

President Ohland Reports to the 2004 Convention

tHE 2002-06 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL WAS elected by the 2001 Convention to lead the Association, guiding national programs through the Executive Director, Headquarters staff, and other national officials we appoint. We receive guidance from and report to the Convention.

THE CONDITION OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Tau Beta Pi trust value exceeds \$13.5 million. That's even more money than last year, but it's important to realize that the majority of it is restricted for fellowships, scholarships, life subscriptions, and Convention delegate support. Without the generous support of our alumni, we could not support Headquarters operations, the District Program, Engineering Futures, and our other programs. The Association's financial position, as described in detail in Secretary-Treasurer Froula's annual report, is excellent—we have weathered the financial storm that threatened the financial positions of other societies by controlling expenses and acting on the recommendations of the Trust Advisory Committee. The newly appointed Financial Development Committee is working to grow the trust and further improve Tau Beta Pi's financial position.

The Association initiated one percent more students by gaining the interest of a larger percentage of eligible candidates. Please do your best to make contact with each eligible candidate. If we don't make contact with

every candidate, we lose the chance to “mark them in a fitting manner,” and we fail in our mission.

There were nine unapproved initiations this year—this is down from last year, but even one is too many. Please make sure you have approval before conducting an initiation. One chapter was removed from probation. With the installations of Idaho Beta at Idaho State University, and of Michigan Lambda at Grand Valley State University, there are 228 collegiate chapters.

PETITIONS

The final petition from the University of California, Riverside, was submitted to the 2004 Convention. A new petition from Rowan University in Glassboro, NJ, has been reviewed. An inspection visit was held in September, and the final petition will be submitted to the 2005 Convention.

SUBJECTS REFERRED BY THE 2003 CONVENTION

The 2003 Convention asked that the Association consider alternative methods of improving continuity than the awarding of scholarships to chapters receiving three consecutive Secretary's Commendations. This issue has been given to the Resolutions Committee.

We have again convened an *ad hoc* Advisor Committee and scheduled an Interactive Chapter Exchange session for advisors. During the year, the Executive Council appointed an Advisor Training Task Force comprising Councillor Dennis J. Tyner, District 1

2002-06 President

Matthew W. Ohland, Florida Alpha '96, Ph.D., is an assistant professor of general engineering in the college of engineering and science at Clemson University in South Carolina. Before joining the university in 2000, he served as the assistant director of the NSF-sponsored SUCCEED engineering-education coalition. As an NSF postdoc-torial fellow, his focus was in engineering education, and he conducted workshops nationally and internationally, primarily in the area of assessment. President Ohland is a member of the ASEE and Alpha Sigma Mu and has been an awardee of both the ASME and SAMPE. He holds a B.A. in religion and a B.S. in



engineering from Swarthmore College, where he was editor-in-chief of the 1989 college yearbook. He also earned two M.S. degrees, both from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, one in mechanical engineering in 1991 and another in materials engineering in 1992. In 1996, he received his doctorate in civil engineering with a minor in education from the University of Florida.

Director Nila D. Bhakuni, Vermont Beta Advisor Carol E. Stephens, and Maine Alpha Advisor Darrell W. Donahue. We appreciate their efforts to develop training material for new advisors.

The 2003 Convention recommended Colorado Beta's bid to host the 2006 Convention in Denver, CO, and the Council approved that site.

OTHER COUNCIL ACTIONS SINCE THE 2003 CONVENTION

To better inform non-members about Tau Beta Pi, two new brochures were developed. These materials are available to chapters from Headquarters.

The Bicycle Project—the national project to repair and give away bicycles—enjoys growing interest and activity. There was a display at Convention, and it is my hope that some of you will get excited about this project.

The AlumNet mentoring program was established permanently. Dr. Amy L. Kaleita Forbes, Iowa Alpha Advisor and program founder, was appointed as the Administrator of AlumNet. Please consider finding a mentor while you are in school and becoming a mentor after you graduate.

The National Council of Examiners of Engineering and Surveying is one of the lead sponsors of this Convention. Last year, I asked if we could find a way to extend that partnership to a year-round status. I'm glad to say that chapters can now qualify for better discounts when selling FE review books without needing to place large orders.

An *ad hoc* Convention Member Benefits Committee is brainstorming and prioritizing other benefits.

Greater Interest in Government grant applications will now be considered on an annual schedule. Applications may be submitted at any time, but will be considered competitively for available funds each May 15.

The Executive Council ratified two constitutional amendments passed by the 2003 Convention, voting for chapters that did not cast valid ballots. The first amendment defined the term *Councillor* and redefined the terms *Officer* and *Director*. The second amendment assigned management of the Scholarship Program to the Director of Fellowships.

The Council followed up on actions of the 2002 Convention which required that chapters document eligible curricula in their bylaws. That same Convention required that Council approve curricula made eligible by changes to chapter bylaws, so we established criteria for granting approval and published those criteria in THE BENT. These same criteria have been put to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to consider for permanent adoption.

The Executive Council policy is that curricula added to chapter bylaws will be approved if they are:

- Accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Com-

mission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (commonly known as EAC/ABET);

- Administered by a unit of engineering and have the same name as an EAC/ABET accredited program; or
- Administered by a unit of engineering and include the noun "engineering" in their names.

Applying these criteria to chapter bylaws submitted to Headquarters since the 2002 Convention,

- 179 chapters (78 percent) have approved lists of undergraduate curricula;
- 13 chapters (6 percent) submitted lists of curricula, but some curricula were not approved; and
- 36 chapters (16 percent) have not submitted bylaws since the 2002 Convention (23 with a list in existing bylaws).

To establish these criteria, we began with the mission of Tau Beta Pi as found in the preamble to our Constitution: *The Tau Beta Pi Association was founded at Lehigh University in 1885 by Edward Higginson Williams, Jr., to mark in a fitting manner those who have conferred honor upon their Alma Mater by their scholarship and exemplary character as students in engineering....* We are the engineering honor society, yet we have initiated members from a wide range of disciplines outside engineering (e.g., architecture and chemistry). The engineering profession relies on all these fields. Exemplary individuals from these disciplines are all deserving of honor. Yet these are not engineering disciplines. Tau Beta Pi has drifted from its mission.

The Executive Council has proposed to the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws a set of criteria for eligible curricula based on accreditation by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. ABET's EAC comprises leaders of the engineering community and serves as the gatekeeper of the profession. The authority of EAC accreditation is already recognized in our Constitution in the granting of chapters. This approach would allow for changes in eligible curricula as the profession changes. The EAC visits, inspects, and evaluates curricula regularly—Tau Beta Pi does not have the resources to do that.

Possibly the most important characteristic of the Executive Council's proposal is that it would place the authority where it should be—the Constitution would be used to determine eligibility.

This 2004 Convention is charged with addressing this issue that the Association has struggled with for more than 50 years and other important issues. I am eager to see the results.