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Convention Postponement Consent - Frequently Asked Questions

Why are chapters being asked to do this since Convention was canceled and not postponed?

While the Convention was canceled and not postponed, we feel it is in the spirit of the Constitution to ask the chapters for their consent on this important action.

Is there any historical precedent for this action?

In July 1942, the Executive Council postponed Convention due to the outbreak of World War II. When it became obvious that this postponement needed to be turned into a cancellation and indefinite suspension, chapters were informed of this action in September 1942. Chapter consent was requested in November 1942 to legalize this action. Given this precedent, the Executive Council seeks the consent of the chapters.

What about having a virtual Convention?

Tennessee law (our state of incorporation) *does not* allow for an annual meeting (our Convention) to be conducted virtually. A replacement “Unvention” is being planned which will have provide similar training and activities as an in-person Convention except for the business of the Association. Unvention will begin October 17. Stay tuned for additional information.

What about important business that Convention typically handles?

Committees are being organized to review important business topics such as new chapter petitions, program appeals, finances, rituals, and awards. The committees will report recommendations directly to the Executive Council during virtual meetings in October and November. Tennessee law does allow the Executive Council to meet virtually. In addition, Tennessee law *does* permit actions that can be taken at the Convention to be acted upon by ballot. As such, the recommendations of the committees and other matters will be sent to voting delegates to vote on following the Unvention.

What about Executive Council elections?

Elections for the Executive Council are being planned. There will be several opportunities for attendees to hear from the [candidates](#), ask questions, and meet them virtually. A special virtual meeting will be organized where voting delegates will be able to vote (submit ballots) for the elections. This process will also adhere to the provisions outlined in the previous question for actions to be taken outside of the Convention.

Why is the Advisory Board (Officers/Executive Board for Alumni Chapters) the recommended group to take this action?

Under ideal circumstances, chapters would convene, discuss, and vote on the matter in-person, but these are not ideal times! If your chapter wishes to conduct an in-person meeting (follow school

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and local guidelines on social distancing and gatherings!), you are welcome to do so. The Advisory Board is recommended since it is a smaller group to get together, discuss the matter, and vote on behalf of the chapter. In the worst case, if a chapter is unable to convene its members or its Advisory Board, a chapter officer may provide his or her consent to the proposed action on behalf of the chapter. In this case, the officer will be asked to provide details on why the chapter or Advisory Board was unable to convene in-person or virtually.

What if my chapter does not vote on the consent request?

If your chapter does not vote, the Council will vote on your behalf as provided for in Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution:

Communications from the Council to the collegiate chapters shall be acted upon by the chapters within one month, not counting regular college vacations, from the time of their receipt. Each chapter shall submit its action, or vote, on a communication from the Council to Headquarters or it forfeits its vote to the Council.

Why the due date of October 15?

As outlined in the answer to the above question, the deadline is roughly one month. We are providing a little more than one month to provide additional time for your chapter to weigh in.

What if our school doesn't start until later in September or early October?

While the deadline mentioned in Article VII, Section 5 mentions college vacations, the vast majority of schools with Tau Beta Pi chapters are already in session or will be in session soon. In addition, this section of the Constitution was written at a time when the only viable means of conducting a vote was in-person or by postal mail. With current modern technology, chapters can meet virtually or communicate electronically even while it may be a "vacation" period. If, however, you need additional time, email chapters@tbp.org.

Is this a graded report that will be considered for a Chapter Excellence Award?

While not an official report, this will be taken into consideration for the 2020-21 Chapter Excellence Award for collegiate chapters.

What about the deadline for alumni chapters?

The consent section refers to all chapters, not just collegiate chapters. While the deadline in Article VII, Section 5 only refers to collegiate chapters, we are using this as a basis for the deadline for all chapters since no provision currently exists for alumni chapters.

What if consent is not received?

In the unlikely event, we hope, that chapters do not provide consent, the Executive Council would need to consider convening a Convention no later than December 22, 2020. *This is not realistic, so we ask all chapters to take this matter seriously and vote to consent to the postponement.*

Will there be a 2021 Convention?

We certainly hope so! However, we will continue to monitor the situation and determine a course of action in the summer of 2021. Headquarters, Tennessee Alpha, and the Great Smoky Mountains Alumni Chapter look forward to the prospect of hosting Convention in Knoxville in 2021!