



August 15, 2016

Dear Theta Tau House Corporation Officer:

We **appreciate** your feedback and compliance this last school year pertaining to the presence of student members on House Corporation boards. Removing undergraduate members from the Board is vital in maintaining the legal distinction between the chapter and the house corporation. Similarly, the [2016 National Convention](#) voted to amend our national laws to eliminate the Student Member and Past Grand Regent positions on the Executive Council. This returned the [Executive Council](#) to its pre-1970 size. There was also created a **Student Advisory Committee** to allow to wider student input in a broader range of fraternity matters.

The two changes above were a small part of a much larger overhaul of national governing documents that has been long overdue to **rationalize practices, to modernize procedures, to modernize governance** of our Fraternity, and to improve **compliance with** commonly understood **legal tenets**. With that said, we also recognize that we need to **increase the support and guidance** given to House Corporations in order to implement similar aforementioned changes. Therefore, we are starting a project to gather all **House Corporation** (and later Alumni Club and Alumni Association) **governing documents**. Your cooperation and assistance in this project will be much appreciated and will **benefit those** of our groups that may not operate quite as well as your own.

The goals would be to:

- Find commonalities
- Identify inconsistencies
- Seek legal traps, risks, and liabilities
- Promote best practices
- Assist in resolving tax status and/or compliance issues
- Create uniform model corporation documents

Please gather/send any of the following that is available:

- Articles of Incorporation (ie, your State Charter)
- Constitution & Bylaws
- Most recent Federal Tax Return (presumably form 990)
- Most recent budget or financial statement
- Current Board Members/Officers
- Contracts with vendors and independent contractors, including house mothers.

We will utilize our legal counsel for much of this project, and it is best to send your reply directly to David Sergi, david@sergilaw.com, and Caroline Pace, caroline@sergilaw.com. Your assistance to safeguard the work you do for your Chapter, House Corporation, and all of Theta Tau, is much appreciated.

In H and T,
Michael T. Abraham
Executive Director