



INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD
2023-26

Dear Mu Phi Epsilon Brothers and Sisters:

I write to you today to put before you three resolutions for changes to the Mu Phi Epsilon International Bylaws. These resolutions have been submitted to both the International Executive Board and the fraternity's duly appointed Bylaws Committee in response to feedback gathered from the membership by the Convention Task Force duly constituted by action of the 2023 International Convention. Both the IEB and the Bylaws Committee have thoroughly examined the proposals, have made a few editorial changes that clarified the language of the proposals but have not changed their intent, and have approved them for presentation to a vote by the members of the fraternity.

Resolution A would facilitate a desire expressed by the membership to have election of International Officers occur on a more relaxed timeline in advance of International Convention, enabling better planning as incoming officers would already be selected before Convention begins and could prepare and participate more fully. Such a change would make Mu Phi Epsilon's election of officers similar to that of professional music organizations like ACDA, NATS, NafME, NOA, CMS, and others.

Resolution B would re-define the voting body of Mu Phi Epsilon between International Conventions to give each member whose dues are current a vote. Currently, the International Bylaws have a sort of "Electoral College" provision that gives a single vote to each chapter, regardless of size, and that relegates all Affiliate Members to a single vote in aggregate. Resolution B would change the voting paradigm of Mu Phi Epsilon to one member-one vote, which is also typical of most other professional music organizations.

KURT-ALEXANDER ZELLER
International President

LIANA SANDIN
International 1st Vice President

ASHLEY BOURAS
International 2nd Vice President

ANN GEILER
International 3rd Vice President

MARSHALL PUGH
International 4th Vice President

TANNER WILSON
International 5th Vice President

JESS LaNORE
International Executive
Secretary-Treasurer

KAT BRAZ
International Editor

HALEY STEVENSON
Social Media Coordinator



Resolution C responds to other feedback received by the Convention Task Force and would expand voting privileges at Convention to all fraternity members who both are current as dues-paying members and have paid the registration fee for the Convention. The IEB and the Convention Task Force each heard from the membership that many felt that allowing all members in Good Standing present at Convention as paid attendees to vote would encourage greater attendance and participation at Convention, enhancing both the fraternal experience and the fiscal health of Conventions.

The International Executive Board, having thoroughly examined and discussed these proposals, recommends the adoption of all three of them. We feel that each enhances the goals of the fraternity and should lead to greater levels of democratic engagement throughout the membership, and we hope that the membership will agree and vote for all three of them. Any resolution that is adopted in this election will take effect immediately.

Of course, these proposals have not yet been adopted, so the voting on these proposals must take place in accordance with the International Bylaws as they currently stand. Therefore, as provided in Article II currently, each Collegiate Chapter and each Alumni Chapter will be entitled to submit one vote on each resolution, according to the procedure explained by the instructions from the INEST accompanying this letter. Each Affiliate Member may submit a vote on each resolution as instructed, and after all the Affiliate Member votes have been tallied, whichever option, Yea or Nay, received the most Affiliate votes will be entered as the single Affiliate Member vote. All votes must be returned no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on Monday, 19 May 2025 to be valid. Thank you all for your serious and thoughtful consideration of these three resolutions.

Loyally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt-Alexander Zeller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "K".

Kurt-Alexander Zeller
International President

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RESOLUTION A ON ELECTING INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the membership of Mu Phi Epsilon in responding to the 2023 convention task force clearly expressed the desire that conventions devote less time to transacting routine organizational business and to voting, and

WHEREAS, most professional music organizations successfully hold elections for officers by mail or electronic ballot, rather than at official gatherings or conventions, and

WHEREAS, electing International Officers in advance of conventions might make it more likely that the newly elected officers could be present to meet and learn from members and retiring officers prior to their formal installation in their new offices, and

WHEREAS, many Mu Phi Epsilon delegates to past conventions wished for an opportunity to discuss candidates for office with their chapter members prior to casting a vote,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that voting for International Officers should occur in advance of International Convention by amending the International Bylaws as follows, inserting a new Section 8 to ARTICLE III. INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS and by striking the current Section 7 from ARTICLE IV. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION (as the election would no longer occur at the International Convention but rather in advance of it):

[in ARTICLE III. INTERNATIONAL OFFICERS]

ELECTION

Section 8

- A. A Nominating Committee of no fewer than three and no more than five members in good standing shall be appointed by the International Executive Board.**
 - a. The chair of the committee shall be a current or former District Director**
 - b. The committee shall include at least one collegiate member and one alumni member**
 - c. The committee shall be constituted no later than 1 November of the year preceding an International Convention.**
- B. The Nominating Committee shall**
 - a. Receive names of potential candidates, beginning on 1 November of the year preceding an International Convention and continuing to 15 January of a Convention year.**
 - i. Only dues-paying members of Mu Phi Epsilon in good standing may submit names of candidates**
 - b. Evaluate and verify interest, availability and eligibility of each candidate.**

- C. The Nominating Committee shall review the entire list of eligible nominees and present to the Electorate as defined in Article II a slate of nominees, one or more for each office, by 15 February of a Convention year.**
 - a. No nominee may be presented as a candidate for election for more than one office.**
- D. Votes from the Electorate as defined in Article II shall be received between 16 February and 30 March of a Convention year. No votes shall be accepted after 30 March.**
- E. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect**
 - a. In the event that no candidate for a given office receives a majority of votes cast, a runoff vote shall be held in such manner as the International Executive Board shall direct.**
- F. In the event of any election irregularities, the question shall be presented to the Honorary Advisory Board, and its ruling shall be final.**
- G. Installation of the newly elected International Officers shall take place as the final order of business preceding the close of the Convention.**

[NB. If this measure is adopted by the membership, the current Sections 8 and 9 of ARTICLE III will become Sections 9 and 10; this falls under the rubric of what Robert's considers editorial corrections and would not require a vote.]

[In ARTICLE IV. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION]

~~SECTION 7. Election of International Officers:~~

~~A. A Screening Committee of three members (one each from the eastern, central and western sections of the United States of America) shall be appointed by the International Executive Board. This committee shall~~

- ~~1. receive names of potential candidates;~~
- ~~2. evaluate and verify interest, availability and eligibility of each candidate;~~
- ~~3. prepare a list of all eligible nominees, including brief biographical information, and send to all chapters and Affiliate Members by February 1 preceding a Convention.~~

~~B. The Nominating Committee shall consist of two Business Delegates from each Province, one representing a Collegiate Chapter and one representing an Alumni Chapter, who shall be elected at Province meetings on the first day of the Convention, plus the Business Delegate representing all Affiliate Members:~~

~~C. The Nominating Committee shall meet and review the entire list of eligible nominees and present a slate of nominees, one or more for each office, at the next business session:~~

- ~~1. Whenever the Screening Committee has identified sufficient candidates for an office who are both eligible and willing to serve, the Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees that offers the electorate a choice between at least two candidates for that office.~~

~~D. Voting shall be done by ballot not later than the close of business on the second day of the Convention.~~

~~E. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect.~~

~~F. In the event of any election irregularities, the question shall be presented to the Honorary Advisory Board, and its ruling shall be final.~~

~~G. Installation of the newly elected International Offices shall take place as the final order of business preceding the close of the Convention.~~

RESOLUTION B: Amendment to International Bylaws, Article II. Electorate

WHEREAS, numerous professional organizations successfully use a voting model giving each dues-paying member a vote, fostering greater engagement and participation;

WHEREAS, allowing each dues-paying member to vote will offer ALL members the opportunity for increased engagement in fraternity decisions, promoting a sense of ownership and investment among members;

WHEREAS, enabling individual members to vote directly allows flexibility for members to voice their opinions, thereby making participation more accessible;

WHEREAS, the long-term goal of retaining membership might be better achieved through higher levels of engagement and involvement in fraternity affairs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that ARTICLE II. ELECTORATE of the bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE II. ELECTORATE

SECTION 1. The voting body of the Fraternity during an International Convention shall be as defined in Article IV, Section 5.

SECTION 2. The voting body of the Fraternity between International Conventions shall be:

A. The elected members of the International Executive Board, who shall have one vote each;

B. **Each dues-paying member of a Collegiate Chapter shall have one vote;** ~~Collegiate Chapters, which shall have one vote each;~~

C. **Each dues-paying member of an Alumni Chapter shall have one vote;** ~~Alumni Chapters, which shall have one vote each;~~

D. **Each dues-paying Affiliate Member shall have one vote.** ~~Affiliate Members, who shall collectively constitute one vote.~~

SECTION 3. For a vote to be valid, a majority **(50% plus one)** of the Electorate must respond.

General voting matters require a simple majority of the responding members for passage, while adoption of bylaw changes requires a two-thirds majority of the responding members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this change will take effect immediately upon adoption and will apply to all subsequent voting activities within the Fraternity.

RESOLUTION C: Amendment to International Bylaws, Article IV. International Convention

WHEREAS, numerous professional organizations successfully use a model where each dues-paying member has a vote, fostering greater engagement and participation, and

WHEREAS, allowing each dues-paying member to vote will offer ALL members the opportunity for increased engagement in fraternity decisions, promoting a sense of ownership and investment among members and

WHEREAS, enabling all members in Good Standing who are present to participate in voting on decisions made at Convention enfranchises all members attending Convention, thus possibly increasing Convention attendance over time, and

WHEREAS, the long-term goal of retaining membership might be better achieved through higher levels of engagement and involvement in fraternity affairs;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ARTICLE IV. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION of the bylaws be amended as follows:

ARTICLE IV. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

PROCEDURES

SECTION 5. Voting

A. The International President shall appoint a Credentials Committee which shall meet before the first Convention business session to verify the attendance and eligibility of persons **registered at the Convention for voting privileges.** ~~applying for seats as Business Delegates.~~

1. This Committee shall report its findings to the Convention at the first business session.

2. Any disputes regarding eligibility shall be settled by majority vote of the Convention. None of the contesting parties shall be entitled to vote on this question.

B. **Each dues-paying member currently in Good Standing who has duly paid the registration fee for the Convention shall be entitled to one vote.** ~~Each Business Delegate shall be entitled to one vote.~~

C. Each elected member of the International Executive Board shall be entitled to one vote.

D. Two-thirds of those entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum.