

PRESIDENT MATTHEW W. OHLAND'S REPORT TO THE 2005 CONVENTION

THE 2002-06 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS elected by the 2001 Convention to lead the Association, guiding national programs through the Executive Director, Headquarters staff, and other national officials whom we appoint. We receive guidance from and report to the Convention.

THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Tau Beta Pi trust value exceeds \$15 million. That's quite a bit more money than last year, but it's important to realize that the majority of it is restricted for fellowships, scholarships, life subscriptions, and Convention delegate support. Without the generous support of our alumni, we could not support Headquarters operations, the District Program, Engineering Futures, and our other programs. The Association's financial position, as described in detail in Secretary-Treasurer Froula's annual report, continues to be excellent. The growth in this past year is due to a number of significant bequests in addition to market gains.

The Association initiated 7,848 students this year, which is down from last year, but is consistent with university enrollment decreases, membership trends in other societies, and normal fluctuations. What is most important to the health of the Association is the number of active members. This number seems to remain unchanged from year-to-year, and represents significant potential for the Association and the world.

There were nine unapproved initiations this year—this is down from last year, but still too many. Michigan Kappa was placed on probation for holding two unapproved initiations, but the chapter's incoming officers, its advisors, and the District 7 Directors have worked out a plan to get the chapter back on its feet. With the installation of California Alpha Beta at the University of California, Riverside, there are 229 collegiate chapters.

PETITIONS

The final petition from the Rowan University was submitted to the 2005 Convention. New petitions from San Francisco State University and the United States Military Academy have been reviewed. Inspection visits were held in September, and the final petitions will be submitted to the 2006 Convention.

SUBJECTS REFERRED BY THE 2004 CONVENTION

The 2004 Convention Committee on Constitution and Bylaws crafted a Constitutional amendment to resolve ambiguities in the eligibility criteria that the Association has struggled with for more than 50 years. The amendment, which combined the clear definitions proposed by the Executive Council and an appeals process, was ratified when the Executive Council voted for chapters that did not submit valid ballots. The appeals process began at the 2005 Convention, where the ad-hoc Curriculum Review Committee reviewed appeals for considering as engineering 16 programs not meeting the constitutional definition.

At the request of the ad-hoc Advisor Committee, that committee was continued and advisors have been integrated into the student Interactive Chapter Exchange sessions. The 2004 Convention recommended Michigan Iota's bid to host the 2007 Convention in Dearborn, MI, and the Council approved that site. Partnerships with Kaplan and Princeton Review complement our NCEES partnership.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS SINCE THE 2004 CONVENTION

In partnership with Marion and Capers McDonald, NC G '74, Tau Beta Pi has established the McDonald Mentoring Award. The details of this new award will be published to the chapters and in **THE BENT**.

Historically, when officers of a chapter could not or did not execute the duties of their office, other officers have stepped up to the additional responsibility. We learned from other societies in the Association of College Honor Societies, of which Tau Beta Pi is a founding member, the legal reasons why chapters must be able to remove an officer for cause, so the Executive Council proposed a constitutional amendment to describe such a process.

The Executive Council also proposed a constitutional amendment to modify our Constitution's description of the Association's financial operations. This amendment aims to bring the description in the Constitution in line with what we and financial advisors (internal and external) think is sound financial practice for this Association in present times.

Tau Beta Pi continues to be responsive to chapters and national officials in improving the access and features of our electronic systems. The most significant outward changes include a more flexible password system that still maintains data security and an electronic interface to upload catalog card data for elected students. In response to perennial requests to simplify the amount of communication that comes from TBP Headquarters, the Resolutions Committee will review all chapter communications (mail and email).

In the past year, the Executive Council instituted a sweeping reform of deadlines throughout the Association, creating a coherent system from what had developed over the years as programs were added. These changes are expected to reduce confusion and help chapters better understand why the deadlines are set when they are.

The Association is healthy in all respects: our financial situation is solid, our staff is talented and efficient, we are supported by a nationwide network of generous volunteers and donors, and every year thousands of top engineering students join our ranks. I look forward to the future.