Proposal to Amend Bylaws

Proposal #	Title	Article	Section	Proposed by
21-13	**Housekeeping and Cleanup Amendments**			**Sigma Governance Committee**

The following amendments are grouped together as editorial changes to the Sigma bylaws, removing extraneous and unnecessary material. They are listed in the order in which they appear in the bylaws.

Current Language:	***Proposed Changes:***	***If Adopted:***
Article I: The name of this organization shall be the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Inc. (also referred to as Sigma or the society), and it shall have an official key and corporate seal. The organization is a nonprofit incorporated in the state of Indiana with headquarters located in Indianapolis, Indiana, USA.	*Article I:* The name of this organization shall be the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Inc. (also referred to as Sigma or the society), ~~and it shall have an official key and corporate seal. The organization is~~ a nonprofit incorporated **and headquartered** in the state of Indiana ~~with headquarters located in Indianapolis, Indiana~~, USA.	*Article I:* The name of this organization shall be the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, Inc. (also referred to as Sigma or the society), a nonprofit incorporated and headquartered in the state of Indiana, USA.
Article II: The purposes of this society shall be to: • Recognize superior achievement. • Recognize the development of leadership qualities. • Foster high professional standards. • Encourage creative work. • Strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. • Provide support, including funding, to other organizations exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. • Assist and engage in any other activities which are permitted to be carried on by organizations exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.	*Article II:* The purposes of this society shall be to **recognize superior achievement and the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. Sigma engages in activities permitted under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States (US) Internal Revenue Code.** • ~~Recognize superior achievement.~~ • ~~Recognize the development of leadership qualities.~~ • ~~Foster high professional standards.~~ • ~~Encourage creative work.~~ • ~~Strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession.~~ • ~~Provide support, including funding, to other organizations exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.~~ • ~~Assist and engage in any other activities which are permitted to be carried on by organizations exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.~~	*Article II:* The purposes of this society shall be to recognize superior achievement and the development of leadership qualities, foster high professional standards, and strengthen commitment to the ideals and purposes of the profession. Sigma engages in activities permitted under Section 501(c)(3) of the United States (US) Internal Revenue Code.
Article III, Section 2.E.: Active regular members shall have the right to vote and hold elective and appointive office. Such members shall also receive official society publications, priority for education	*Article III, Section 2.E.:* Active regular members shall have the right to vote and hold elective and appointive office. ~~Such members shall also receive official society publications, priority for education~~	*Article III, Section 2.E.:* Active regular members shall have the right to vote and hold elective and appointive office.

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programs, and priority for research funding. Active regular members may hold membership in more than one chapter by remitting multiple chapter fees and the society fee annually, and may transfer from one chapter to another.	~~programs, and priority for research funding. Active regular members may hold membership in more than one chapter by remitting multiple chapter fees and the society fee annually, and may transfer from one chapter to another.~~	
Article III, Section 3: Section 3. Honorary Members An honorary member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but who has gained national or international recognition in the field of nursing or in any field contributing to nursing. Any active member, through a chapter or the Sigma board of directors, may nominate persons for honorary membership. Honorary membership is awarded only by the Sigma board of directors. A vote of three-fourths of the Sigma board of directors shall be necessary for election to honorary membership. Honorary members shall be inducted and awarded the official key in locations and times decided upon by the board, receive the society's publications, and be responsible for promoting and supporting the purposes of the society. There shall be no induction or renewal fee for an honorary member.	*Article III, Section 3:* Section 3. Honorary Members An honorary member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but who has gained national or international recognition in the field of nursing or in any field contributing to nursing. **Honorary membership shall be granted by a three-fourths vote of the Sigma board of directors.** ~~Any active member, through a chapter or the Sigma board of directors, may nominate persons for honorary membership. Honorary membership is awarded only by the Sigma board of directors. A vote of three-fourths of the Sigma board of directors shall be necessary for election to honorary membership. Honorary members shall be inducted and awarded the official key in locations and times decided upon by the board, receive the society's publications, and be responsible for promoting and supporting the purposes of the society.~~ There shall be no induction or renewal fee for an honorary member.	*Article III, Section 3:* Section 3. Honorary Members An honorary member is a person who is not eligible for regular membership but who has gained national or international recognition in the field of nursing or in any field contributing to nursing. Honorary membership shall be granted by a three-fourths vote of the Sigma board of directors. There shall be no induction or renewal fee for an honorary member.
Article III, Section 4.A.: Each new member shall pay a society membership fee and a chapter induction fee as described in the chapter bylaws, covering the cost of induction and active membership for one, twelve-month period. For subsequent years, each member shall pay an annual fee to maintain active member benefits.	*Article III, Section 4.A.:* **Each member shall pay an initial induction fee and annual society membership fees.** ~~Each new member shall pay a society membership fee and a chapter induction fee as described in the chapter bylaws, covering the cost of induction and active membership for one, twelve-month period. For subsequent years, each member shall pay an annual fee to maintain active member benefits.~~	*Article III, Section 4.A.:* Each member shall pay an initial induction fee and annual society membership fees.
Article III, Section 5: Section 5. Membership Inactivity and Revocation A. Inactive members who have not paid annual chapter and international fees shall become active at any time by paying current renewal fees. Members may also formally request to discontinue membership.	*Article III, Section 5:* Section 5. Membership ~~Inactivity and~~ Revocation ~~A. Inactive members who have not paid annual chapter and international fees shall become active at any time by paying current renewal fees. Members may also formally request to discontinue membership~~.	*Article III, Section 5:* Section 5. Membership Revocation A. Membership in the society may be revoked by the member's chapter for just cause and after due process. Revocation shall require a three-fourths vote of those present at a meeting of the chapter.

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B. Membership in the society may be revoked by the member's chapter for just cause and after due process. Revocation shall require a three-fourths vote of those present at a meeting of the chapter. C. A member whose membership has been revoked may appeal to the Sigma board of directors, whose decision shall be final.	B. Membership in the society may be revoked by the member's chapter for just cause and after due process. Revocation shall require a three-fourths vote of those present at a meeting of the chapter. C. A member whose membership has been revoked may appeal to the Sigma board of directors, whose decision shall be final.	B. A member whose membership has been revoked may appeal to the Sigma board of directors, whose decision shall be final.
Article VI, Section 3: Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities The Sigma board of directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities: • Exercise fiduciary responsibilities including adopting a budget, setting the appropriate bonding level, and selecting the auditor; • Adopt rules and regulations to govern its own actions; • Review and approve new chapter chartering applications and revoke charters as necessary; • Provide criteria for affiliate relationships and grant affiliation to legally organized groups; • Transact necessary business of this society between meetings of the house of delegates; • Investigate and recommend to the house of delegates any matter pertaining to the welfare of this society; and • Submit an annual report to chapters and a biennial report to the house of delegates.	*Article VI, Section 3:* ~~Section 3. Duties and Responsibilities~~ ~~The Sigma board of directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:~~ • ~~Exercise fiduciary responsibilities including adopting a budget, setting the appropriate bonding level, and selecting the auditor;~~ • ~~Adopt rules and regulations to govern its own actions;~~ • ~~Review and approve new chapter chartering applications and revoke charters as necessary;~~ • ~~Provide criteria for affiliate relationships and grant affiliation to legally organized groups;~~ • ~~Transact necessary business of this society between meetings of the house of delegates;~~ • ~~Investigate and recommend to the house of delegates any matter pertaining to the welfare of this society; and~~ • ~~Submit an annual report to chapters and a biennial report to the house of delegates.~~	*None. Strike and renumber accordingly.*
Article VI, Section 6: The expenses for board members who attend meetings of the house of delegates or of the board shall be paid by the society.	*Article VI, Section 6:* ~~The expenses for board members who attend meetings of the house of delegates or of the board shall be paid by the society.~~	*None. Strike and renumber accordingly.*
Article VII, Section 2: The legislative and judicial powers of the society shall be vested in the house of delegates. As such, the house shall have the authority to nominate and elect officers, directors, and other positions as allowed by these bylaws; amend the society's articles of incorporation and bylaws; levy special	*Article VII, Section 2:* The legislative and judicial powers of the society shall be vested in the house of delegates. As such, the house shall have the authority to nominate and elect officers, directors, and other positions as allowed by these bylaws; amend the society's ~~articles of incorporation and~~ bylaws; levy special	*Article VII, Section 2:* The legislative and judicial powers of the society shall be vested in the house of delegates. As such, the house shall have the authority to nominate and elect officers, directors, and other positions as allowed by these bylaws; amend the society's bylaws; levy special assessments by a three-fourths vote;

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assessments by a three-fourths vote; receive the budget as approved by the board; and adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its proceedings as may be determined by a two-thirds vote of the house of delegates at the biennial convention.	assessments by a three-fourths vote; receive the budget as approved by the board; and adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its proceedings as may be determined by a two-thirds vote of the house of delegates at the biennial convention.	receive the budget as approved by the board; and adopt such rules and regulations for the conduct of its proceedings as may be determined by a two-thirds vote of the house of delegates at the biennial convention.
Article VII, Section 3.D.: Chapter delegates may also vote electronically on the society's articles of incorporation under procedures and time limitations determined by the board.	*Article VII, Section 3.D.:* ~~Chapter delegates may also vote electronically on the society's articles of incorporation under procedures and time limitations determined by the board.~~	*None. Strike and renumber accordingly.*
Article X, Section 1: Section 1. Fiscal Year The fiscal year shall be 1 July through 30 June.	*Article X, Section 1:* ~~Section 1. Fiscal Year~~ ~~The fiscal year shall be 1 July through 30 June.~~	*None. Strike and renumber accordingly.*
Article X, Section 4: The Sigma board of directors shall authorize publication of an official journal and other publications as it deems appropriate according to policies and procedures established by the board.	*Article X, Section 4:* ~~The Sigma board of directors shall authorize publication of an official journal and other publications as it deems appropriate according to policies and procedures established by the board.~~	*None. Strike and renumber accordingly.*
Article XII, Section 1.C.: Amendments to these bylaws approved by the house of delegates or editorial changes approved by the Sigma board of directors that are also applicable to the chapters shall be incorporated into the chapter bylaws.	*Article XII, Section 1.C.:* Amendments to these bylaws ~~approved by the house of delegates or editorial changes approved by the Sigma board of directors~~ that are also applicable to the chapters shall be incorporated into the chapter bylaws.	*Article XII, Section 1.C.:* Amendments to these bylaws that are also applicable to the chapters shall be incorporated into the chapter bylaws.

Rationale:

Many current Sigma bylaws contain too much detail. For example, it's not necessary to state in the bylaws that Sigma has a corporate seal; the fiscal year is an administrative and tax issue, not a governance issue that needs to be voted on by the house of delegates. Although in different articles, all of the above amendments have the same purpose: to remove unnecessary (and potentially confusing) language. Removed language should be included in Sigma governing documents such as policies and procedures.

Impact on Chapters:

If approved, the following sections of the chapter bylaws will also be updated:
Article II. Purposes - to mirror the reformatted phrasing used in the international bylaws
Article V. Section 2. House of Delegates. c. - to remove mention of electronic voting on Articles of Incorporation
Article XI. Finance, Section 1. Fiscal Year - to remove mention of the fiscal year
Article XIV. Section 4. Sigma Theta Tau International Bylaws Amendments - to remove "approved by the house of delegates or editorial changes approved by the Sigma board of directors."