



## Office of the Central Province Councilor

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### I. Chapter Status

#### ***A. How many visits did you make each Chapter in the biennium?***

I recently took over the position of Central Province Councilor on March 1, 2001. Hence, I was unable to perform many visits. I did two informal visits. One to Delta and one to Eta. My goal is to visit all the chapters officially in each of the semesters.

#### ***B. What major problems did you encounter? How were they resolved?***

Eta had a potentially big problem, which was resolved in the short term but could resurface in the future. The problem Eta faced was with a diminished number of actives the cost the chapter house became too great. This problem of the low number of actives was compounded when Marquette University changed the lease on the chapter, forcing it to now pay for natural gas usage as well as electricity. Marquette additionally increased the chapter's rent.

The past winter did not help this situation with extremely high natural gas prices. The chapter was helped by a local alumni, whom contributed a significant portion of money to help the chapter pay rent for the remainder of the semester. As of the Fall 2001 semester, the chapter will have enough actives that can live in the house to cover costs. Eta will need to address this issue since if its numbers fall too low again, or not enough actives live in the house, this problem will resurface and there may not be help the next time. I have discussed with the chapter the possibility of being classified as "student housing" since the University owns the house. This would help the chapter since all students must live in "on campus" housing for their first two years at school, and younger members could then move into the house sooner.

An overall problem that I have observed from afar in many of the chapters is the low numbers of actives. The good news is that the trend across the nation appears that the chapters are seeing more and more interest. Additionally, the chapters do seem to be attracting more of the right kind of people. The chapters will have to work with this momentum of interest by developing better rush strategies and reinforcing the idea that we want the "best of the best" in Sig Phi.

#### ***C. Did you go over financial and other chapter records? What was their condition? What does the Chapter need to do to improve its records?***

I was able to go over the chapter records with Eta Chapter. The chapter does not need to improve its record keeping, rather it needs to improve its collection policies. I have asked Eta to form a plan to work on the many delinquent accounts.

Though I did not go over Delta's records, I talked with the chief engineer and from that discussion it appears that Delta is in pretty good financial shape, though more actives would further help financially.

I do not have any knowledge of Phi or Epsilon, outside of the required forms, but my conversations with Chris Perez, the former Central Province Councilor, did not indicate any great problem that requires immediate attention.

#### ***D. What are your Chapters attitudes toward scholarship?***

I have been able to observe Eta holding its regular study sessions in the house and I am happy to report that all do take these sessions serious.

Delta appears to be in good standing scholastically, and does appear to hold academia in high regard.

I have not be able to observe Epsilon or Phi, but conversations with Chris Perez indicate that they are dedicated to high scholastic achievement.

#### ***E. What Risk Reduction activities have you seen? Do the Chapters in your Province abide by the Provisions of the fraternity Risk Reduction Policy?***

Each chapter of the Province, to my knowledge, does abide by the provisions of the Fraternity Risk Reduction Policy. A risk reduction chairman is elected and watches over the well-being of the fraternity. He is helpful in identifying and minimizing certain risks that may be present. The chapters are instructed to educate their members on ways to minimize risk. The adoption and implementation of chapter house Risk Reduction rules, in addition to those found in the Fraternity Risk Reduction Policy have been helpful.

## **II. Province Operation**

#### ***A. What are your plans for your Province in the next year? How do you plan to effect them? What support do you need from others?***

Having recently taken over the position from Chris Perez, my main goal is to increase the level of communication between myself and the chapters. I feel that informal emails and online chats can provide a wealth of information in regards to the health of the chapter. I want the chapters to know that I am available for them to call for any variety of reasons and that they should not feel they are inconveniencing me in any way. I may be reached via email, phone and/or AOL instant messaging.

In the Fall 2001 semester I intend to visit each chapter to see on their status and to meet the brothers.

I will also be arranging a Central Province Retreat sometime in the Fall semester, but that is still in the planning stages; my goal is further the Brotherhood between the chapters and to discuss relevant issues with all the chapters together. The flow of ideas, experiences and stories from one chapter to another provides a wealth of information that makes this a very valuable exchange.

I plan to work with the chapters to improve their respective Rush strategies. I will work with them to get these Rush plans on paper and to further refine them as need we can. One idea is each chapter to communicate with other chapters on what their respect rush strategies are. Hence, before the semester gets going, perhaps an online chat, or series of online chats with the rush chairmen of each chapter would help get the semester off to the right start. This strategy may be too late for the fall 2001 semester, but the process can be refined and readied for the Spring semester of 2002.

#### ***B. Are your Province by-laws up to date? What changes are contemplated in these Laws?***

I have seen no by-laws. This is currently being investigated.

## **III. General**

#### ***A. Discuss here anything about your Province, office, advisors, chapters, etc not otherwise or elsewhere discussed.***

I would like to stress the need for chapters to find alumni and faculty advisors who would be available to assist them in any way possible. Some chapters are finding it hard to do so and a lot of it stems from not having close relations with area alumni who would dedicate time for such duties. The chapters need to realize that just because an active has graduated that they are still a part of Sig Phi, and can still contribute to the welfare of the fraternity.

Informal communication offers a wealth of information that the chapters should not feel afraid to offer through quick emails, online chats or even phone calls.