's he says he's going to sign his bid. He went home for the weekend. He can't get back.
  So for two weeks, I'm the only one. And then on January 21st, 1994, which happened to be my birthday because my parents came down, take me to dinner. And then I meet this brother named Jim Siler.

He's right there. He drove over today. And here's the greatest birthday present I've ever gotten. He's one of my two best friends.
We're both Betas. And we've raised our lives so we can meet with each other. We've raised it so our families can meet with each other.
I want to thank Board of Trustees for the trust of the nomination. I want to thank the committee who interviewed me. I think it's so important that we're accountable to the collegiate members and for this body for electing all of us.
I've been through so many emotions since John called and asked, and I said yes, fast. I'll explain why in a second. I mean, it was fast. I was actually like, you didn't negotiate anything.
And those emotions range from gratitude and honored and humbled and frankly excited. But I want to talk about an emotion that isn't a pleasant emotion. It's a hard emotion.
It's the emotion of despair. It's adjacent to sadness. It's adjacent to loss. It might be adjacent to betrayal. And if you've ever felt that emotion, I empathize with you.
If you're feeling it right now, please reach out for help. Reach out to me, reach out for anybody for help. There's a path.
And if you've never felt that emotion, be thankful. But the time to prepare for that kind of moment is now.
I was in college and I wasn't a particularly good high school student. I was a B student. I knew I could be an A student. My parents knew I could be an A student. There was a lot of pressure to be an A student.
I wasn't.
Get to college. I mistook why I didn't get a bid. Some people told me it was your grades, high school grades. So I worked my rear end off. And by the age of 21, I actually earned my first four. And I came home for the summer to work. I got my 4.0, and I handed my parents my report card.
And they said, that's great. We're getting divorced.
And as an only child, so a lot of people have been through divorce, I realize that. For me, it ripped my entire life at heart. And I found myself eventually through all those emotions at despair, that complete loss of hope.
And I'm thankful that however we were created, I am thankful that that emotion exists and not for the pain of it.
I'm thankful that that emotion exists because what we find it, because you know what I found? I found hope. I found wealth. I found friendship. I found a path forward, a path to joy, a path to happiness. And I was carried by brothers.
That's why we do this.
It has been a privilege to serve on the Beta Foundation. The Beta Foundation has the simplest mission of any team in Beta.
There's not six things. There's not three things. There's one thing.
There's this engine of growth and development for this fraternity. And our job on the foundation, I know Zach King is going to hate me for saying this, it is to shovel coal into that engine and to shovel as much of it as we possibly can.

Because they are the reason. That is the reason. That is the financial resources that allows programs and scholarships to exist. And it has been an honorable lifetime. And thank you to the leadership, Rick Banks, Mike Feinstein, the Nomination to Governance Committee, which was the funnest committee in all Beta. To our help from staff, Phil Fernandez, Aaron Selby, just a wonderful experience.

And I'm excited, frankly, to get a chance to come over to the engine side. And you say, well, that engine side is the trustees. No, it's not.

The engine side is everybody in this room working together. We're all in the business of growth and development. But that engine, it isn't the why. It's just the mechanism.

You're the why. You are. As undergraduates, as collegiate members, all the Betas, all 150,000 of us.

To John, that's why I said yes so quickly. I wanted to tinker with the engine, but more than that, I wanted to help protect and preserve and grow this experience.

You won't have an experience like mine, but I hope you have your version of it.

The last thing I want to say is I want to thank our founders very close to where we are right now. Young men your age, not my age, your age with hair. They created a fraternity rooted in incredible principles of helping each other, of being lifelong learners, which I later in life found out is about learning about myself more than it is learning a book, and earning the confidence and trust of the brothers around us. They created that.

And it's such an incredible recipe for friendship when we have fidelity to our brothers. They did that at their age. And imagine what you can do.

I'm very grateful to you.Thank you.

- Comments by **Michael Okenquist, *Villanova* '94**

  33 years ago, the Beta convention was in Denver, Colorado. I sat right there as the delegate for my chapter, where today someone very special is sitting. I don't remember one thing I voted on. But I do remember seeing the Rocky Mountains for the first time. I remember the large tent they had set up for the full convention banquets. I remember the keynote speaker was Colonel Thomas Schaefer, a Lehigh Beta who had been one of the 52 hostages taken captive in Iran in 1979 and held for 444 days. And I remember the feeling of representing my chapter. You all have a great responsibility here but also a great privilege to represent your chapter.

  I became a Beta as a member of a founding father class. And I had no idea what my Beta journey would look like over the 30 years that have followed.

  Serving on the Board of Trustees is one more step in that journey that has given me so much. There is much work to do on your behalf and with you. I'm grateful to you for this opportunity.

  There are two themes in Beta that I have continually come back to in my years of service that I think represent the reason we all volunteer.

  One is Home.

  Home is a belonging. And it's a concept I strive to promote with our chapter because it's something we work hard at being an unhoused chapter, and it's what

has kept us going for more than 30 years. And as a Board member, part of our charge is to ensure every initiate and new member finds a home in Beta Theta Pi.
The second theme is the bridge builder.
I've had Beta friends and non-Beta friends unknowingly play the role of that fellow traveler who says to the old man…"what are you doing? You've crossed your chasm. You've met your challenge. You succeeded. Your fraternity days are past. Why on earth are you building this bridge? Why do you spend your time giving back? You're never going that way again. Your college days are over."
And I love that line that says "The laborer lifted his old gray head"…you can just feel his body language, waiting to land that punch.
And he says of course that "Good friend, in the path I have come, there followeth after me today, a youth whose feet must pass this way." What was manageable to me may not be so manageable for him. He's coming this way, so I'm going to help him across. I'm giving him the advice, the network, the money, the time, the tools to succeed. That's why I've volunteered all these years both at my chapter and at the General Fraternity level.
I don't know what my chapter or you all may be challenged with next. So I do my best - we all do our best - to be there for you in any way we can so that your passage is maybe a little easier, a little more informed, and a little smoother.
Thank you to the Committee for taking the time to interview me with your great questions. And thank you to all of you delegates for placing confidence in me with your vote. That trust means a great deal.
I'm proud to be a Beta and I'm proud you are too.
Thank you.

- Installation of Officers
- Recognition of and remarks from outgoing Fraternity President, **Jonathan Brant, *Miami* '75**

  Thank you so much for allowing me to serve this great and build a fraternity.
  During my remarks three years ago, when, like Bob Grand, I accepted this role,
  I referred to an illustration. I described the illustration and I quote that I saw every day in my office at Beta Theta Pi, the administrative office for the fraternity and the foundation.
  I think of it, I know many of you have chapters with allegories, whereas an illustration that represents values of your chapter. And I like to think of this as my personal allegory. I looked at it every day.
  The true meaning of life is to plant trees under the shade you don't expect to sit. I believe that we all have made great strides in advancing our great and good fraternity over the last three years. We've seen and you've heard the results and you'll hear more from membership has increased dramatically.
  Our satisfaction with the Beta experience is at one of the highest levels it's ever been. The infrastructure of our volunteer and staff leadership has been enhanced and is probably the most effective today, providing services, activities, educational programs. We're focused on connection and friendship among all Betas as well as those who come in contact with any of our members.

Our values are advanced in our ritual, which I think especially those that are attending the first ritual academy, you're very aware of it.
These ritualistic values anchor Beta Theta Pi. And it helps us be a purposeful and relevant organization. So your efforts, your energy being devoted Beta Theta Pi are very much a worthy purpose.
I want to thank a number of people. General Fraternity Secretary John Stebbins. I whispered to him that he's the reason that I decided to do this as president. The leadership team that he and Jeff have assembled are men you want to spend time with, and I've cherished that. So thank you to both of you.
To the staff, you just can't overestimate what talent we have on staff. And they are wonderful people. We're a service organization. Reach out to them. I know many of you already have developed those relationships. Keep that going and make it something you'll enjoy for life. They're very talented professionals.
I'm grateful to everyone here for the opportunities you've given me. And I'm looking forward to staying very much engaged. I pledge you that I will continue my involvement and assist in any way I can and want to make sure that our fraternity is successful.
For them and for you, I'll simply say in my farewell that I'd like to offer an admonition, one of George Bernard Shaw. My wife Gail and I like to walk, and we were walking through a cemetery in southern Indiana. And we came upon the recognition for Frank O'Bannon.
He was an Indiana governor who actually died in office. And on his marker it said, life is no brief candle for me. It is sort of a splendid torch, which I got hold of just for a moment and I want to make it burn as brightly as I can before turning it over to future generations. And that's how I feel today.
I could not be happier with the position of the fraternity today and the opportunities you all have to continue to help us go up and to the right, as Jack would say, in every aspect of fraternal life.
I wish you your best in your fraternal experience and wish you the same richness and experience that I have had within Beta Theta Pi so far. Thank you, brothers.

- Recognition of and remarks from outgoing Trustee, **Nick Sexton, *Eastern Kentucky* '11**

  To the honorable 187th Convention, brothers, before starting my comments I wanted to extend my sincere gratitude to a few brothers & Friends of Beta for their guidance, love, and inspiration during the last 6 years.
  To Ethan Turner, Kal Pipo, & Tommy Raimondi, who were the first brothers to make me feel welcome when I started my GFO journey and did not know a soul in the room.
  To Ben Swartz, for onboarding me to the Board of Trustees and giving me my first project in the same breath. Talk about blind faith!
  To Joel Stern & Tom Cassady, for becoming a New Member Education quiz question with me, becoming the (hopefully) only trustees elected at a virtual convention.
  To Ken Grispin & Ken Bryan, who told me during a much-needed embrace at two critical moments that I belonged. Words that changed my perspective and offered

encouragement as someone who feels loneliness & anger more often than any other emotion at the end of my first year of the Trustees and again when I was considering reelection.

To staffers current & past: Cody Hike, Nic Nelson, Jack Jajewski, Austin Marple, Zane Carlson, Robert "Bobby-O" Alberts, Anne Emmerth, and Viancca Williams. For believing in and supporting me not only during my tenure as a Trustee but going way back to the start of my volunteer journey in 2011.

To every collegiate commissioner that I've had the pleasure of serving with. One day, if I finally grow up, I hope to be half the man all of you already are. In particular, I wanted to give a shout-out to Ian Ross & Henry Jonas for their friendship & deep conversation over the last few years.

To Aaron Kozuki, for putting up with my insomnia for the last 5 years, sharing old fashions and talking about our visions for the future of Beta Theta Pi until the wee hours of the morning.

To Jonathan Brant & Tom Cassidy, for showing me the power of vulnerability, emotion, and love as the ultimate expression of our brotherhood. I would be remiss if I did not share my first meeting with Brother Brant. Back in 2008 as a student participant at the Wooden Institute, I ran into Jonathan at the AO, Son of the Stars book in hand. With a twinkle in his eye, he suggested the most important page in the book was Page 200. What was on said page? A picture of Jonathan Brant.

And finally, to Wayne Kay, John Stebbins, and Jeff Rundle, for showing me three distinct ways of being a principled leader, proving you do not need to sacrifice 'self' to lead with integrity.

As for my actual outgoing comments; I've been thinking about what I've wanted to convey to the men in this room since the 186th Convention. As a first generation, neurodivergent brother, I fell into old habits whenever the need to convey my emotions in times of triumph & tragedy: turning to poetry for inspiration.

"I can't help it, I love the way Men Love." Ada Limon's, United States' 24th Poet Laureate, prose hit me square in the chest. She was inspired after discussing with a shoemaker why he chose his profession, only to find that as a child he had to bury his mother shoe-less. It is a poem on how men in America show their love, through quiet devotion in the actions we take every single day.

Many peers, friends, and brothers ask how a Son of Appalachia found a career in Safety, Insurance, and Risk Management. Blame Appalachia, a region known for its breath-taking beauty, relative isolation, and abundance of coal.

Coal thrived despite that isolation, creating communities & opportunities that would cease to exist without the mines. My grandpa, Papaw B., and his brother, Uncle Lee, picked up the shovel as teenagers to provide for my family. Uncle Lee mangled his hand in machinery at the age of 13, and years later, Papaw B. lost a leg when a mine shaft collapsed. Two of my dad's brothers, Uncle Don and Uncle Rod, entered the mines soon after to take their place, eventually being rewarded with black lung.

My career is not random chance. So too with Beta.

In August 2009, as a rising Junior, I was heading back to Eastern Kentucky after visiting my Beta sweetheart, chapter brothers, and the Delta Pi chapter in Louisville. Halfway through my journey, with the windows down, the lovely smell of a bonfire hit my nostrils. I was feeling life. But as my drive continued, the smell became more & more intense, in fact, in time it became overwhelming.

Finally, I made the decision to roll my windows up and immediately lost all sight of the road as the smoke bellowing from inside my car no longer had an exit. I pulled over, slammed my car into park, and rushed out, only for my vehicle to become completely engulfed within seconds. The paint melted off, the windows exploded, the car sunk to the ground as the tires became enflamed. There I was, sitting on the side of the road when everything burnt to ashes.

Brothers from Delta Pi picked me up and took me as far as Lexington, where my chapter brothers took me to my dorm room down in Richmond, with nothing to my name. I thought my collegiate journey was over in that moment, but my chapter wouldn't hear of it. They fundraised enough on campus to get me back on my feet, and our alumni paid my tuition & dues that year knowing I'd be dropping out otherwise. I've told this story many, many times, but what 99% of people don't know (my wife included) is the entire story.

If you've been paying attention, you've heard me talk about anger, loneliness, and neurodivergence in the last 5 minutes. The truth is, I had been self-medicating for most of my adolescent life. Before I started that fateful drive, I did the same thing I did to start any activity: crushing and snorting benzodiazepines. Without a thought in the world, I was driving to my 2nd home chain smoking and throwing the butts in the back seat just as I always did. The difference that fateful day was my back seat now had flammable cardboard boxes filled with my belongings.

I nearly died because I did not know how to ask for help. To this day I cannot smell smoke without having a panic attack unless I know its source. I don't share this because I want your pity: I didn't deserve it then and I don't need it now, trust me – I'm in a good space. I share it because my brothers did not see a failure, a lost cause, or a brother who unworthily wears the badge: they saw a brother who needed love, support, and lots of professional counseling to get through a traumatic event. They gave all of it to me.

That's what makes our fraternity Great & Good. Our fraternity is Great because of what we can accomplish when we lift one another up, not just when one is winning at life, but when we see & acknowledge when a brother is struggling against life's strife. Our fraternity is Good because anyone can serve: even a first generation college student, a son of Appalachia, or a brother who has been 18 years sober.

So my challenge to you is thus: take care of your brothers, lift them up, get them the help they need. And when Beta eventually reaches out for your talent, your time, and yes, even your treasure, I hope you'll answer that call. But as I look around this room, my heart swells because I know each of you will rise to the occasion. "I can't help it, I love the way men love."

Damn proud to be a Beta, hope to be a better one, and damn glad I can call y'all one too. Thank you.

- Recognition of and remarks from outgoing Trustee, **Joel Stern, *UC Riverside* '94**
  "What a few men united in not having an effort will to do can be done. More than that, such associations teach us how far human friendships can carry us." -John Riley Knox, of ever honored memory.
  To me, that is what a fraternity is all about. It's also my favorite thing.
  I love this fraternity and I love so many people in this fraternity and I try to tell them that often. I don't think you can say that enough.
  I love you.
  Think about saying that more often to those you care about, especially your brothers, and see how it takes your relationship to the next level.
  I'm comfortable saying that more and more because I literally grew up with a number of men in this room. It started from my undergraduate days. My brother, Raj Gupta, he was here, he had to leave. He saw something in me that I didn't see in myself and thankfully invited me to join.
  For my time on Beta staff.
  Jim Howard. Our time at Wash U twice.
  Paul Puckett.
  Scott Fussell, sure come a long way from the "I wasn't supposed to like you" days.
  John Stebbins, District 19 office, all the way to General Secretary. It's been an honor to serve with you, brother.
  Martin Cobb, just glad to know my stapler is in good hands.
  Brother Rod Hastie, sorry we couldn't deliver Georgia State to you.
  Steve Becker, you brought out the inner singer in me that I literally never knew existed. And to your better half, Trudy, the real reason I stand before you guys today. True story.
  And the countless other brothers whose path I was lucky enough to cross. Adam Collins, Ethan Braden, Bob Schnese, Jonathan Brandt, Woody Ratterman, Mike Okenquist, Chuck Graves, Tom Lipton, Vince Del Pizzo, Jeff Rundle and the entire Beta Staff…and countless others. You all shaped me in profound ways. I truly love you brothers, and I'm a better man because of you.
  Your friendship, mentorship, brotherhood, and love. They can never be repaid, so I try to pay that forward.
  To my fellow trustees, I learned so much by how you carry yourselves. I'm comforted by your leadership. I know that our fraternity is in good hands.
  Nick, it's an honor to serve with you. Like you said, I hope we're the only ones that ever join via a remote convention. But here we are.
  To my undergraduate brothers, I say this. Surround yourself with the best. And it starts with those in this room. Stay engaged and involved in our fraternity, your fraternity. That's how we got to be 187 years old.
  My advice to you is to say yes, if asked, and don't be afraid to raise your hand and get involved. 18-year-old me could never have imagined being here addressing you all today. It's truly been my honor to serve and to be the first from a California school to serve on the Board. I certainly hope that I'm not the last.

Thank you for trusting me. I was hoping to pay down at least some of my debt to Beta in this role, but the bill just continued to grow larger. Beta has a way of doing that, but I know how this works.
So this is not goodbye. It's more like, see you soon.
I'll leave you with this. Beta has given us a gift. We have an obligation to hold her carefully, thoughtfully, lovingly, to use it, enjoy it, share it, and pass her along the better off. We don't have too many chances in this world to leave a legacy. And this is one thing. We should all be proud of the legacy we're helping to build with Beta Theta Pi.
I love you, brothers. I'm proud to be a Beta.

Adam Schultz, *Virginia Tech* '98 moves to recess until tomorrow morning
- Second: **Tom Lipton, *Western Reserve* '63**
- Motion passes by unanimous consent

Saturday, August 1, 2026, Morning Session

Call to Order

Roll Call

Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence

- **Oscar Bloom, *Chico State* '27**, states that the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence moves to approve Proposal 1 in order to revise the laws of Beta Theta Pi surrounding Financial Health and eligibility to vote at Convention:
  - Revise the Laws of Beta Theta Pi, Section 3(A)(b) as follows:

    All chapters are entitled to representation except

    (a) [no change];

    (b) Chapters with an outstanding balance owed to the General Fraternity for obligations from the prior fiscal year, unless such balance is paid in full at least fifteen (15) days prior to the announced date of the Convention, except those who have demonstrated fiscal responsibility to the satisfaction of the General Secretary or his designee;

    (c). [no change]

  - The committee recommends the following amendment:
    - Strike "for obligations from the previous fiscal year'" and add "any" before "outstanding balance". Chapters with any outstanding balance owed to the General Fraternity, unless such balance is paid in full at least fifteen (15) days prior to the announced date of the Convention,

except those who have demonstrated fiscal responsibility to the satisfaction of the General Secretary or his designee.
- Amendment passes by voice vote

- Amended proposal by voice vote

Committee of Finance and Risk Management

- **Jack Bredeson, *Boise State* '27**, states that the Committee on Fraternity Finance and Risk Management moves to approve Proposal 2 in order to alter Beta Theta Pi Risk Management Policy, Section 2: Hazing and Respectful Treatment, Subsection 2.
- The committee has agreed that combat sports are a potential huge liability to the general fraternity. We agreed that having more specific outlines is important to be clear so that we are covered, for example, "included, but not limited to." The added provision above allows us to represent that we don't condone fighting sports within out fraternity to raise money and for philanthropy events. This proposal uses a cautious state of mind. The committee voted unanimously to approve this motion.
- Proposal 2
  - Beta Theta Pi Risk Management Policy, Section 2: Hazing and Respectful Treatment, Subsection 2. (Page 4)

    2. Beta does not tolerate or condone any form of fighting or physically abusive behavior, in any situation sponsored or endorsed by the chapter.

    This includes philanthropy or fundraising events that involve boxing or fighting. Beta chapters or members will not conduct, participate in, or condone any organized combat sports which are defined as any combat sport including, but not limited to: boxing; kickboxing; wrestling of any kind; fencing; mixed martial arts; muay thai; Brazilian jui-jitsu; judo; karate; krav maga; taekwondo; aikido; sambo; kung fu; or martial arts of any other kind that are organized in advance by the chapter or its members and take place in an amateur practice or competition setting.

    This policy does not prohibit or limit individual members from participating in combat sports that are organized and sanctioned by their academic institution or that are otherwise not associated with, or sponsored or endorsed by their chapter.
  - Following a voice vote, there is a call for division
    - The chair states that the motion passes
    - **Bill Schaub, *Oregon* '73** calls for roll call vote
      - Motion passes, 67-57
  - **John Stebbins, *Emory* '92**, asks for a Point of Personal Privilege
    - When I've seen legislation play out in this fall over 33 years, I have a general feeling that most of us will get to the same decision 90% of the time. If we all have the same information. Just because I've seen

how Beta brothers come together, what concerns me about what just took place was there was no debate and I feel like there was not good information that was exchanged in that process. So, if that would have failed and I'm not saying that we always get it right, you know, as the Board, we definitely respect this body in governing the fraternity. But if that would not have passed, we may have had to increase the risk management fees significantly on the body in order to cover combat sports. I don't know how many of you are having combat sports. It's not an industry standard. So, I just want to make sure that as we go forward in our deliberations, that was a pretty split group in this room, that we have healthy debate and allow that information to come out so that you're making a fully informed decision. So just to make sure that we know how the governance process works, if someone has appointed information they need to rise, if they would like our general counsel to give the rationale for why that that decision or proposal was before the body that might be good information for you all to have, or so you can understand. You know the implications of how your vote is being cast, but I would I would hope that if we're going to be split that much on how we feel about an issue, that at least we'll have some debate and allow.

Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence

- **Oscar Bloom, *Chico State '27***, states that the Committee on Constitution and Jurisprudence moves to approve Proposal 3 in order to revise the Constitution and laws of Beta Theta Pi.
- Proposal 3
    - Addition of new language to The Constitution - Article VI Amendments
      SECTION 3. Scrivener's Errors: Notwithstanding the foregoing amendment provisions, the Board of Trustees or their designee may correct scrivener's errors within the Constitution.
        A. Scrivener's errors are limited to typographical, grammatical, formatting, numbering, or cross-referencing errors that do not alter the intent, meaning, or substantive effect of any article.
        B. Any such correction shall be documented, dated, and communicated to the membership.
        C. No correction made under this section shall modify policy, authority, rights, or obligations established by this governing document.
        D. Any dispute regarding whether a correction constitutes a scrivener's error shall be resolved using the standard amendment process.
    - Addition of new language to The Laws - Chapter XVII Amendments

SECTION 2. Scrivener's Errors: Notwithstanding the foregoing amendment provision, the Board of Trustees or their designee may correct scrivener's errors within the Laws.

A. Scrivener's errors are limited to typographical, grammatical, formatting, numbering, or cross-referencing errors that do not alter the intent, meaning, or substantive effect of any chapter.
B. Any such correction shall be documented, dated, and communicated to the membership.
C. No correction made under this section shall modify policy, authority, rights, or obligations established by this governing document.
D. Any dispute regarding whether a correction constitutes a scrivener's error shall be resolved using the standard amendment process.

- The committee recommend the following amendment:
  - Following "Any dispute regarding whether a correction constitutes a scrivener's error shall be resolved using the standard amendment process," add "Upon written objection to a correction by any chapter, alumni association, or General Fraternity officer, the correction shall be suspended, and the affected provision shall revert to its language immediately prior to the correction until the dispute is resolved. The reverted language shall be the operative text of this governing document, and shall be so published, for the duration of the dispute."
    - Request for Information: **Tommy Raimondi, *Ohio* '16**, What would be the impact of this logistically
      - **Jacob Tidwell, *East Carolina* '04**, After Convention we'll make edits, we'll post the new Code through this new addition. What this means is that if we publish an update, due to this new Scrivener's
      - rule and there's an objection, we take the correction back and put back the previous version, which requires us to republish it to the website. It would be a process but not proposal. I as the author of the original proposal, I'm supportive of this amendment.
    - Request for Information: **Patrick Cadigan, *Case Western Reserve* '28**, Who makes the decision?
    - **Jacob Tidwell, *East Carolina* '04**, The role here is intended to fix obvious errors, so this would be removing periods, removing commas, removing extra essays, so not intended to be personal judgment calls, but grammatical rules following language. If we're making significant changes to our governing documents, I usually go to Jeff Rundle, our CEO's or other staff members that are good at grammar.

        - Point of Personal Privilege: **Tom Reeves, *Eastern Kentucky* '99**, Could the folks that are on the stage please just remain on the stage and speak from the stage on the stage? Just want to make sure we're all safe.
        - Request for Information: **Tony Dempsey, *John Carroll* '18**, As we see the amended proposal, does this only apply to half of the proposed language, or is it to be applied to both sections.?
            - **Oscar Bloom, *Chico State '27*.** Yes, intended for both sections of proposal to make things easier for basic corrections.
        - Request for Information: **TJ Hockett, *Florida State* '25**, How will it be sent out?
            - **Jacob Tidwell, *East Carolina* '04,** Updates will be sent through email in the Beta Brief and on the website.
        - Call to Vote
            - Amendment passes by voice vote
    - **Ben Swartz, *Connecticut* '05**, proposes an amendment to strike the word "grammatical" from Article VI, Section 3, A and Chapter XVII, Section 2, A.
        - Second: **Stavan Bhatt, *Louisville* '98**
        - **Paul Sommerfield, *Centre* '90**, Asks why this amendment is removing the word "grammatical."
            - **Ben Swartz, *Connecticut* '05**, states that be believes grammar is open to interpretation.
        - Call to vote
            - Amendment passes by voice vote
    - Request for Information, **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, asks if typographical includes spelling.
        - **Kevin Levy, *American* '16**, states as an attorney, spelling is considered a typographical error.
    - Vote
        - Amended proposal passes by voice vote

Committee of Finance and Risk Management

- **Jack Bredeson, *Boise State* '27**, states the Committee on Fraternity Finance and Risk Management moves to approve Proposal 4 and the Restructure of Chapter XI. The committee discussed and agreed that having a more clear set of rules for chapter fees and dues for the greater good of both the administrative side and the collegian side. We wish to have as clear as possible outlined for finances, and the attorney will transition to Salesforce. Many of us use that the old billing system and billing will still be the same as before using the new system. This proposal will make it easier for transition between the two systems. Easier workloads for the administration, administrative staff, and officers.

Further, Kyle Schwab, the author of this proposal, said we did not implement any dates into the proposal as to keep it flexible so that the administrative staff can set the dates. (Additions are bold and removals are bold and stricken-through)

SECTION 1. *General Fraternity Fee**s and Dues***: Each chapter shall be responsible for payment to the Administrative Office of the following fees **and dues** (**in** United States Funds or equivalent)**;:**

A. *General Fraternity Membership Fees*: **~~The m~~M**embership fees shall include 1) the pledge fee, payable at the time of pledging; 2) the initiation fee payable at the time of initiation; and 3) the Baird Fund fee **payable at the time of initiation**. The portion paid at the time of pledging shall be non-refundable. **~~A current list of fees is located at Beta.org.~~**

B. *Annual Dues*: Annual dues **~~paid per each collegiate member in two equal installments due October 1 and March 1 each year~~** shall include 1) General Fraternity **~~D~~d**ues and 2) Heritage Fund dues. **~~A current list of fees is located at Beta.org.~~ Each shall be billed in two installments during the academic year. Annual dues shall be based on the total number of collegiate members on the official chapter roll at the Administrative Office as of the established billing date plus any remaining pledges for each term after their affiliation.**

C. ~~Fee~~ Adjustments: Annually on June 1st, at the discretion of the Board of Trustees, **~~all~~ each** of the above fees and **~~any portion thereof~~ dues** may be increased by a cost of living factor up to the percentage rise in the consumer price index for the previous calendar year. The calculation shall be based on the previous year's **~~fee~~ amount** and rounded upward to the nearest dollar. **A list of fees and dues for the next academic year shall be announced by the Board of Trustees no later than June 15th annually and posted to Beta.org**

~~The total number of collegiate members in part B of this section should be based on the official chapter roll at the Administrative Office for the October 1 payment or a mid-year adjustment for the March 1 payment. This total shall also include any remaining pledges for each term after their affiliation. The Administrative Office is directed to establish, as soon as reasonably possible and in such a manner as directed by the Beard of Trustees, the Heritage Fund as a~~

~~**perpetual endowment for the Hall of Chapters, Archives, Museum, Beta Theta Pi Foundation and Administrative Office.**~~

- Request for Information: **Connor Richards, *Kettering B* '27**, how is academic year defined?
  - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, states that the academic year starts with the first start date of the first chapter to start and ends with the last date of last chapter to finish to make it the same for all chapters.
- **Julian Sanderson, *Knox* '27**, asks about the Baird Fund Fee that is payable at initiation. What if people are waiting for scholarships or trying to get approved for these scholarships? How would that go about?
  - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, states that the bill goes to thechapter, not individuals. The chapter can collect from that member or can pay and wait for person to receive an answer.
- Vote
  - Proposal passes by voice vote

Committee on Permanent Organization

- **Kent Dow, *Michigan State* '86**, The committee recommends not to approve proposal five. We came to this conclusion because we determined that the potential optic damage does not outweigh the history and brotherly unity that the Beta dox represents.

  - Proposal 5

    The Ritual of Beta Theta Pi > IV. Ritual of Initiation > II. Initiation of Members > "Beta Doxology"(Page 98)

    Remove the current instruction describing the extension of the right arm straight forward, palm down, prior to raising the hand.

    Replace with the following language: "Directions- The ceremony concludes with brothers forming a circle, all facing inward, the newly initiated members kneeling in the center. As the "Beta Doxology" is solemnly sung, each brother places his left hand on the right shoulder of a nearby brother and rests his right hand over his heart. At the words "to Him," the right hand is raised upward toward the sky, palm turned up."

  - Debate
    - **Mike Roupas, *Iowa* ' 10** (yes), While I have a deep appreciation for the meeting and symbolism behind the way we do the Doxology, I believe that out of context, the arm gesture associated with it is topically problematic. I want to clarify concern that this proposal may have an impact.

My proposal is rooted in mighty care for our fraternity. My proposal was not supported by the committee. It struck me that all three delegates who spoke during our committee meeting each shared personal experience with a negative initial reaction.
Since that meeting two weeks ago, I've also learned that at least one chapter has chosen not to do the arm motion while performing Beta Doxology and that modifying the arm gesture is not unprecedented. The Beta Doxology was originally performed entirely with the palm down. As a result of the world wars, this was changed.

- Request for Information: **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, Before we continue the debate, if Brother Haynes is here, could we ask for the historical context from our historian about how the gesture was created? If not, can other members of the Board address this?
    - **John Stebbins, *Emory* '92**, I'll give you the history that I know on the Doxology and the gesture. In many religious organizations, you will see the laying of hands on people in the congregation. It's meant to confer authority, to confer knowledge, and there's an act at the at the very end of the initiation, and we kind of carry it outside of the initiation that when the neophytes or the newly initiated brothers are kneeling in the center, there's the symbolism of the fraternity is basically conferring authority over those new initiatives to come forth and be the new generation to build up the fraternity. They did not want to go so far as laying hands on it for the religious symbolism, but it is a blessing and it is meant just to ask the blessing on that new group of new initiates.
    - **Mike Feinstein, *MIT* '82** – I spoke with Brother Haynes earlier to get his history about this. It was during World War 2 when there was concern about Nazism and a Nazi salute, where an innocent gesture prior to World War Two would now then be considered something that was far from innocent. It was during that time when people were most afraid of Nazism, and our motion was changed from a pure hands down. Brother Haynes also explained that the motion can be done either when you turn your palm up. It can be with your arms straight or bent at the elbow, and both are considered correct.
- **Mike Feinstein, *MIT* '82** (no) My biggest concern is from the impact we would see. The Doxology is probably the most common thing when alumni show up at an event. That's the thing they remember, and they remember standing with the arm out. They remember the hand on the shoulder. They remember the arm motion. They remember the words to the song. This has connected us over the decades. Anything can change and I'm not afraid of change. However, any change is both an opportunity to make things better or different as well as a risk of cutting off some of

that history, making some alumni feel that they're no longer as connected, making them feel less comfortable at an alumni event.

- Convention President **Adam Schultz, *Virginia Tech* '98** requests that all non-members leave the room.
- **Matthew Hall, *Wisconsin* '28** (yes), I was on the committee and voted no towards the proposal but in reconsideration strongly believe we should pass it. Since the rise of Nazism in 1930, ninety years ago it was amended. The decision at the time was thought to be enough and has been our common practice since last century. In conversations with members on both sides of voting today, they acknowledge the initial dismay of seeing what seemed like the Nazis, but looked at it further. The bond with our brothers and initiation and the alumni events. That feeling of connectivity and continuity with our brothers. They acknowledge having that knee jerk reaction. Our ritual has a similar visual as the Nazi Party.
- **Curt Rogers, *Geogia Tech* '28** (no), It's not unheard of for people who disagree with songs to make adaptations for their own chapter, and I don't think that there's really many situations where somebody needs to. Exceptions would be at a General Fraternity event like Wooden. We should apply this to all chapters who appreciate the long tradition that this has.
- **Tristan Ross, *WPI* '27** (yes) – I believe this continues the brotherly bond provided by the gesture and that is where your pin would be, over your heart. I believe it is a suitable replacement for the current gesture and we are looking to the future. I understand the desire to maintain tradition, but I think this is a case where building the bridge for future generations means improving so that this problem does not continue for another 90 years.
- **Bill Schaub, *Oregon* '73** (no), I leave four names with you. Bill Bowerman, Olympic coach, co-founder of Nike; Mark Hatfield, United State Senator; Wendell Wyatt, US Congressman; Glenn Holden, United States Ambassador. Bill Bowerman, 10th Mountain Division, World War II in Italy; Mark Hatfield, Pacific Theater, he was at Hiroshima eight days after Hiroshima was bombed; Wendell Wyatt, Marine Corps, South Pacific; Glenn Holden, U.S. Navy South Pacific. I attended scores of events. I was honored to know each one of these gentlemen, some very closely. I worked for Senator Hatfield for many years. All of them attended scores of Beta events. They were all high-profile Betas who fought against totalitarianism. They knew the difference between the Nazi salute and the Beta Doxology.
- **Pedro Ibarra Mejia, *Pacific* '28** (yes) – I'd like to address the point that we're not changing the Beta Doxology itself. We're just making the simple hand gesture change. The difference is significant. I have been through three years in my chapter where people were jokingly making that

gesture. If it's not specifically stated in the Constitution people will not follow that and create division among the local chapters. Our chapter house is owned by the school, and not off campus. So out of context, when an RA sees us pointing our hand, it does seem a little odd. That's why I think it's important to make that change. That's what we already do for the Pledge of Allegiance. It's what we already do for the National Anthem. I don't see why it makes much of a difference here. It's just making that appropriate change for people who are Jewish within our fraternity.

- Request for Information: **Nick Gilson, *Utah* '03** – The proposal is as it is written, refers only to the beta doxology in the ritual, and specifically in the initiation of members. I'm curious how the author intends for that specific instance of the seeing of the Doxology to be modified without modifying public instances of the doxology.
    - **Mike Roupas, *Iowa* '10**, Just to clarify my proposal and the inclusion of why it was why address the ritual itself, that is the only place where we are outlining where and what to do with our arms and the intent of it is to be doing our private. The ceremony, I think my concern has grown as we performed Beta Doxology in public. At Convention, we do it in hotel public spaces and whatnot.
- **Connor Richards, Kettering B '27**, makes a motion to amend to the original motion:

    Change "**Rests his right hand over his heart**" to "**Extends his right hand, palm turned up.**"

    Change "**, right hand is raised upward towards the sky, palm turned up**" to "**, right hand is raised upward toward the sky.**"

    - Request for information: **Mike Feinstein, *MIT* '82**, Can you show us what you mean?
    - **Mike Feinstein, *MIT* '82** seconds the motion
    - **Stuart Tournier, *DePauw* '27** (yes), my great grandfather served inWorld War II, and I grew up with individuals who were Jewish and had family killed in the Holocaust. This motion is unsettling. We can say we don't have to necessarily associate the motion with Nazism. But, when somebody looks at the swastika, they don't see the 5000-year-old Hindu symbol that is meant to symbolize tranquility. When I see swastika, I still think that Nazism first because that is what comes first in people's minds. We live in a day and age where everything is taken out of context.

        - Request for Information: **Faraz Malek, *Toronto* '12**, Have there been any complaints or have we received anything related to this from the members of the public.
            - **Mike Roupas, *Iowa* ' 10**, at convention about ten years ago, there was a Friend of Beta who was at their first convention, and she did express concerns about hotel staff and the perception that they saw.
        - **Bill Schaub, *Oregon* '73** calls the question
            - Fails by voice vote; debate continues
        - Request for Information: **Curt Rogers, *Georgia Tech* '28**, asks brother to further explain complaint.
        - **Mike Roupas, *Iowa* '10,** It was a newly hired staff member who is now working in our leadership and education department. She expressed that to me, that concern about it from her own perspective.
        - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, I have Ethan Bell looking right now within our incident reporting system to just check, but I am not aware of any incident report which would we would consider to be a formal report. I am not aware of any formal complaints but will confirm.
        - Call for division
            - Passes; debate ends
        - Vote on proposed amendment
            - Passes by visual vote
    - Request for Information: **Nick Sexton, *Eastern Kentucky* '11**, Zac Haynes is here to address previous request for information from Ken Bryan.
        - **Zac Haines, *Miami* '05**, the prayer, which is what this is, was raising your arm straight up. Then World War II happened and that that that had become a not good thing. So they turned it up to the sky. It's no different than any other formal ceremony of prayer.
    - **Paul Leo, *Cornell* '81** (yes), This is the Nazi salute (acts out the salute). My father was a refugee. We expect our rituals to be private, being treated as such. Yesterday, during one of our rituals, we had to take a photo of something provided we did not take a picture of the surrounding items. We do this so in public now. People are looking to pick a fight and make us look bad. This is optics. We know what this means, but a bunch of people don't. And right now, as integrated as we are and I really applaud us for that, a picture of a bunch of white guys with their hands on their shoulders, going like this standing in a circle could be misinterpreted by the people who put things on the Internet.
    - **Caleb Kirkpatrick, *Kenyon* '28**, calls the question
        - **Curt Rogers, *Georgia Tech* '28**, seconds
        - Motion fails by voice vote

- Request for Information, **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, can we put text back up on the screen?
- Request for visual vote to end debate
    - Motion fails
- Request for Information: **William Wylie, *Colorado Mines* '27**, Ethan are you done with looking for reports?
    - **Ethan Bell, *Wisconsin-Oshkosh* '16**, there are no known reports
- **Karl Edelmann, *Michigan* '86** (no), I'm the child of a Nazi refugee. I'm Catholic. My wife is Jewish. I've been a proud member of this fraternity for 40 years. I know what the Nazi salute looks like. We all know what it looks like. My wife, who I introduced to this fraternity nine years eight years ago when my first wife passed away. As someone whose brothers died in World War II and another brother liberated one of the concentration camps has never found any objection to our doxology, and she has seen it. I understand that younger folks who are now 70 years and 80 years removed from World War II don't have the social context and don't have the history that goes with it. I've been to many an event where young brothers are screwing around with that motion and slapping each other or hitting each other's heads or doing things inappropriately. But that doesn't diminish the fact that it has meaning. As a Catholic, it means something to me to reach out and give that blessing to someone. It means something to me to raise that hand up to God. My wife, who is Jewish. It does not make offense at all, and she accepts that it is reaching out to the folks in front of her.
- **Logan Feinstein, *Wisconsin* '29** (yes), it's obvious that this could become a PR nightmare. I understand the history means a lot for a lot of older Betas to be able to connect with their roots, I also feel like it's kind of a disaster coming and this is definitely managing the risk.
- **Zac Haines, *Miami* '05** (no), There are far more controversial issues that we've discussed in the past and more in the future. We have to take this decision very seriously, you're talking about overturning hundreds of years of tradition. It's a very slippery slope because it seems like nowadays everyone is offended by everything. I want to be very sympathetic to those that are conflicted and those that have strong feelings that are opposite my own. I know that we have Jewish brothers and many of my best friends are Jewish. We wear robes in the ritual, you know. The KKK wears robes. Will we get rid of our robes? When we when we sing the song, bless thou, oh, God. For those of you that are atheists or ambivalent, maybe get rid of God now too, because we already got rid of it in a lot of other places. Where does it end? It becomes tyranny of the minority very quickly. We can have empathy. We can have respect. But I think the proper thing is to put some education on the website explaining to the world in a very public manner what it is and what it is not. But we can't be afraid of how every single person is going to interpret it.

- **Connor Richards, Kettering B '27** (yes), I have been immense and abiding respect for our traditions. They are what has tied us together for 187 years. I agree with some of what brother Haines said. However, I can't think of any other organization of a non-religious character that uses the gesture of this. We do not have that shared context. It's naive to believe that we can explain this away in this world in this day and age of social media and echo chambers. I think it is likely within the next decade or two that somebody at one of our events, maybe the hotel staff, will see that gesture and will spread it around. No amount of information we can provide can override that image that gets seared in people's mind associated with us, of what effectively appears to be a Nazi salute. Making the assumption that others will listen is, I think, fundamentally incorrect
- **Jake Albright, *Appalachian State* '27** (no), A lot of this discussion is how it's perceived by others. We have Jewish brothers in my chapter who have never had an issue with the gesture, and I believe it simply boils down to making an addition to the new Member education program, teaching our new members that this is a gesture hundreds of years old. It does not reflect the Nazi salute. Everyone needs to have enough personal integrity to not mess around with that gesture.
- **Curt Rogers, *Georgia Tech* '28** (yes) We all know what the ritual means. We want to show the world we're better than that. It's what we do, we have our history as Betas. The first fraternity to publicly show our Constitution. We don't tell them the rituals. But we have said very clearly who we are and what we stand for. That legacy of that tradition.
- **Karl Edelmann, *Michigan* '86** moves to refer the motion to the Board of the Directors for consideration until the 188th Convention.
    - **Stavan Bhatt, *Louisville* '98** seconds the motion
    - Request for Information: **Ben Swartz, *Connecticut* '05**, we are referring to board to do what?
        - **Karl Edelmann, *Michigan* '86,** Our board is constituted to look at those kinds of activities and over the next year they can get a better idea of what's going on and why we're having so much division on this issue at this time.
    - **Pedro Ibarra Mejia, *Pacific* '28** (no), what more information can we get? We already have this discussion, the history.
    - Request for Information: **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, asks Jeff Rundle to clarify what the Board does in situations such as this.
        - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, The code stipulates a process for legislative proposal submission. There's a there's a date and at that point, once we pass that date, the Administrative Office staff compiles all legislation and I work with our Board of Trustees through their codified evaluative process, to certify that each proposal is timely

and complete. To make sure people can understand it, that is that is germane it, and it's appropriate. That is not a value judgment as far as whether the board likes or doesn't like the legislation, but the board is the gatekeeper to make sure that the things that are coming before this body are well baked and ripe for consider. The board is not in a place to go back to the original motion and to come back to the body to say we should do this or we should do this. That's not what the Board of Trustees does. Assuming there is a world where there's additional information that needs to be gathered or surveys that need to be done, the Board is positioned to direct the gathering of information.

- Request for Information: **Thomas Cain, *Lawrence* '28**, will it come back next year?
    - **John Stebbins, *Emory* '92**, the Board of Trustees is not a committee of the General Convention. The Convention body has the authority to charge the Board of trustees to do something. I think what our brother is trying to propose is for the Board to take this matter and study it further and bring a recommendation to the committee. We don't have the authority to change legislation that has been proposed by a member of the fraternity and just make a decision/. That that power resides with the Convention.
- Request for Information: **Jack Bredeson, *Boise State* '27,** what information would the board gather?
    - **John Stebbins, *Emory* '92**, Historically, when we have considered matters of ritual, given the history and tradition of the fraternity, those are not changes that we take lightly. It depends on the issues that we're facing. But you study that historical context. Study modern day. What are the concerns? We might survey the attitudes of our current members and the fraternity and at least report back to the Convention so that they could take action.
- **Bill Schaub, *Oregon* '73**, calls the question
    - Jeff Malinowski, Central Michigan '16 seconds the motion
    - Passes by voice vote
- Point of Personal Privilege: **Zane Carlson, *Knox* '16**, We are referring the amended proposal to the Board of Trustees. I would like to make sure that the Board of Trustees is aware that we are sharing the initial and the amended proposal.
- Request for Information: **Ben Swartz, *Connecticut* '05**, I'm trying to get clarity on what we are charging the Board with. I feel like we need something written down that says are we charging the Board with something. Are we referring this to a committee that has

authority and to bring it back? It's a little murky to me on what we are actually asking?

- **Karl Edelmann, *Michigan* '86,** the intent of this is to refer this to the Board, to the appropriate committee for review of the history and the current situation and to come back to the next conventions with that history and that information, so that the General Convention can make an appropriate recommendation and both to go up or down or to change our ritual. If the Board decides that this needs further work, then the Board can make the recommendation that this needs to be reviewed and bring it back at some time to be determined in the future.
- Convention Parliamentarian **Kevin Levy, *American* '16**, explains the 187th Convention will not be voting today. The 188th Convention will vote on it next year, provided that the legislation is resubmitted, because in a very technical sense, anything that is not passed today dies.

- VOTE
  - Chair states that motion fails by voice vote
  - Division called
    - Chair states that visual vote is too close to determine
  - Motion passes 75-56

Committee on Permanent Organization

- **Kent Dow, *Michigan State* '86**, states the committee recommends approving proposal six. We found that these scalable standards will benefit all chapters equally.
- Proposal 6 – Revise Inactive Member Bylaw in Chapter VIII, Section 1 of the Laws of Beta Theta Pi (Additions are bold and removals are bold and stricken-through)

a. Temporarily Inactive Member:
   1. A member of the fraternity who would otherwise be a Collegiate member may become temporarily inactive for any of the following reasons:
      (a) Study abroad, internships or co-ops away from the city where the institution is located.
      (b) Missionary work required by his educational institution.
      (c) Financial hardship, provided the number of members of any chapter who may become temporarily inactive because of financial hardship **~~during any academic~~** term shall be limited to **~~three per chapter/colony~~ the greater number of either three (3) members or 5% of its total collegiate membership, with any fractional result rounded down. ~~The chapter shall apply which number is greater. or~~**

(d) Withdrawal from the college or university at which the chapter is established which is not considered permanent.

2. Procedure to become Temporarily Inactive:
   (a) Temporarily inactive status may be granted to a member if the chapter president reports to the Administrative Office the chapter has approved the temporary inactive status, specifies how the member qualifies for such status and certifies the member is not paying the chapter any type of dues or fees for the period of inactive status or participating in any other fraternity activities.
   (b) Temporarily inactive status can only be granted for one term at a time and automatically terminates at the end of such period.
   (c) Such status may be revoked by the General Secretary, District Chief or Administrative Office upon receipt of information showing grounds for such status did not exist, and any revocation shall be effective at the beginning of the period for which the status was granted.
   (d) Revocation of temporarily inactive status may be appealed to the Board of Trustees.

- Debate
  - **Connor Richards, *Kettering B* '27** (yes), This is pretty cut and dry. I come from a very small chapter. As of right now, you can only have three brothers inactive for financial reasons that will never be a problem for us. However, I don't think we should punish the chapters that are big. For example, in one of our biggest chapters, if over one and half percent of their brothers had to go inactive for financial reasons, they have to face the consequences of that. I don't particularly think that's fair? You should vote yes on this motion.
  - Request for Information: **Tony Dempsey, *John Carroll* '18**, what is the average chapter size?
    - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, it depends, but it was 77 at the end of the last academic year. Most years it is between 70 and 72.
  - Request for Information: **Logan Feinstein, *Wisconsin* '29**, What is the financial impact on the General Fraternity, including any potential increase on dues for all members due to of the fact that more people could be on temporarily inactive status?
    - **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, speaking for CFO Austin Marple who is not present. Today, the number of students who go on temporarily inactive status effects paternity about $20,000 a year in reduced membership dues. When somebody goes TIA for, for whatever reason, their chapter is still billed for the risk management because they're still under our liability. If every chapter took the maximum number of TIAs allowed under the proposed policy every semester, Beta would forego about $80,000 in additional dues income to a total of $100,000 of dues income. Our annual revenue as a fraternity is close $8 million, so it's $100,000 out of $8 million. If groups don't take

that maximum but operate with similar proportions to what they've taken in the past, we believe that would cost about $40,000 in new income for a total of $60,000 in lost revenue
        - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, If you're looking at 10,000 undergraduate members, you're looking at six dollars per collegian.
    - **Kevin Needham, *Florida State* '28** (yes), I'd like to pose a personal anecdote from our chapter. Florida State has 170 members and consistently each semester where we do our TIA for more more than three brothers. They've got a very awkward situation where we have top determine whose situation is more desperate and who needs it more. Especially for our larger chapters, this would reduce that awkward situation, but also help out more brothers.
    - Request for Information: **Jamison Bush, *Samford* '28**, how many chapters are currently at the maximum temporary inactive limit?
        - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, I don't have a specific number. It's one of those variable things depending on the term, I have never experienced in my 20 years on staff, a time when all chapters took the maximum amount. I think we usually see some chapters take the maximum and some that take in between two and zero. I would say that a third of our chapters, take the maximum, one third take something in the middle and a third are not utilizing them.
    - Request for Information, **TJ Hockett, *Florida State* '25**, How was 5% determined?
        - **Zach Moreth, *Mississippi* '27**, We tried to find a happy medium. In a chapter of 100 people you take that 5%, that allows 5 people in active. We felt like that was a fair stopping point. Chapters at 77 members would not surpass three amount, and that's the majority of the chapters here. The bigger chapters with 100 plus members can take five or a few more. Our original number was ten percent and we thought that would have been way too high. We felt like five was the perfect happy medium
    - Request for Information, **Charie Ruff, *TCU* '15**, – What is cost for one session of Wooden, I just want something tangible to compare.
        - **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, The reality is it's about a $30,000 cost per session, but the Foundation pays for a portion of that and the fraternity pays for a portion of that. If you're just looking for the event costs, not necessarily coming from general fraternity dues, it's about $30,000.
    - Vote:
        - Passes by voice vote
- Point of Personal Privilege: **Ken Bryan, *MIT* '88**, The Foundation has been undergoing a big capital campaign that raised over $22.6 million. A lot of that is going to affordability scholarships in the coming year and there will be affordability scholarships just to address the issue of TIA. $250 scholarships available to every chapter to help men not go TIA for financial reasons. If you have members who

might have to go TIA for financial reasons, there is no reason you shouldn't apply for a scholarship from the Foundation. That is available to you. Please take advantage of it.

Tony Dempsey, *John Carroll* '18, moves to recess for lunch.

- Second: **Paul Leo, *Cornell* '81**
- **Jeff Rundle, *Kansas State* '03**, If we go past noon, you will still get lunch
- Vote:
    - Motion fails by voice vote

Convention President **Adam Schultz, Virginia Tech '98** makes final comments

- At the 173rd General Convention in 2012, the Board of Trustees devised a way to recognize a Beta brother who may arguably be considered one of the most high-profile champions of Greek life in North America, and that's Senator Richard G. Lugar, Denison 54. Brother Lugar's advocacy for the Men of Principle Initiative and our beloved Beta Theta Pi remains unmatched. Recognized by President Ronald Reagan as a man of matchless integrity and perhaps the Senate's leading intellect, this great American statesman entered the chapter eternal on April 28th, 2019. The accomplishments and accolades attached to Brother Lugar's name are nearly too many to count. He was an Eagle Scout, a pianist, a high school valedictorian, Rhodes Scholar, mayor, the 20th longest serving U.S. Senator, a nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, and a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Of course, his 20-year role as spokesman for the Men of Principle Initiative and his attendance at 23 General Conventions cement his name in Beta lore. For his inspiring example, Beta presented him with the Oxford Cup in 1989 and the Shepardson Award in 2005. Like the motto of the Union Literary Society that gave birth to Beta Theta Pi, cooperation makes strength. And that motto embodied Brother Luger's heart and soul. In that spirit, today it is my honor and a privilege to recognize all of you as Luger Fellows for the work you have done on behalf of your individual chapters and associations, and this great and good fraternity, and how your legislative efforts resemble so closely those of one of mankind's greatest servants and our dear Beta Brother, Brother Luger.
- All non-members are asked to exit the hall for a members-only activity.

Committee of the Whole

- Convention President **Adam Schultz, Virginia Tech '98** moves to suspend the rules and the Convention resolves to a Committee of the Whole
    - Second: ***Wittenburg***
    - Passes by unanimous consent

Closing Remarks