

Grand President's Report to the Thirty-Fourth General Convention

The Start of a New Era

The 2000-2001 biennium is a time of rapid change and growth for Sigma Phi Delta. We are looking at each aspect of how we operate and are challenging ourselves to find a better way. There are no sacred cows in our operations. Our principles are the only things that we will not change. Professionalism and commitment to the principles of Sigma Phi Delta are the hallmarks of how we are moving forward. To this end we have established the Executive Director of Sigma Phi Delta position. This is a full time paid position, which houses the permanent International Office of Sigma Phi Delta Fraternity. The Executive Director will allow us to achieve more than we have in the past with a dedicated officer overseeing the administrative and fundraising activities of the Fraternity. This relieves much of the administrative burden from the rest of the National officers. They can then better focus on their primary responsibilities. We are looking forward to the great opportunities that we can achieve with this new structure.

I. Sigma Phi Delta National Accomplishments (January 1, 2000 to June 1, 2001)

1. One New Chapter Installed – Omega chapter was installed during the Spring semester of 2000 at Rutgers University in New Jersey.
2. One New Colony Started – Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Colony was pinned with members of Omega and Psi Chapters present. Five National officers were present for the ceremony. With VCU colony, we began the new formal colonization process that we improve the chapter's success in the future.
3. Executive Director Position Established – Sigma Phi Delta has established a full time position of Executive Director. See the Sigma Phi Delta web site (www.sigphi.org) or the Spring 2001 Star to get more information on this important position.
4. Women in Engineering Partnership – We are expanding our partnership with women in engineering. At this summer's convention we will unveil a new grand strategy to engage with women in engineering for the betterment of the profession and ourselves.
5. International Recognition - Students and organizations from around the world are contacting us regarding membership in the fraternity. We are currently in planning on new chapters in several countries.

II. Current Challenges and Issues

A. Funding of the National Office

The new position of Executive Director along with the expansion efforts that we are expending will put a large strain on our budget. We will be asking our alumni to step up and contribute to the Fraternity with annual planned giving. Currently, the active members who are in school and have limited income sources pay for more than 90% of the National Fraternity's activities. Membership in Sigma Phi Delta requires a lifetime commitment. We expect our alumni to live up to this commitment. Fundraising and dues proposals will be put forth at this General Convention.

B. Member Communications

The www.sigphi.org web site has helped enormously with intra-fraternity communication. National to active member, national to alumni member and alumni to alumni communication has improved. We are going to focus on our communications to see how we can become even more successful. This will help us drive our fundraising and expansion efforts

C. Direction of the Fraternity

People and principles are the driving force of the Fraternity. The Code of Ethics, Object of the Fraternity raises the men of Sigma Phi Delta to do, be and achieve more. We are going to do the following:

1. Raise the Standards - For those who seek membership in the Fraternity, both as new colonies and as new members we are creating strict interview guidelines.
2. Focus on the Engineering Profession – We expect our chapters to be leaders on engineering campus at their schools. We are going to set up programs to achieve the leadership on engineering campus that we will have.
3. Spread Sigma Phi Delta to other countries. - With new industrial countries emerging, Sigma Phi Delta needs to move to the international arena. We will start this process this summer.
4. Create a New Partnership with Women in Engineering – We will discuss at this convention how we can work with women’s engineering groups to improve the profession and ourselves.
5. Start Effective Fundraising – We will make proposals at the convention toward fundraising. These efforts will allow us to expand our vision and allow more people the Sigma Phi Delta opportunity.

To achieve our goals, the men of Sigma Phi Delta must rise up and support the Fraternity. Increasing the participation of our membership in the National Fraternity is paramount. Without participation, we are mere words and ideals. It is the people and principles that make Sigma Phi Delta great.

Paul Lindner
Grand President