

President Ohland Reports to the 2006 Convention

THE 2002-06 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS elected by the 2001 Convention to lead Tau Beta Pi, guiding national programs through the Executive Director and 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 \$16 million. That's 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 contributions from 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 Executive Director 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 7,369 students this year, which is slightly up from last year, but is consistent with university enrollments, 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 five unapproved initiations this year—this is down from last year, but still too many. Michigan Kappa was removed from probation. With the installation of New Jersey Epsilon at Rowan University, there are 230 collegiate chapters.

PETITIONS

Final petitions from the United States Military Academy and San Francisco State University are being considered by the 2006 Convention. A petition from Miami University (of Ohio) has been reviewed, an inspection visit was held, and the final petition will be submitted to the 2007 Convention. A preliminary petition from a local honor society at the University of California, Santa Cruz, was reviewed, and Council determined that it was qualified for a detailed inspection to be held this fall. The Council found that local honor societies at Smith College and Boise State University were not qualified for inspection visits. Smith does not have enough graduates to meet Constitutional requirements, and its enrollment trajectory was unclear. Boise State lacked the required two years of continuous operation as a local honor society.

SUBJECTS REFERRED BY THE 2005 CONVENTION

The 2005 Convention passed a motion by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to amend Const. Art. XVII,

Sec. 3 and Sec. 6, to modify the responsibility of the corporate trustee. This amendment was ratified when the Executive Council voted for chapters that did not submit valid ballots. The Council responded to other subjects referred by the 2005 Convention as follows:

- The Executive Council is prepared to empower dedicated alumnus chapter representatives to reinvigorate their chapters, and eagerly awaits a plan of action to be submitted by the group.
- The Council developed a proposal for the suspension of chapter officers who are derelict in their duties. This proposal is being considered by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws.
- The criteria for Curriculum Review were sent to all chapters and posted on the website, and the procedure for denied appeals was listed on the website.
- The Council approved various recommendations of the 2005 Curriculum Review Committee and forwarded them to the 2006 *ad hoc* Curriculum Review Committee.
- The Council approved changes to the judging criteria for the R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter Award recommended by the 2005 Committee on Awards.
- Recommendations from the 2005 *ad hoc* Advisors Committee are being addressed by the Executive Council-elect in the 2006 *ad hoc* Advisor's Committee meeting.

OTHER EC ACTIONS SINCE 2005 CONVENTION

After a sweeping reform of deadlines throughout the Association, one inconsistent reference was discovered in the Constitution, and a proposal is being considered by the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws to correct the oversight.

In response to an increase in the earnings of the Scholarship Fund, Council increased the number of scholarships awarded in April 2006 from 69 to 123. Tau Beta Pi has given \$4,395,000 in Fellowships and Scholarships since 1929.

Council discussed a potential increase in the number of Advisors attending District Conferences and approved full reimbursement for their travel expenses. Though the expenses will not be funded through the individual District budgets, Advisors should still have their expense reports signed by one of their District Directors.

In other areas, on the recommendation of the Trust Advisory Committee, the Executive Council adopted a spending guide of five percent of a 36-month rolling average of the trust assets. Council accepted Alabama Epsilon's proposal for a GIG grant for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief and awarded \$750 to the chapter.

The Council also reviewed Tau Beta Pi's existing partnerships and considered new partnership opportunities and took the following actions:

- Approving a partnership with SunTrust to provide Tau Beta Pi members and their families with exclusive discounts under its student-loan consolidation program;
- Declining to become a charter member of the International Federation of Engineering Education Societies;
- Terminating Tau Beta Pi's affiliate partnership with the Junior Engineering Technical Society; and
- Resigning membership in the American Association of Engineering Societies, which would have increased Tau Beta Pi's annual dues from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

The Association is even stronger than it was last year. Tau Beta Pi is performing well in every way: our financial situation is solid; our staff is talented, well-loved by the Association, and efficient; we are supported by hundreds of volunteers and thousands of donors; and every year we are joined in our mission by thousands of top engineering students. We look forward to what the Association will become during the term of the incoming Foundation Executive Council.

2002-06 PRESIDENT

Matthew W. Ohland, *Florida Alpha '96*, Ph.D., is an associate professor of engineering education in the college of engineering at Purdue University. He served as associate professor of general engineering at Clemson University in 2000-06 and as assistant director of the NSF-sponsored SUCCEED engineering-education coalition in 1996-2000. As an NSF postdoctoral fellow, his focus was in engineering education, and he conducted workshops nationally and internationally.



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President Ohland is a member of the AERA, ASEE, IEEE Education Society, and Sigma Xi and has been an awardee of both the ASME and SAMPE. He holds a B.A. in religion and a B.S. in engineering from Swarthmore College, where he was editor-in-chief of the 1989 college yearbook. He also earned two M.S. degrees, both from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, one in mechanical engineering in 1991 and one in materials engineering in 1992. In 1996, he received his doctorate in civil engineering with a minor in education from the University of Florida.

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