



THETA TAU
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING FRATERNITY

GRAND REGENT

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January 24, 2017

Brothers,

I am pleased to announce that the Policies and Procedures Manual (PPM) has been completed thanks to the hard work of many of your national officers. This revised document, in concert with the revised Constitution, updates the governance of the fraternity in a modern fashion, updating provisions that have long been out of date. Sections are outlined logically, allowing the reader to be able to easily find and use its provisions. Changes have been implemented with an eye towards what is best for the member, the chapter, and for the fraternity at large.

To that end, there are several changes that I would like to highlight:

1. The fraternity will now cover a significant amount of travel expenses for each chapter to attend the Convention. Even though it is required for each of our chapters to send at least one Delegate to Convention, it has been far too long since this goal has actually been achieved—at least twenty years. The Fraternity needs each of its chapters to contribute to Convention, to weigh in on the future direction of the fraternity, and to have an input in its affairs. The most common complaint for this has been the cost needed to attend. Therefore, the Policies and Procedures Manual allows for each chapter to receive an allowance of \$1000 to cover travel expenses, if and only if, that chapter sends a Delegate to Convention. It is hoped that this \$1000 should be more than sufficient to cover any expenses that a Delegate will incur.
2. Unfortunately, nothing in this world is free. In order to achieve this important goal of having full representation at Convention, several options were considered. In the end, the most cost effective option is to raise member dues. Beginning with the Fall 2017 semester, member dues will go up by \$5 per member per semester. As a point of reference, our fraternity has not raised national dues since 1993. It's been even longer since we've raised pledge fees or initiation fees. If our national dues had kept pace with inflation, your national dues wouldn't be \$75 as they are today; you'd be paying almost \$125. In real dollars, we're operating on 60% of the revenue per member that we were receiving in 1994. This is a good thing. It means that we are doing more with less. So while we are raising dues, we are running a fiscally responsible organization thanks in no small part to our Executive Director, Michael Abraham.
3. Because the dues increase will not go into effect until Fall 2017, halfway through the biennium, we will only be able to cover half of the amount for the first Convention allowance in 2018, \$500. By 2020, we should expect that each chapter will be able to receive the full reimbursement amount.
4. Three competing fraternities have been removed from the list. Extensive research found that these fraternities either no longer had any active chapters (Scarab and Sigma Beta Epsilon), or are no longer considered to be competitors (Alpha Chi Sigma Chemistry fraternity).
5. After the resignation provisions were approved by the Convention, we have outlined the process for a member to resign.
6. We updated the risk management sections to include specific actions for chapters to take on an ongoing basis. Remember, each new member you initiate must be taught the importance of risk management. This isn't a "one and done" thing—it must be a continued focus for the chapter.
7. We have simplified the process for affiliation where a member transfers to a new chapter.
8. We have applied gender neutral terminology throughout the document whenever possible.
9. Finally, we have supplied several editorial comments and simplifications throughout, with the goal towards making this a streamlined document that is easy to use.

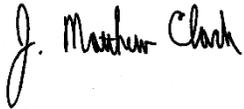
While I believe that this is a high quality document, there are always areas that it can be improved. If you or your chapter finds an area that should be changed or updated, feel free to contact me directly. Alternatively, you can present your ideas to the National Convention to update. We want to have a document for all members and we need your input to make it happen.

As a special note, I want to thank the national officers for all of their efforts on this, especially our Grand Marshal, Stu Kardian. It is safe to say that hundreds of hours have been spent on this effort over the years by everyone, and I greatly appreciate your efforts.

Finally, last but not least, I would like to announce a few changes to our national leadership team. Karen Hoshino and Stephen Collins will be stepping down as regional directors. We thank them both for their contributions to the fraternity. Rachael Peden and Zach Spitzer will be joining John Henise as Northeast Regional Directors. We will be taking a closer look at that region over the next several months to see if we need to adjust the boundaries accordingly, but in the meantime, please join me in welcoming Rachael and Zach!

Our brotherhood remains strong due to the commitment of each of our members to make us a better fraternity, and I look forward to working with each of you. Thank you for making our fraternity great!

In H & T,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Matthew Clark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

J. Matthew Clark, XXX!

ENGINEERING LEADERS *for Service, Profession, and Brotherhood*