Constitution Amendments Approved for Consideration for Ratification by the Chapters
Chapter Ratification

○ Nine amendments approved by Convention
○ Chapter members are encouraged to review the changes prior to voting
○ Chapter officers are encouraged to present the changes to members during a meeting
○ All amendments are subject to chapter ratification
  ● Approval requires ¾ of chapters to vote in favor
  ● Approval by a chapter requires ¾ of its members to vote in favor
  ● Chapters must report their vote by April 1
  ● Chapters may conduct balloting electronically
  ● Abstentions and absentees count as NO votes
Amendment 1 Overview

- **Purpose:** Require programs that are not ABET-EAC accredited or have the same name as an ABET-EAC accredited program to be appealed and approved by the Convention.

- **Impact:** Article II, Section 1 (a) (3)

- **Context:** The Constitution considers any program with the noun ‘engineering’ in its name to be eligible for membership in Tau Beta Pi. This means that a program called ‘Genetic Engineering’ would automatically be eligible, but ‘Engineering Genetics’ would not. The proposed change would require any program that is not ABET-EAC accredited or has the same name as an ABET-EAC accredited program to be appealed to and approved by the Convention. This appeal process has worked successfully for nearly 15 years for programs like computer science.
Amendment 1 Overview

- **Notes:**
  1. A proviso passed with this amendment allows any program considered eligible for membership under the current Constitution as of August 31, 2018, to remain eligible through the conclusion of the 2023 Convention.
  2. Chapters impacted by this change will be able to appeal their programs to the 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023 Conventions.
  3. This change will have **NO** impact on anyone already a member of Tau Beta Pi. Once a member, always a member.
SECTION 1. Program Eligibility. (a) An engineering program is defined as one that meets any of the following criteria and is listed in the chapter’s bylaws (see Const. Art. VII, Sec. 4):

(1) Accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) of ABET or recognized by any engineering-accreditation successor(s) to ABET or recognized by an ABET mutual recognition agreement as equivalent to such programs that are accredited in the United States;

(2) Administered by a unit (a department, school, or college) of engineering and has the same name as any program accredited as described in criterion (1); or

(3) Administered by a unit of engineering and includes the noun ‘engineering’ in its name.

(4) Approved by Convention under the requirements of Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(b). Programs approved by Convention are specific to the appealing chapter.

[strikethrough words deleted; underlined word added]
Amendment 2 Overview

- **Purpose:** Clarify that an institution or advisor determines scholastic eligibility for graduate students.
- **Impact:** Article II, Section 3 (a)
- **Context:** If a graduate student doesn’t have a primary academic advisor, there is no eligibility mechanism defined in the current Constitution. The proposed change allows an institution to provide documentation of graduate degree status if student’s primary academic advisor is not available, or if another process exists such as a graduate student eligibility list. This better aligns with undergraduate eligibility requirements.
SECTION 3. **Eligibility of Graduates.** (a) To be eligible for membership as a graduate, a student shall have completed at least one semester, one trimester, or two quarters in a graduate engineering program of the institution and shall have completed at least fifty percent of the degree requirements, including coursework and research, as determined by the student’s institution or primary academic advisor.

[underlined words added]
Amendment 3 Overview

- **Purpose:** Adjust when the Advisory Board approves graduate student eligibility and when documents are submitted.
- **Impact:** Article II, Section 3 (b)
- **Context:** The current graduate eligibility process is overly complicated. The revised wording clarifies graduate eligibility requirements and better aligns with undergraduate eligibility requirements.
SECTION 3. **Eligibility of Graduates.**

... 

(b) Complete proof of a student’s worthiness for membership shall be sent to Headquarters (see Const. Art. V, Sec. 3). Such proof shall include:

1. Evidence of the student’s scholastic eligibility, consisting of certification of the standing in the top fifth of the graduate class. If, and only if, class rank cannot be determined, a statement by a faculty member that the student is doing graduate work of the quality expected of a member shall be substituted for class-rank certification;

2. A list of the degree(s) held by the student, the institution(s) which granted the degree(s), and the year in which each degree was granted; and

3. A statement from the chapter’s Advisory Board that it believes the student to be worthy of membership in the Association and approves the student’s eligibility.

(continued...)
Amendment 3 Changes – Article II

(2) If, and only if, standing in the top fifth of the graduate class cannot be determined, a faculty member may submit a statement that the student is doing graduate work of the quality expected of a member. In this case, the chapter’s Advisory Board shall attest to the student’s worthiness for membership and approve the student’s eligibility.

(c) Prior to the election of a graduate student, the chapter shall submit a list of the degree(s) held by the student, the institution(s) which granted the degree(s), and the year in which each degree was granted.

[struck words deleted; underlined words added]
Amendment 4 Overview

- **Purpose:** Clarify a District Director’s role in mediating a candidate’s objection to duties assigned by a chapter.
- **Impact:** Article III, Section 2 (b)
- **Context:** The current language is not clear on the role of a District Director in mediating a disagreement between a candidate and a chapter’s Advisory Board. The proposed change defines the role of the District Director to be one to mediate and help resolve a disagreement, but the final decision is left to the chapter’s Advisory Board.
SECTION 2. Candidate Activities.

... (b) If a candidate objects to the required duties and the chapter cannot resolve the objection, the candidate may appeal to the chapter’s Advisory Board. If the candidate is not satisfied with the outcome of the Advisory Board’s decision, the candidate may contact a District Director one of the chapter’s District Directors (see Const. Art. XI, Sec. 6) to mediate and help resolve the situation. The Advisory Board will either affirm or modify their decision. This action is final (see Const. Art. VII, Sec. 11(b)).
Amendment 5 Overview

- **Purpose:** Update the language and refine the process for the petitioning and approval of new collegiate chapters.
- **Impact:** Article VI, Sections 1-3
- **Context:** The existing language regarding petitioning for a new chapter was cumbersome, and in some cases, unclear. The extensive changes approved by Convention clean up the language in the Constitution, clarify the petitioning requirements, and expound on the Executive Council’s role in the process.
SECTION 1. **Eligibility Requirements.** (a) Any regionally accredited college or university is eligible for a collegiate chapter when the following criteria are met:

(1) All or at least three of the institution’s undergraduate engineering programs meet the requirements of Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(a)(1).

(2) The institution confers at least 40 engineering bachelor’s degrees each year from programs meeting the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a)(1), and the number of graduates is stable or increasing.

(3) A group of students meeting the eligibility standards outlined in Const. Art. II, Secs. 2 or 3 has organized and operated a local society patterned after an Association chapter described in Const. Art. VII for at least two full years after the local society’s establishment and installation of charter members. These students shall meet the eligibility standards outlined in Const. Art. II, Secs. 2 or 3.

(continued...)

Amendment 5 Changes – Article VI
(4) At least three faculty members who are members of the Association serve as advisors to the local society.

(5) A majority of the engineering faculty are members of their respective technical, professional, scientific, or honor societies.

(b) Chapters may be established at colleges or universities that do not meet all the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a) by the Convention on the Council’s recommendation.

SECTION 2. **Petition for Chapter.** (a) A petition to establish a collegiate chapter may be made to the Association by members of the local society by a group of students and graduates when the requirements of Const. Art. VI, Sec. 1(a) are met. In addition to documenting compliance with those requirements, a petition shall include:

(continued...)
Amendment 5 Changes – Article VI

(1) A letter of intent explaining their the local society’s interest in establishing a chapter.

(2) A pledge by the local society members of their willingness to subscribe to and obey the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

(3) A statement welcoming consenting the chapter’s establishment by the institution’s administration and that the institution shall identify future students meeting these requirements so they may be informed of their eligibility.

(4) A statement certified by the institution’s administration that the eligibility requirements specified in Const. Art. II are met by each of the petitioners meets the eligibility requirements specified in Const. Art. II.

(5) The institution’s current admission requirements.

(continued...)
Amendment 5 Changes – Article VI

(6) The number of weeks required to be spent on academic classroom and laboratory work for a degree in engineering. Detailed list of degree requirements and course descriptions for each eligible program as outlined by Art II, Sec. 1, including lab hours as appropriate.

(7) The length of the institution’s curriculum for a degree in engineering.

(8) The number of engineering students in each of the engineering classes and the names and number of the engineering degrees awarded in each program during the last five years.

(9) Descriptions of the programs and courses offered and any other materials as may be available to assist the Council in reaching its decision.

(b) The Council shall review the petition and determine if the institution is qualified for an inspection. An inspection shall assess the petitioning society’s qualifications for a Tau Beta Pi Chapter. (continued...)
(1) If approved by the Council, an Inspection Committee shall assess the petitioning institution’s qualifications for a Tau Beta Pi Chapter. The Committee shall be led by a Council member and should include members from neighboring chapters and Association Officials (see Const. Art. XI, Sec. 1).

(2) If the Council considers further actions by the petitioners necessary, they shall be advised of the specified deficiencies and given the opportunity to take corrective action and resubmit the petition. The Council shall then reconsider the petition and if approved, authorize an Inspection Committee in accordance with Const. Art. VI, Sec. 2(b)(1).

(3) The Council shall report to the next Convention if an institution is not qualified for an inspection. The Convention may sustain the action of the Council, or it may vote to request the Council to proceed with an inspection in accordance with the Constitution.

(continued...)
(c) The Council shall consider the Inspection Committee’s report and recommendation. Based on this information, the Council shall approve, conditionally approve, recommend, or disapprove not recommend a petition. The Inspection Committee’s recommendations and the Council’s action recommendations shall be reported presented to the Convention following the inspection. If the Council disapproves, the Convention may approve the preliminary petition and request the petitioners to submit a formal petition in accordance with the Constitution, to be considered by the next Convention.

(continued...)
SECTION 3. **Granting a Chapter.** (a) The Petitions Committee (see Const. Art. IX, Sec. 6) shall review the petition and inspection report, meet with petitioning group’s representatives, and recommend action on the petition to the Convention.

(b) A petitioning group shall be represented at the Convention by at least one of its student members and at least one faculty advisor member who is preferably an Association member.

(c) A collegiate chapter shall be established or abolished, and a charter granted or withdrawn, only by at least a three-fourths majority of those present and entitled to vote at the Convention, taken by recordable voting method.

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Amendment 6 Overview

- **Purpose:** Allow the Convention and Executive Council to modify official and trial programs, respectively.
- **Impact:** Article IX, Section 7 (f), Article X, Section 5 (k)
- **Context:** The Constitution only allows the Convention and Council to create or end official or trial programs, respectively. The proposed changes allow each to modify programs under their respective jurisdiction.
SECTION 7. **Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities defined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, the responsibilities of the Convention include:

... (f) Creating, **modifying**, and ending all official programs which shall be listed in the Bylaws.

*[underlined word added]*
SECTION 5. Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities defined elsewhere in the Constitution and Bylaws, the Council’s responsibilities include:

... 

(k) Creating, modifying, and ending trial programs. Trial programs may be for up to three years in length. After three years, the Executive Council may request the Convention continue the trial or make it an official program (see Const. Art. IX, Sec. 7(f)).

[underlined word added]
Amendment 7 Overview

- **Purpose:** Change the deadline for Executive Council nominations to July 1.
- **Impact:** Article X, Section 2 (a)
- **Context:** The current deadline for Executive Council nominations is April 1. The proposed change would make the deadline July 1 which provides more time for current Councillors to decide whether or not to seek a second term and to identify additional candidates to serve on the Council.
SECTION 2. **Nominations.** (a) Any chapter may nominate Association alumni who are interested and willing to serve on the Council. Such nomination shall be sent to Headquarters by **April July 1.**

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Amendment 8 Overview

- **Purpose:** Adjust when Executive Council nominations are allowed from the floor of the Convention.
- **Impact:** Article X, Section 2 (d)
- **Context:** The current Constitution does not provide for a mechanism to nominate candidates when the number of vacancies is equal to the number of candidates; thus, there are no options for election. The proposed change ensures there are enough qualified nominees for Council positions by allowing nominations from the floor when the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of vacancies. The majority election concept is maintained.
SECTION 2. **Nominations.**

...  
(d) The Convention shall vote only on the nominated individuals, except if the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of vacancies, any delegate to the Convention may nominate eligible members who are alumni to serve on the Council, provided the delegate is certain the nominees are willing to serve if elected.

[underlined words added]
Amendment 9 Overview

○ **Purpose:** Refine the Executive Council election process to address situations where an unopposed candidate does not receive a majority vote.

○ **Impact:** Article X, Section 3 (a)

○ **Context:** The current Constitution allows an unopposed candidate to automatically be elected to the Executive Council. The proposed change handles the situation by opening nominations from the floor of Convention in the case where an unopposed candidate does not receive a majority vote by the Convention.
SECTION 3. **Election.** (a) Elections for the Council shall occur annually for voting members whose terms expire prior to the next regular Convention, hereinafter referred to as open positions. All nominees who have not been elected to an open position on the Council shall be candidates for the open position in question. If a candidate receives a majority vote of the Convention or if only one candidate remains, that candidate shall be elected to the open position in question. If no candidate receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from further consideration for the open position in question. Voting shall be repeated until all open positions are filled. The numerical results of each ballot shall be made known to the Convention before any subsequent ballots are cast. **Should an unopposed candidate not receive a majority vote of the Convention for an open position, nominations from the floor will be accepted and elections shall follow the procedure above. The unopposed candidate is ineligible for further consideration for election at the current Convention and ineligible for appointment by the Executive Council and nominations proceed in accordance with Const. Art. X. Sec. 2(d).**