



SIGMA CHI FRATERNITY

GOVERNING LAWS COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

To: The Executive Director

From: The Governing Laws Committee

Date: March 10, 2021

Re: Proposal to Reimagine Role of Grand Tribune to Include
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Brother Church:

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

The enclosed proposal would change our Governing Laws in two ways: First, it would add the Grand Tribune to the list of members of the Sigma Chi Executive Committee. Second, it would amend the job duties of the Grand Tribune by adding responsibilities associated with diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This proposal arose from a recommendation of the Diversity & Inclusion Commission, which had recommended adding a non-voting, ex-officio member of the Executive Committee (“EC”) focusing on diversity, equity, and inclusion. The EC then asked the Governing Laws Committee (the “Committee”) to consider whether the role of the Grand Tribune, an existing Sigma Chi Grand Officer, could be adapted for this purpose. The Committee was asked prepare a legislative proposal that would accomplish this goal.

The membership of the EC is set forth in the Constitution. *See* Art. IV, Sec. E. The duties of the Grand Tribune are set forth in a Statute. *See* Stat. 4.18. This proposal would amend language in both provisions. Grand Chapter has authority to amend the Constitution with a three-fourths vote in favor. *See* Const. Art. VI, Sec. A. Although a Statute can be amended by a simple majority at Grand Chapter, *see* Stat. 9.02, the Committee recommends that the proposal be voted on all at once, with the understanding that unless it receives the three-fourths vote necessary to amend the Constitution, none of the proposal will be enacted. The Grand Chapter is free, however, to choose to consider the two parts of the proposal separately, in which case it could enact either change, neither, or both.

In addition, the proposal as written would add the Grand Tribune to the EC as a non-voting member. The Committee takes no position on whether if added to the EC, the Grand Tribune should vote. This question may not have been considered by the Diversity & Inclusion Commission, which had initially suggested creating a new EC position instead of changing an existing office. Regardless, the Grand Chapter is free to consider this question when the proposal is presented.

The Committee presents this proposal to Grand Chapter pursuant to the authority granted to the Committee by Statute 4.13. Please place this item on the agenda for the 2021 Grand Chapter.



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The Committee takes no position on whether the proposal should be adopted. The text of the proposal follows on the next page.

I would be happy to answer any questions that brothers might have about the proposal in advance of Grand Chapter. In addition, either I or other members of the Committee will be available during Grand Chapter to assist if requested.

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 Reimagine Role of Grand Tribune to Include Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The current language of the provisions that would be affected by this proposal is presented on this page. The proposed changes are presented on the next page.

Current Language:

Statute 4.18

The Grand Tribune shall be the spiritual and fellowship advisor of the Fraternity. He shall encourage and promote the attainment by members of the Virtues upon which the Fraternity was founded. He shall report to regular meetings of the Grand Chapter. His expenses shall be paid by the Fraternity according to procedures determined by the Executive Committee.

Constitution, Article IV, Section E:

E. Executive Committee. The business and affairs of the Fraternity shall be conducted by an Executive Committee composed of the following, none of whom shall be an employee of the Fraternity:

1. The Grand Consul, who shall be Chairman, the Grand Pro Consul, the Immediate Past Grand Consul, the Grand Quaestor, and the four alumni members elected by the Grand Chapter; [...]



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Proposed Language:

[Note: Proposed new language is indicated with [blue underlined](#) text.]

Statute 4.18

The Grand Tribune shall be the spiritual and fellowship advisor of the Fraternity. He shall encourage and promote the attainment by members of the Virtues upon which the Fraternity was founded, [including by advising the Fraternity on issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion](#). He shall report to regular meetings of the Grand Chapter. His expenses shall be paid by the Fraternity according to procedures determined by the Executive Committee.

Constitution, Article IV, Section E:

E. Executive Committee. The business and affairs of the Fraternity shall be conducted by an Executive Committee composed of the following, none of whom shall be an employee of the Fraternity:

1. The Grand Consul, who shall be Chairman, the Grand Pro Consul, the Immediate Past Grand Consul, the Grand Quaestor, [the Grand Tribune \(who shall have no vote\)](#), and the four alumni members elected by the Grand Chapter; [...]