

Draft Minutes
Delta Omega Honorary Society
Monday, November 13, 2000
4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Boston, MA

Members: Greg Alexander, chair, (National Office), Laura Beebe (Xi), Beth Canfield (Alpha Epsilon), Jennifer Doetsch (Alpha), Ed Duncan (Omicron), Dan Hoffman (GWU), Penny Jessop (Eta), Matthew Kreuter (Alpha Delta), Lewis Margolis (Theta), Don Morisky (National Office), Lisa Paine (National Office), Gina Piane (Alpha Zeta), Mary Jane Schneider (Alpha Gamma), Susan Webb (Tau)

Guests: Marlene Egger (University of Utah), Robert Jacobs (Eastern Virginia Medical Center), Natalie Aloyets (UMDNJ), Nabih Asal (Morehouse), Jay Glasser (University of Texas), Donna White (University of Texas)

Staff: Allison Foster

The meeting was called to order by Greg Alexander at 4:30 PM. The minutes from the last meeting and the agenda were approved.

The first order of business was the secretary's report. Allison Foster gave a brief demonstration of the on-line membership database, which had over 4,500 members. She demonstrated searching for a member and adding a new member. Council members were also told that they could either enter new members themselves, or that they could send lists to the Delta Omega National Office, and new members could be imported into the database directly.

A list of the chapter reports that had been received was shared with the council. Approximately half of the chapters had submitted chapter reports during 2000, but many of the chapters had also communicated with the National Office in other ways, such as emails and telephone calls.

Allison pointed out that each national council member in attendance had been given a mug and encouraged each chapter to let inductees know that these mugs are available for \$10 each.

Following up on an action step from last year's council meeting to update the membership certificate, a draft Delta Omega certificate was shown to the council. The certificates, upon approval by the national council, will be printed on lighter paper so that they can be run through a color printer. Suggestions for improvement included adding a gold seal in the shape of the Delta Omega logo to the certificate. A draft of the certificate with the seal will be sent to each chapter for comments before it is finalized.

A list of chapter contacts was shared with the council members. Allison asked that she be notified of any changes to chapter contacts.

The treasurer's report was then given. An outstanding dues report and expense report for last year were presented, as well as a budget for the upcoming year. As noted by the chapter dues report, there were 447 new member inductions this year.

A governance committee report that had been submitted by Mary Peoples-Sheps was given by Allison Foster. The first item on the governance committee report was to review a draft governance manual that had been drafted by Mary Peoples-Sheps. This manual is intended to be a guide for administering both the chapters and the national office. All Delta Omega national council members were asked to review the governance manual. The governance manual will also be sent to other national council members not in attendance. Once it is approved, the manual will be posted on the web as a resource for existing chapters.

The next item on the governance committee report was to discuss proposed new language in the by-laws. The first suggested change was for language concerning the process of transferring memberships from one chapter to another. The National Office suggested that it should not be in the position of approving who can be active at individual chapter. The proposed language was as follows:

Current language:

3. Members

i. Active members may be transferred, for adequate reason, from one chapter to another upon application to the National Secretary-Treasurer, provided the National Secretary-Treasurer received written approval of the transfer from the chapter to which the transfer is to be made.

Proposed language:

3. Members

i. Active members may be transferred from one chapter to another upon notification of the Executive Secretary by the chapter to which the transfer is made.

A motion was made to adopt this new language. The vote was unanimous to change this language.

The second proposed new language was that concerning the application process. Traditionally, new chapters could either solicit three letters of support from current Delta Omega members on their faculty, or, if this was not feasible, they could solicit three letters of support from active Delta Omega chapters. The issue had been raised during the year that the letters of support from active Delta Omega chapters were merely perfunctory and served no real purpose. The proposed language was as follows:

Current language:

1. New chapters

a. ...An application for such a charter shall be accompanied by letters of support from each of three faculty of the applicant school or program who are currently members of Delta Omega or from three Delta Omega chapters....

Proposed language:

1. New Chapters

a. ...An application for such a charter shall include a cover letter, a timeline for the first year, and three (3) letters of support. One letter shall be from the Dean of the School or Chair of the Department (if the program is not in a school of public health). The two remaining letters shall be from faculty named by the Dean/Chair to lead the process of establishing a chapter. If possible, these individuals shall be members of Delta Omega...

A motion was made to adopt this new language. The vote was unanimous to change this language.

Two other issues were discussed. The first of which was whether or not doctoral candidates could be inducted as student members before their final year. According to the by-laws:

The total student group from which the selections are made shall include only persons who are candidates for or who have received an advanced degree in public health during that current or previous academic year.

The national council decided not to amend this language.

The second issue was whether chapter officers must be faculty. It was decided that this should be an issue for individual chapters to decide.

Don Morisky then presented the awards committee report. He announced that the poster session for this year had fourteen presenters and encouraged everyone to visit the presenters at the poster session on Tuesday morning.

He also announced that Earl Fox had been inducted as an honorary member at the general session of the annual meeting of the deans on Monday, November 13.

Finally, a call for nominations for the first Delta Omega Public Health Curriculum Award was announced. The Curriculum award gives recognition to innovative public health curricula in an effort to stimulate the evolution of graduate public health. The emphasis of this award is to highlight public health courses that are integrative, practice-oriented, multi-disciplinary, and skills-development focused. National council members were encouraged to send nominations to the national office.

Greg Alexander then presented the publication's committee report. He reported that there would be a new Delta Omega classic: Title V legislation. This classic would be published on the web page, as were the other Delta Omega classics. He reminded the national council that classics should be written works that changed the field of public health. Generally, the author must be deceased and it was preferable that the classics be representative of each area of public health. He encouraged the national council to make suggestions for new classics as they thought was appropriate.

He also reported that the next issue of Public Health Reports would feature an article on Delta Omega. A draft of the article was distributed to the attending national council members; each chapter contact would receive a copy of this issue of Public Health Reports.

The chapters then discussed letters of application to establish new chapters of Delta Omega. The representatives of the potential new chapters were asked to leave the room. A suggestion was made to create a mentoring program for new chapters, in which active chapters would work with new chapters during their first year. This idea was well received and would be put into place. The national council, after brief discussion, voted to establish new chapters as follows:

University of Medicine and Dentistry at New Jersey	Alpha Eta
University of Utah	Alpha Theta
University of Texas	Alpha Iota
Eastern Virginia Medical School	Alpha Kappa
Morehouse School of Medicine	Alpha Lambda

The new chapter representatives then rejoined the national council.

The motion was then made to change the status the following chapters to inactive:

Harvard University	Gamma
UC Berkeley	Zeta
San Diego State University	Sigma
University of Washington	Nu
Yale University	Epsilon

The vote was unanimous to change the status of these chapters.

The nomination was made that Marie A. Krousel Wood of Tulane University be the incoming secretary-treasurer. No other nominations were made. The nomination was accepted.

Greg Alexander then briefly mentioned that the national office was going to be seeking external funding for Delta Omega, and asked the national council to consider the most effective rationale with which to seek funding. (e.g., to support specific activities or general administrative costs).

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mike Gemmell, who had joined in final discussions, was then inducted as an honorary member.

Everyone was invited to attend the social hour immediately following the meeting. The meeting was then adjourned.