

MINUTES: GRAND COUNCIL MEETING OF ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

PLACE OF MEETING: THE HEIGHTS, BETHANY, WEST VIRGINIA.

DATE AND TIME: SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 21 and 22, 1943.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Wilbur H. Cramblet, Chairman  
Edmund B. Shotwell  
Benjamin Clarke  
Benjamin F. Young  
Lloyd S. Cochran  
George E. Worthington  
Hugh M. Hart  
Wesley M. Hine  
Ralph F. Burns, Executive Secretary.

169. Minutes of previous meeting of November 28 and 29, 1942:

The minutes of the last previous meeting were reviewed and a number of items were referred to the Executive Secretary for action. The Executive Secretary reported that all matters taken up at this November meeting had been satisfactorily taken care of, except that of Delta Beta Xi recommendations which will be presented to the members of Delta Beta Xi this Fall for the annual election on December 6th.

170. Report of the Grand Senior President, Dr. Wilbur H. Cramblet:

Dr. Cramblet gave a general report on student life under wartime conditions, the present activity of service men who are enrolled under various Army and Navy programs on the campuses throughout the country as well as his thoughts on the attitude of the government on demobilization and its effect on men returning to college after the war and the financial assistance which might be given by the federal government to men who are not only enrolled in present programs, who have not finished their courses of study at the time of the end of the war, but also those service men who at their return would desire to continue their college educations.

Dr. Cramblet reiterated the fact that he felt there was a place for the undergraduate college fraternity on the campuses and that it would no doubt receive a great stimulation after the end of the war. Those fraternities who are now sponsoring their fundamentals will be the organizations which will make the greatest progress in the future.

171. Report of the Executive Secretary, Ralph F. Burns:

The Executive Secretary read his report as submitted to the Grand Council in the Agenda. The report was approved and designated to be

filed. The Executive Secretary also submitted to the Grand Council for their perusal the reports from 22 chapter custodians on the condition of their respective chapters under the present-day war operation.

172. National Finances:

The audited statements as of June 30, 1943 was submitted to the Council and certain recommendations were made to the Executive Secretary to be referred to the auditors in connection with a future financial statement as well as instructions to the auditors with regard to certain usage of terms (increase in surplus rather than profit which appeared more reasonable).

173. The Tomahawk Fund, B. F. Young:

Brother Young commented on the balance sheet of the Tomahawk Fund which was submitted to the Council and answered questions which were presented to him. He then referred to item 158 of the minutes of the November 1942 meeting, saying that evidently the Editor of the Tomahawk had misinterpreted the resolution made under that item to refer to the publication cost of the magazine. After discussion the following resolution was made which reflected changes in the previous resolution approved at the November meeting:

Whereas it appears from the remarks of Brother Young, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Tomahawk Fund, that the monies which will be paid over to the national organization will, for the time being, be limited to approximately 45¢ annually per living life subscriber on the mailing list of the Tomahawk plus exchanges, be it

RESOLVED that the Editor of the Tomahawk and the Executive Secretary are hereby directed to limit the expense of the publication of the Tomahawk, including the administrative cost, to 45¢ annually for living life subscribers on the mailing list of the Tomahawk plus exchanges for the year 1943-44 and thereafter until otherwise directed.

Brother Young also reported that the matter of a life insurance policy on the life of Brother Robert L. Jagocki, chairman of the Tomahawk trustees, was impossible to be carried out because Brother Jagocki was turned down due to physical condition, which is being corrected.

It was decided to eliminate the \$2.00 annual subscription to the magazine inasmuch as the postal authorities had questioned this rate and whether the \$10. life subscription was not an incorrect figure because of the disparity in values. Rather than wrangle with the Post Office Department, it seemed simpler to withdraw the annual subscription. The magazine can only be obtained by life subscription at \$10. or without cost to someone who only wishes a few extra copies. A resolution was adopted as follows:

RESOLVED that the 50¢ single copy and the \$2.00 annual subscription rate to the Tomahawk be discontinued with the November issue and that thereafter the only subscription to same shall be the \$10. life subscription.

174. Special Finance Committee and 1943-44 Budget:

Brother Cochran presented a written report on behalf of this committee. This was read and directed filed. After an excellent review of the fraternity's serious financial position, the committee suggested that a strong letter of appeal be sent out presenting the need for emergency funds. The meeting then worked on a budget for the year 1943-44 in the light of the committee's views. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was unanimously

RESOLVED that an appeal be made to the alumni, pointing out the emergency that has resulted from the falling off of our income from initiations and active chapter dues, the need of a strong national organization to assure the chapters' active revival after the end of the war and soliciting contributions of \$5. for that purpose, with a goal of \$5000, and further

RESOLVED that a committee be appointed to conduct the campaign with the guidance and assistance of the Executive Secretary and with authority to take such steps to that end as in its discretion might be deemed necessary or desirable, with power to expend not over \$1000. for that purpose.

The Chairman thereupon appointed to said 1943-44 Emergency Financial Committee Brothers Cochran, Hine, Young and Fussell.

The 1943-44 budget was approved by the Council and is attached herewith.

175. Administration of Headquarters:

The Chairman reported that our hardworking Executive Secretary, Ralph W. Burns, had an opportunity to become Executive Manager of the Life Underwriters' Association of the City of New York and they offered him such attractive possibilities that he felt he could not fairly stand in his way and that, accordingly as of August 1, 1943, the fraternity's approval had been given to his accepting that position; that being a fulltime job, of course the Executive Secretary's time with us would be seriously curtailed, but he had assured us of his wholehearted cooperation and did not intend to abandon us in our emergency; he planned to spend at our headquarters such time as he could make available. The orderly administration of our headquarters and the publication of the Tomahawk was discussed at some length. Upon motion duly made and seconded it was

RESOLVED that Brother Burns be continued as Executive Secretary on a parttime basis, he to devote such time to the work as he can each week, at a compensation of \$400. a year, payable quarterly, subject to the

further order of this Council;

RESOLVED that Brother Shotwell be appointed Editor of the Tomahawk (to relieve Brother Burns of that responsibility) at a compensation of \$200. a year, payable quarterly, subject to the further order of this Council;

RESOLVED that Miss Jessen be continued as Office Manager and Assistant Editor of the Tomahawk at a compensation of \$160. a month, payable semi-monthly, subject to the further order of this Council.

176. Scholarship Fund:

At the meeting it was noted that there is a Scholarship Fund amounting to \$64.32, raised by the Philadelphia Alumni Council. While it is possible to build this up, it was decided not to bring this up to the chapters or the alumni at this time, except in a casual way, as the present emergency requires that all resources of the organization be utilized for the office and our efforts to "keep alive" would be weakened by suggestions for contributions to other Fraternity funds.

At the same time, this matter should be reviewed, responsible trustees appointed under an indenture giving the purpose and limitations of the application of the fund or its income (to educational pursuits). This will limit the flexibility of the fund, but may make contributions thereto deductible from income taxes which would be an admirable feature.

The most recent tax bulletins should be reviewed before the indenture is prepared, but nothing further should be done about the matter at this time.

177. Phi Pi Phi:

The situation regarding those members of Phi Pi Phi who have not been initiated into Alpha Sigma Phi was then discussed. It was pointed out that the general fund settled a reserve of \$1140. to be applied to life subscriptions to the Tomahawk for such Phi Pi Phi men who may apply for initiation before August 1, 1944 and who had paid for life subscriptions to their own magazine. It was explained that when the merger of the two fraternities took place, there were not enough Phi Pi Phi funds on hand to take care of the life subscriptions to which the members of the fraternity were entitled if they went in on the \$10. rate, so a certain amount of money under the merger agreement was set aside for the members initiated up to August 1, 1944.

It appeared to be desirable that all members of Phi Pi Phi should be members of Alpha Sigma Phi. Some, it was reported, had held back because they thought they had to go to some expense, whereas the arrangement made was that they could be initiated upon payment of \$1.00 with additional

charges for such jewelry as they might wish. It was then

RESOLVED that all members of Phi Pi Phi Fraternity in good standing therewith on August 1, 1939 be and hereby are granted membership in Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity, Inc., such membership to be effective upon their signifying their desire and designating the chapter of their fraternity of which they wish to be enrolled as a member. It was further

RESOLVED that no formal initiation of said new members shall be required but that they shall be furnished with materials to familiarize themselves with the purposes and objects of this Fraternity, and further

RESOLVED that Hugh M. Hart, Grand Secretary, is directed to prepare a program of instruction of such new members, submitting it to the Grand Council, and further

RESOLVED that the arrangement made at the time of the merger with regard to life subscriptions to the Fraternity, shall be continued: any former member of Phi Pi Phi being initiated before August 1, 1944, shall be entitled to a life subscription to the magazine of Phi Pi Phi. This is only to be applied in a case where the member is in fact initiated and such policy shall not be continued after August 1, 1944 and when a new Phi Pi Phi member desires a life subscription thereafter, he shall pay \$10. for same.

178. Report of the Chairman of Extension, General Merger Policy:

The policy of the Phi Pi Phi merger and of mergers in general was discussed and after a survey of current merger correspondence and policies it was the concensus of the meeting that, being confident of the ability of Alpha Sigma Phi to survive the period of the emergency successfully and in vigorous condition, it was the opinion of the Grand Council that the management of the Fraternity should pursue a policy of follow-up upon merger possibilities; and that an effort should be made to conclude a successful merger with the fraternities now under consideration and concurrently we should invite discussion with other merger prospects appearing in the report of the Chairman of Extension; that these and similar actions should be taken as quickly as possible while the strategic desirability of fraternity combinations are so obvious.

179. Alpha Chapter at Yale University:

The following resolution was passed after discussion:

Whereas it appears from reports of individuals in attendance at this meeting of the Council that the financial situation with respect to the chapter house of Alpha is precarious and

Whereas from reports coming to the attention of the national office from active men, chapter and alumni councils through the country that there is

indicated a very definite feeling at Alpha Chapter that the retention and operation of its house on the Yale campus is of inestimable value to the whole Fraternity by reason of the fact that it is our mother chapter with its interesting history and its many traditions as well as the institution at which the chapter is located, now therefor, be it

RESOLVED that the Grand Council wishes to express to Alpha Chapter, its alumni association and the alumni members who are active in handling the present difficult situation the hope that they may find it possible to retain title and possession of their chapter house during the present crisis and, be it further

RESOLVED that it is the concensus of the Council that in the event that Alpha Chapter finds it possible to retain their house through the crisis the national council will do everything within its power to assist Alpha Chapter in every way in refinancing said house and that the national Fraternity give Alpha Chapter such other assistance and support as it may find possible which may be helpful in solving the financial difficulties of maintaining Alpha's chapter house.

180. *Notification of Photo Alumni Officers*  
The meeting was adjourned on Sunday, August 22, 1943.

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MINUTES: GRAND COUNCIL MEETING, ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY, INC.

PLACE OF MEETING: HOTEL COMMODORE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

DATE & TIME: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 1943 at 3:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Wilbur H. Cramblet, Chairman  
E. B. Shotwell  
B. F. Young  
L. S. Cochran  
G. E. Worthington  
R. F. Burns, Executive Secretary

182. Minutes of meeting of August 21 & 22, 1943.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and Brother Shotwell called the attention of the meeting to the omission in the minutes of a discussion and approval of the mailing of a certificate of appointment to the Chapter Custodians. The item should have been included in the August 1943 minutes as number 180. Following this correction, the minutes were approved and directed filed.

183. Financial Reports.

In a discussion of the present financial condition of the Fraternity it was noted that there was a drop in cash on hand in the General Fund of approximately \$1000., due in large measure to the purchase of recent addressing equipment. Disbursements, however, were noted to be following expectation.

The Executive Secretary made his report a part of the financial discussion and the following points were made regarding certain chapters:

- 1) Purdue, Illinois Institute and Westminster are functioning as near to normal as possible with Purdue still occupying its house and the other two chapters occupying an apartment and a meeting room respectively.
- 2) Cornell shows good spirit in periodic meetings on campus.
- 3) Illinois and Yale houses are rented by the Army as are most other houses owned by chapter alumni associations.
- 4) Alpha Chapter's mortgage has been foreclosed with title taken by the insurance company and it was noted by Brother Shotwell that Cleveland J. Rice was endeavoring to extend the period of redemption. Discussion followed regarding the national organization's part in the matter of redeeming the chapter house and it was decided that: a) Brother Shotwell inform Brother Rice of our interest and our plan to secure disinterested legal advice; b) that Brother Shotwell contact men regarding such advice and that approximately \$100. be appropriated for this action; c) that contact be made with Yale University authorities regarding their attitude toward fraternities on the campus, and d) that the Fraternity again contact Brother Rice when all information and advice had been gathered.

MOTION was made by Brother Young, duly seconded and carried, that a formal letter be sent to each chapter telling of the condition of the Yale chapter and of our intention in the matter.

- 5) A condensation of Jack Curran's report on Washington was read and the excellent financial and physical condition of the house was noted.

6) Floyd Arnold's letter regarding Iowa State was read and it was noted that the members of the alumni association had sent the national organization a check for \$49.78, partially clearing off their debt.

It was the concensus of the meeting that a letter should go out from the national office over Dr. Cramblet's signature to all chapters to the effect that active chapters are to be charged regular national dues of \$7. per man, but that Chapter Custodians who are functioning as active officers in some cases are not to be so charged. This letter should not be a mere bill, but should present the matter in such a way as to impress upon the chapter (even if it consists of one man on campus) of the importance of its continuity and of this payment as part of that continuity on the national organization books.

184. Alumni Dues.

Discussion of the handling of the 1944 Dues Campaign was held and it was noted that due to wartime problems the timing of the mailings was thrown off to produce confusion in some minds. It was suggested that, depending on results to December 10, first class postage be used on the follow-up letter to members still not paying. It was noted that to date \$656.50 had been collected from 128 members, averaging \$5.13 each, and that the cost to date was \$618.74 of the appropriated \$1000. A suggestion was made that personal letters be written to a limited number of men, a check made on the results, and, depending on these results, an additional number of letters be written.

185. Tomahawk.

A report was included in the Agenda of the number of living life subscribers to the Tomahawk, in conformation with a request by the Trustees (item 173 of the August 1943 minutes) and it was suggested that the Executive Secretary give this information to the Trustees in a letter.

186. Phi Pi Phi

A letter from C. L. Lovell, former Phi Pi Phi from Purdue, was read by the Executive Secretary and Dr. Cramblet read a letter from Brother Hart, both regarding the proposed action of the Grand Council on Phi Pi Phi members not yet initiated into  $\Sigma\Phi\Phi$ . After discussion it was suggested that 1) a letter go to Brother Hart clarifying the Proposal, and 2) that the reaction of leading Phi Pi's be secured on the matter.

MOTION was made by Brother Cochran, duly seconded and carried, that the manner of initiating Phi Pi Phi members into  $\Sigma\Phi\Phi$  be left to the decision and discretion of Phi Pi Phi members now initiated and to Brother Hart.

187. Post War Plans

The G and Senior President's report was made a part of this discussion. It was noted by Dr. Cramblet that in the government's post war education plan approximately one million soldiers will be sent to college at the government's expense. Inasmuch as the normal college enrollment figure



at 600,000 there will be a great increase in college personnel during this education program which will make its mark on the activities of fraternities throughout the nation as these men will be allowed to join all social groups.

It was thought that the European army will be demobilized over a period of two years, such action to begin around September 1944, and therefore  $\Delta\Xi\Phi$  should be ready for action at that time. In view of this fact, it was noted that a full-time national secretary would be needed.

Brother Shotwell suggested a plan that included 1) active chapter re-establishment, 2) vocational guidance to soldiers not yet demobilized, possibly to be handled through the Tomahawk, 3) the formation of an employment committee to aid these men returning to business and industry and 4) the building up of national organization machinery to operate smoothly in 1944 when the men begin to return to the campuses.

MOTION was made by Brother Young, duly seconded and carried, approving Brother Shotwell's suggested employment committee and its duties.

It was suggested that Brothers Pierce, Prosser, Sawyer and Mullendore be considered for the committee on re-employment, these men to make suggestions to be reviewed by the Council.

MOTION was made by Brother Young, duly seconded and carried, that a letter be sent around January 1, 1944 to Chapter Custodians regarding the re-establishment of chapters program and asking for their suggestions, that a second letter go out compiling these suggestions and those of the Council.

#### 198. Merger.

Dr. Cranblet reported that there was no point in discussing merger further with Sigma Pi fraternity unless they were willing to give up their name. Dr. Cranblet had been in touch with Mr. Hillegass, their president, who mentioned they would meet on November 28 and may have further word for  $\Delta\Xi\Phi$  at that time.

Dr. Cranblet also reported that Albert Wilson, a member of Sigma Nu and advisor of Alpha Kappa Pi, had approached him with a suggestion that that group merge with  $\Delta\Xi\Phi$ . Alpha Kappa Pi is 22 years old, has 3088 living members, 28 active chapters and assets of about \$14,000. Its chapters are placed in good, small colleges. Its organization is handled by a group of Province Chiefs and it has no executive secretary as Mr. Wilson directs its activities from his office in New York City. The fraternity has many fine ideals and traditions and appears to be an excellent merger prospect.

MOTION was made by Brother Cochran, duly seconded and carried, that the attitude of the Grand Council on August 21, 1943 regarding mergers be confirmed and that it stand also regarding Alpha Kappa Pi in particular.

Brother Worthington reported on Delta Sigma Phi, regarding his latest contact with Dr. Ryan, their vice-president. It appears that Dr. Ryan has done all he can regarding the merger which he seems to favor, but he has found the same question blocking further action and he suggested that several influential Alpha Sigs meet with several Delta Sigs in Washington

to try to remove this block. Brother Worthington suggested that Judge Rutledge be one of the Alpha Sigs present at this meeting. It was the consensus of the meeting that  $\Delta\Phi$  is still enough interested in  $\Delta\Phi$  to go through with a merger if it appears possible after this conference. They now have no national secretary, their financial position is rather weak and they have many chapters throughout the South where we wish to expand.

Brother Worthington also reported on Acacia and it was noted that for the duration the mechanics of a merger with that group is not possible because they have no secretary whose services would be needed to sell the idea to Acacia and their president is too busy with war work to do anything on the problem himself. It was noted that they wish to have a Greek-letter name even though a suggested change to such a name was voted down in 1937 at a convention (that was a new name, not the name of an already established organization such as  $\Delta\Phi$ ). It was suggested that Brother Burns keep in touch with David Embury, a member of Acacia, who is on the Executive Committee of the N. I. C.

Brother Worthington reported on Phi Mu Delta as being out so far as they do not wish to discuss merger with any group.

Dr. Cranblet noted that to date Alpha Kappa Pi was the best prospect for a merger in the near future and that it might be possible to bring in Sigma Pi on a three-way combination.

Brother Young noted that the national organization needs more effective means of organization and service than it has had in the past and it was the consensus of the meeting that a chapter roll with a minimum of 50 chapters was ideal to carry out the service and work of a national fraternity.

It was also noted that Alpha Chi Rho is a satisfactory group which may now be interested in merger, through the efforts of its executive secretary because  $\Delta\Phi$  now has no secretary.

189. Approval of Expenses.

MOTION was made by Brother Young, duly seconded and carried, that the expenses of the meeting be approved.

190. Election to Grand Council

To fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Gordon Davis, Ralph F. Burn was unanimously elected a member of the Council. Brother Burns has until recently been full-time Executive Secretary and to help out for the duration is still serving as such, part-time. Brother Burns has been honored by being elected Secretary of the N. I. C.

191. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 27, 1943.

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