



# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

## GOVERNING LAWS COMMITTEE

### MEMORANDUM

To: The Executive Director

From: The Governing Laws Committee

Date: March 26, 2021

Re: Legislative Proposal Concerning the Establishment of a Standing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

---

Brother Church:

At the request of the Executive Committee, the Governing Laws Committee has reviewed a legislative proposal.

This new legislation would amend the Sigma Chi Governing Laws for the purpose of establishing a standing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (“DE&I”) Committee. The text of the proposal is enclosed and consists of a new Statute and four recommended new Executive Committee Regulations corresponding to the Statute.

Because we understand that the relationship between the Grand Tribune and the proposed DE&I Committee is a matter of ongoing discussion, the proposal includes language designated “Option 1” and “Option 2” in two instances. The “Option 1” language provides that an alumnus member other than the Grand Tribune shall serve as the DE&I Committee chairman, and the “Option 2” language provides that the Grand Tribune shall serve as chairman.

Because the proposal would enact a Statute and would recommend enactment of four Executive Committee Regulations, a majority vote of the Grand Chapter members voting on the proposal is required for passage. (*See* Statute 9.02; Executive Committee Regulation E9.02-2.) Please place this item on the agenda for the 2021 Grand Chapter.

The Governing Laws Committee has voted to propose this legislation on its own motion, pursuant to Statute 4.13. The Committee expresses no opinion on the substance of the proposal, including as to the relative benefits and drawbacks of “Option 1” and “Option 2.”

Please contact me if the Committee can be of any further assistance.

In Hoc,

/s/ Ben Trachtenberg

Ben Trachtenberg, Yale 2001  
Chairman

Enclosure (text of proposal)



# SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

## GOVERNING LAWS COMMITTEE

### Proposal to Establish a Standing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

[Notes: For all proposed changes, new text is indicated in blue underline. The abbreviation “ECR” refers to an Executive Committee Regulation. Where language is designated “Option 1” or “Option 2,” only one of the foregoing options should be selected and the other discarded.]

**First**, add a new Statute 4.13.2 as follows:

- “The Fraternity shall maintain a seven-member Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. One committee member shall be the committee’s chairman. The Executive Committee shall prescribe by regulation the term of service and manner of appointment for the chairman and members.”

**Second**, recommend that the Executive Committee add a new ECR 4.13.2-1 as follows:

- **Option 1:** “The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Chairman shall be an alumnus member and shall be appointed by the newly-elected Grand Consul within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of Grand Chapter, for a term of two years or until the succeeding Grand Consul appoints a new Chairman, as provided by this Regulation. In the event the chairmanship becomes vacant prior to the expiration of a term, the Grand Consul shall appoint a chairman to complete the term.” **or**
- **Option 2:** “The Grand Tribune shall be the chairman of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.”

**Third:** recommend that the Executive Committee add a new ECR 4.13.2-2 as follows:

- “Four members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee shall be divided equally into Class A and Class B seats. All Class A and Class B committee members shall be alumnus members.
  - a. The Class A members shall be appointed by the newly-elected Grand Consul within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of Grand Chapter, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, for a term of four (4) years, or until the appointment of their successors consistent with this Regulation.
  - b. The Class B members shall be appointed by the newly-elected Grand Consul within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of Grand Chapter, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee. The initial Class B members shall serve for a term of two (2) years, or until the appointment of their successors consistent with this Regulation. Following the expiration of the initial Class B members’ terms, Class B members shall serve for a term of four (4) years, or until the appointment of their successors consistent with this Regulation.
  - c. If a vacancy in a Class A or Class B seat shall occur prior to the expiration of a term, the Grand Consul shall appoint a member to complete the term, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.”

**Fourth**, recommend that the Executive Committee add a new ECR 4.13.2-3 as follows:

- “The remaining two members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee shall be appointed by the Grand Consul within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of Grand



## SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY GOVERNING LAWS COMMITTEE

Chapter, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, for a term of two (2) years and shall, at the time of their appointment, be undergraduate members with at least one (1) academic year remaining prior to graduation.”

**Fifth**, recommend that the Executive Committee add a new ECR 4.13.2-4 as follows:

- **Option 1:** “The Grand Consul, Grand Tribune, and Executive Committee may refer such matters as each deems appropriate to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which shall consider, report upon, investigate, and advise regarding such matters, as the case may be.” or
- **Option 2:** “The Grand Consul and Executive Committee may refer such matters as each deems appropriate to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, which shall consider, report upon, investigate, and advise regarding such matters, as the case may be.”

[Note 1: This proposal calls for Grand Chapter to “recommend that the Executive Committee” adopt new Executive Committee Regulations. The purpose of *recommending* adoption, instead of having Grand Chapter enact the ECRs directly, is to avoid requiring a cumbersome process should future amendments to these ECRs be needed. Under Article VI, Section C of the Constitution, “Regulations adopted by the Executive Committee may be amended by a majority vote of either the Grand Chapter or the Grand Council, which amendments shall be binding on all subsequent actions of the Executive Committee.” If the Grand Chapter adopts the proposed ECRs directly, the EC would be unable to amend them without returning to “either the Grand Chapter or the Grand Council,” which is generally not required for ECR amendments.]

[Note 2: This proposal would establish four-year terms for the alumni members of the committee, with half of the alumni members being appointed every two years. If the Grand Chapter would prefer instead for the alumni members to serve two-year terms (with each new Grand Consul appointing four members, instead of two members), the proposal could be amended. To accomplish this change, the portion of the proposal designated “**Third**” above should be replaced with the following:

**Third:** recommend that the Executive Committee add a new ECR 4.13.2-2 as follows:

- “In addition to the chairman, four members of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee shall be alumnus members.
  - a. The alumni members shall be appointed by the newly-elected Grand Consul within ninety (90) days of the adjournment of Grand Chapter, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, for a term of two (2) years, or until the appointment of their successors consistent with this Regulation.
  - b. If a vacancy in an alumnus seat shall occur prior to the expiration of a term, the Grand Consul shall appoint a member to complete the term, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.”

An amendment to this effect could be offered by a member of the Grand Chapter.]