

**THE TAU BETA PI ASSOCIATION, INCORPORATED**  
**117<sup>th</sup> Convention Minutes**  
**October 12-14, 2023**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

**Thursday, October 12, 2023**

**Call to Order**

President Rachel K. Alexander, P.E., called the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., to order at 9:10 a.m. EDT in the Grand Ballroom of the Courtland Grand Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia, on Thursday, October 12, 2023. In accord with Const. Art. X, Sec. 5(n), Secretary Michael L. Peterson was appointed as Convention Secretary and was present.

**Report of the Credentials Committee**

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Committee Chair Benjamin J. Pollatz reported that registration was incomplete, but 193 collegiate chapter delegates, 26 alumni chapter delegates, 7 Executive Councillors, 5 Program Directors, and 15 District Directors were registered for a total of 246 voting delegates. With a majority of collegiate chapters represented, a quorum was present.

**Introduction of Association Officials**

Councillor Mennatoallah M. Youssef, Ph.D., introduced the following individuals present at the Convention:

2023 Executive Council

Rachel K. Alexander, President; Michael J. Hand III, Treasurer; Ronald M. Hickling, Vice President; Marla A. Peterson, Councillor; Michael L. Peterson, Secretary; George Youssef, Councillor; and Mennatoallah M. Youssef, Councillor.

Program Directors

Tricia E. Gomulinski, Director of Alumni Affairs; Stacey L. Forkner, Director of the District Program; Kathleen T.-L. Colbry, Ph.D., Director of Engineering Futures, Sally J. Steadman, Ph.D., Director of Fellowships; Edward J. D'Avignon, Director of Rituals.

Tau Beta Pi Headquarters

Curtis D. Gomulinski, Executive Director; James D. Froula, P.E. [ret.], Executive Director Emeritus; Sherry D. Jennings-King, Director of Development.

District Directors

*District 1:* Michael C. Munsey and Lauren J. Swett, P.E.; *District 2:* Sandhiya Kannan, Anthony M. Olenik, Thomas A. Pinkham IV, and Lara L. Spinelli, P.E.; *District 3:* Jon M. Sonsteby; *District 4:* Joseph P. Blackford, DEN, and Lisa C. Lombino; *District 5:* David J. Cowan Jr., P.E., and Josuan Hilerio-Sanchez; *District 6:* Andrew I. Doyka and Ellen S. Styles; *District 7:* Lauren H. Logan, Ph.D., Michael Ustes, and Tonya J. Whitehead, Ph.D.; *District 8:* Bruce A. DeVantier, Ph.D., P.E., Eric F. Dorge, and Teresa J. Hutton; *District 9:* Brent J. Barcus and Matthew V. Romero; *District 10:* Jose E. Suarez; *District 11:* Margaret G. Goshert and James C. Hill, Ph.D.; *District 12:* Matthew T. Pittard; *District 13:* Scott W. Schmucker, Ph.D., and C. Christopher Stemple; *District 14:* Joseph P. Zipperer and Jeffrey S. Zola; *District 15:* Daniel T. Kruusmagi and Elson Y.-H. Liu, Ph.D.; *District 16:* Neal T. Bussett and Sam Rokni.

Engineering Futures Facilitators

Joseph P. Blackford, Dirk J.-L. Colbry, Ph.D., Kathleen T.-L. Colbry, Susan L.R. Holl, Ph.D., Russell W. Pierce, Ellen S. Styles, Robert C. Styles, and Scott M. Trocchia, Ph.D.

Chapter Development Committee

Ann M. Brunton, Eric S. Edstrom, Ilse G. Perez Garcia, Phiwat Klomkaew, Kavya U. Thakar, and Scott M. Trocchia.

# Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

## Other Association Officials

Gifford L. Courtney, Student Advisory Board Member; Daniel S. Karami, Student Advisory Board Chair; LeVern W. Faidley, Ph.D., Fellowship Board Member; James W. Johnson Jr., Trust Advisor Committee Chair; Lauren H. Logan, Ph.D., Student Advisory Board Advisor; and Michael Ustes, Student Advisory Board Advisor.

## Convention Officials

Jason A. Abellada, PRP, Convention Permanent Chair; Ronald M. Hickling, Parliamentarian; Michael L. Peterson, Secretary; Joseph A. Kuspa, Historian; Benjamin J. Pollatz, Credentials Committee Chair; Wesley R. Repke; Tellers Committee Chair; Christopher J. Creveling, Photographer.

## **Introduction to Networking**

Councillor M.M. Youssef led delegates through a networking activity.

## **Report of the President**

President R.K. Alexander presented her report on behalf of the Executive Council for 2022-23. The report appears in the Winter 2024 issue of *The Bent*.

## **Report of the Officers**

Vice President Ronald M. Hickling, Secretary Michael L. Peterson, and Treasurer Michael J. Hand III each presented their reports. The Report of Executive Director Curtis D. Gomulinski will be presented on Friday.

## **Report of the Directors of the Association**

Each of the Program Directors presented a report with the exception of Director of Rituals D'Avignon who submitted a written report.

## **Introduction of Association Committees**

Representatives from various groups introduced themselves and their work including: Ann M. Brunton for the Chapter Development Committee; Susan L.R. Holl for the Advisor Committee, Stewart R. Baskin for the Membership Committee, Christopher W. Potts, for the New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) Program; and Daniel S. Karami for the Student Advisory Board.

## **Approval of Agenda**

Curtis D. Gomulinski (Executive Director) moved the adoption of the agenda.

### **Convention Action: The agenda was adopted as follows:**

#### **First Business Meeting—Thursday, October 12 at 9:00 a.m.**

- Official Opening of Convention and Welcome
- Report of Credentials Committee
- Introduction of Association Officials
- Introduction to Networking
- Report of the President
- Report of the Officers
- Report of the Directors of the Association
- Introduction of Association Committees
- Approval of Agenda
- Adoption of Standing Rules
- Test of Voting System
- Convention Orientation
- 10:50 a.m. Adjournment

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

### **Second Business Meeting—Friday, October 13 at 2:15 p.m.**

Report of Credentials Committee  
Executive Council Candidate Nominations & Presentations  
Report of and action on Chapter & Association Financial Affairs Committee  
Report of and action on Constitution and Bylaws Committee  
Report of and action on Petitions Committee  
Report of and action on Rituals Committee  
Report of and action on Convention Site Committee  
Report of and action on NEST Committee (ad hoc)  
4:45 p.m. Adjournment

### **Third Business Meeting—Saturday, October 14 at 9:00 a.m.**

Report of Credentials Committee  
Election of members of the Executive Council  
Report of Awards Committee  
Report of and action on Advisors Committee (ad hoc)  
Report of and action on Alumni Chapters Committee (ad hoc)  
Report of and action on DEI Committee (ad hoc)  
Report of and action on Program Review Committee (ad hoc)  
Report of and action on Resolutions Committee  
Report of and action on Image & Marketing Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on Rituals Committee  
11:00 a.m. Adjournment

### **Fourth Business Meeting—Saturday, October 14 at 3:45 p.m.**

Report of Credentials Committee  
Action if necessary on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs Committee  
Action if necessary on Constitution and Bylaws Committee  
Action if necessary on Petitions Committee  
Action if necessary on Convention Site Committee  
Action if necessary on Advisors Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on Alumni Chapters Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on DEI Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on NEST Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on Image & Marketing Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on Program Review Committee (ad hoc)  
Action if necessary on Resolutions Committee  
New Business  
5:45 p.m. Adjournment

### **Final Business Meeting—Saturday, October 12 at 6:30 p.m.**

NEST Winner Presentation  
Alumni Chapter Awards Presentation  
Final Report of Awards Committee  
Final Report of Resolutions Committee  
Recognition of Executive Council Service  
Installation of new Executive Councillors  
Farewell Messages  
Adjournment Sine Die

### **Adoption of Standing Rules**

With the adoption of the agenda, President Alexander yielded to Convention Permanent Chair Jason A. Abellada. L.P. Champagne Jr. (Greater New Orleans) moved to adopt the standing rules as presented.

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Convention Action: The standing rules were adopted as follows:

1. Identification.
  - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue identification badges and colored wristbands, which shall be worn for admission to Convention activities. Badges and wristbands may not be transferred without proper action by the Credentials Committee. Wristbands for voting delegates shall be blue, and lost wristbands shall be immediately reported to the Credentials Committee.
  - b. Voting delegates may be asked to check in with a member of the Tellers Committee prior to entering the Convention Business Meeting room. Voting delegates may be asked to check out when leaving the room and check in when returning to the room while the meeting is in session.
  
2. Voting.
  - a. At their discretion, the presiding officer may request a “show of wristbands” in lieu of a rising vote.
  - b. A counted vote shall be taken by a text or electronic voting procedure approved by the Tellers Committee.
  - c. Text or electronic voting shall be open for 30 seconds for each question for which it is used.
  - d. Voting delegates who do not have a cell phone or text capabilities will be issued paper ballots by the Tellers Committee to record their votes.
  - e. A vote may be taken by roll-call only when three-fourths vote in favor of a roll-call vote.
  
3. Recognition.
  - a. To request recognition, a delegate shall be at one of the microphones placed throughout the Convention Business Meeting room.
  - b. Upon recognition by the presiding officer, a delegate shall state their name and representing chapter.
  
4. Debate. For each debatable motion, a delegate shall be limited to one (1) speech of not more than two (2) minutes each unless the Convention orders otherwise.

### **Test of Voting System**

Tellers Committee Chair Wesley R. Repke conducted a test of the electronic voting system, ElectionBuddy. Delegates who encountered problems were instructed to speak with him.

### **Convention Orientation**

Convention Program Planning Chair Tricia E. Gomulinski presented an orientation to Convention.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m. to meet at 2:15 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023.

**Friday, October 13, 2023**

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Abellada called the Second Business Meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. on Friday, October 13, 2023.

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Report of the Credentials Committee

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Committee Chair B.J. Pollatz reported that registration was complete with 207 collegiate chapter delegates, 26 alumni chapter delegates, 7 Executive Councillors, 5 Program Directors, and 16 District Directors registered for a total of 263 voting delegates. With a majority of collegiate chapters represented, a quorum was present.

### Executive Council Candidate Nominations and Presentations

With three existing nominations for three vacancies on the Executive Council, Mr. Abellada noted that additional nominations could be made. Jeffrey S. Zola (Portland) nominated Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak, P.E., and she accepted the nomination.

Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak, Henry H. Houh, Ph.D., Russell W. Pierce, and Thomas A. Pinkham IV each made presentations to the Convention.

### Report of the Committee on Chapter & Association Financial Affairs

Greg C. Sheets II (OH D), Chair, reported that there were no unusual delegate expenses for the 2023 Convention, delegates from chapters with outstanding balances of over \$500 had been interviewed, and the audit reports for the 2019-21 fiscal years had been reviewed. There was no action necessary by the Convention on these matters.

### Initiation Fee Policy

Mr. Sheets moved to adopt the proposed initiation fee policy as presented.

### Appeal from the Decision of the Chair

Kyle A. Lady (Ann Arbor Area) appealed the Chair's ruling that the assembly had adopted a two-minute limit for speeches as part of the standing rules because five-minutes was displayed on the slide which differed from what was available electronically.

### **Convention Action: The Decision of the Chair was sustained.**

Catherine E. Elliott (MD B) moved to amend the policy by adding "The Executive Council shall notify chapters 60 days prior to a change in the overall initiation dues." at the end of section b.

Courtney L. Chase (CA X) moved to amend the amendment by striking out "60 days" and replacing it with "four months."

### **Convention Action: The motion to amend the amendment was adopted.**

### **Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Neal T. Bussett (D16 Director) noted the term "dues" is not used elsewhere and recommended that "dues" be replaced by "fees."

### **Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

### **Convention Action: The motion as amended was adopted and appears below.**

<b>Title:</b>	Association Initiation Fees	<b>Number:</b>	PF 12
<b>Category:</b>	Finance	<b>Effective:</b>	10/13/2023
<b>Change Authority:</b>	Convention	<b>Last Modified:</b>	10/13/2023

The Association Initiation Fee shall be set as follows:

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

There shall be one fee charged to chapters per initiate, which shall comprise two components.

- a. The first component shall be the “Association expenses.”
  - i. The 2023 value of this component shall be \$26 and may be amended freely by Convention.
  - ii. If economic or financial situations allow/warrant, authority is hereby delegated to the Executive Council to change the Association expenses component, but not to exceed the amount set forth in i.
- b. The second component shall be the “Tangible benefits.”
  - i. This component is intended to cover the costs of items that initiates receive as part of their membership (key, certificate, membership card, 4-year *Bent* subscription, Constitution, etc.).
  - ii. The 2023 value of this component shall be \$29.
  - iii. If the average cost of the included items differs from the current value of this component, the Executive Council may set the value of this component to be up to the value of the included items, or a 5% increase from the preceding year, whichever is lower, rounded to the nearest dollar.
  - iv. Any increase to this component approved by the Executive Council shall be communicated to the following Convention along with supporting documentation for price valuation.
  - v. The Executive Council shall notify chapters four months prior to a change in the overall initiation fees.

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### Convention Delegate Travel Reimbursement Policy

Ansh Patel (MI G) moved to adopt the updated Convention Delegate Travel Reimbursement Policy (PF 06) as presented which replaces the existing policy.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted and appears below.**

<b>Title:</b>	Convention Delegate Travel Reimbursement	<b>Number:</b>	PF 06
<b>Category:</b>	Finance	<b>Effective:</b>	10/13/2023
<b>Change Authority:</b>	Convention	<b>Last Modified:</b>	10/13/2023

### **Purpose and Scope**

This policy specifies the reimbursement amounts for travel to The Tau Beta Association, Inc., (the Association) Convention by delegates from Association chapters.

### **Background**

The Constitution<sup>1</sup> states that Convention delegates’ travel to the Convention shall be reimbursed at rates determined by the previous Convention. This policy incorporates and expands on the provisions that were formerly documented in the Constitution and Bylaws.

### **Applies To**

This policy applies to all Association collegiate and alumni chapter delegates attending the Association’s Convention.

### **Allowable Expenses for Collegiate Chapter Delegates**

Each collegiate chapter delegate shall report expenses connected with the Convention on the *Tau Beta Pi Association Report of Expenses and Request for Reimbursement*<sup>2</sup> form within 30 days of the completion of travel in order to obtain reimbursement. Receipts are required for reimbursement of expenses with the exception of mileage and tolls.

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

The Association shall issue reimbursement for the amounts authorized under this policy. Allowable expenses of each delegate shall be the actual expenses incurred but shall not exceed:

- Coach class travel by air, rail, or bus, when such class is reasonably available;
- Automobile travel including tolls and parking expenses at the Convention site;
- Expenses at the Convention, to include housing and meals for a period of time not to exceed twelve hours in advance of the credentials validation deadline, extending through the days of the Convention, and ending not more than twelve hours after the adjournment of the Convention;
- Expenses for lodging for a maximum of one stopover each way to and from the Convention when traveling by automobile in excess of 500 miles (800 km) each way;
- Expenses for meals incurred in travel to and from the Convention site;
- Cost of regular franchise airport transportation and other terminal expenses from and to place of residence and between the airport and Convention site.

Requests for reimbursement to Collegiate Chapter delegates for unusual expenses must be submitted to the Executive Council or the Chapter and Association Financial Affairs Committee at the Convention for approval. Such approval should be obtained prior to the Convention when possible.

### **Allowable Expenses for Alumni Chapter Delegates**

Each Alumni Chapter voting delegate shall report on-site expenses connected with the Convention on the *Tau Beta Pi Association Report of Expenses and Request for Reimbursement*<sup>2</sup> form within 30 days of the completion of travel in order to obtain reimbursement. Receipts are required for reimbursement of expenses with the exception of mileage and tolls.

The Association shall issue reimbursement for the amounts authorized under this policy. Allowable expenses of each delegate shall be the actual expenses incurred but shall not exceed:

- Expenses at the Convention, to include housing and meals for a period of time not to exceed twelve hours in advance of the credentials validation deadline, extending through the days of the Convention, and ending not more than twelve hours after the adjournment of the Convention.

Requests for reimbursement to Alumni Chapter delegates for unusual expenses must be submitted to the Executive Council or the Chapter and Association Financial Affairs Committee at the Convention for approval. Such approval should be obtained prior to the Convention when possible.

### **Mileage Reimbursement Approved Rates**

Unless otherwise stipulated by the Convention, the allowable mileage rate for approved Convention travel shall be 50% of the current IRS business travel rate as of the June prior to the Convention subject to the following:

- The allowable mileage rate shall not be less than \$0.30 per mile.
- The allowable mileage rate shall not increase by more than \$0.05 per mile from the previous year.
- An additional \$0.05 per mile may be reimbursed for each additional member traveling with the delegate.

### **On-Site and en route Meals Approved Rates**

Per the U.S. GSA, meals (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) will be reimbursed up to the amount described in the Meals & Incidentals (M&IE) Breakdown based on Convention location.

For en route meals (incurred in travel to and from the Convention site), 70% of previous fiscal year's Continental United States meals and incidental expenses (CONUS M&IE) rates will be the limit (breakfast, lunch, and dinner) for each travel day.

# Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

<sup>1</sup> Association Constitution Article IX, Section 7(c)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.tbp.org/ExpenseReport/ExpenseReport.cfm>

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## Investment Options

Mr. Sheets moved to amend the Constitution and Bylaws by striking Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 8, inserting the content of Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 8 into the Bylaws as a new Bylaw IV, Sec. 4.01 entitled “Investment Options,” renumbering Bylaw IV to Bylaw V, and amending the new Bylaw V, Sec. 5.02 by inserting “, with the exception of Bylaw IV (unless proposed to the chapters 30 days in advance),” after the word “Convention” and before the word “may.”

Michael Ustes (D7 Director) moved to amend the motion to strike out “30” and insert “60.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Georgia A. Angeletakis (DE A) moved to commit the motion to the Committee on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs.

**Convention Action: The motion was committed.**

## **Report of the Committee on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs**

Zachary C. Rogers (NC Z), Chair, reported that policies on Student Loans (PF 09), Official Publications (PA 03), and the Laureate Award (PO 18) required no updates. The policies on Compilation of Eligible Candidate Data (PO 12), Chapter Membership Reports (PO 13), Retiring Chapter Officers (PO 14), New Chapter Petitions (PO 17), and Executive Director Responsibilities (PG 02) required only minor updates which would be communicated to the Executive Council for action. There was no action necessary by the Convention on these matters.

## Chapter Officer Duties Policy

Mr. Rogers moved to rescind the Chapter Officer Duties Policy (PO 08).

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

## Chapter Committee Policy

Mr. Rogers moved to rescind the Chapter Committee Policy (PO 16).

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

## Executive Council Responsibilities Policy

Mr. Rogers moved to adopt the revised Executive Council Responsibilities Policy (PG 03).

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted and appears below.**

<b>Title:</b>	Executive Council Responsibilities	<b>Number:</b>	PG 03
<b>Category:</b>	Governance	<b>Effective:</b>	10/13/2023
<b>Change Authority:</b>	Convention	<b>Last Modified:</b>	10/13/2023

## **Purpose and Scope**

This policy delineates the responsibilities of the Executive Council (EC) of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., (the Association).



## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Background

The EC is the Association's board of directors. This policy incorporates and expands on the provisions that were formerly documented in the Constitution and Bylaws.

### Applies To

This policy applies to the EC.

### Responsibilities

In addition to the specific responsibilities and authorities established in the Constitution<sup>1</sup> and Bylaws<sup>2</sup>, the EC shall:

- Establish the Association's vision, mission, and strategic goals;
- Support the Executive Director and review his or her performance on an annual basis;
- Provide appropriate oversight to the Association's resources;
- Determine and monitor the Association's services and programs;
- Enhance the Association's public image;
- Assess its own performance on an annual basis;
- Study, or appoint committees to study, such subjects as it deems necessary;
- Prepare proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws for consideration by the chapters, or by the Convention, or both.

The Executive Council may establish policies and shall make them available to members. Any chapter can request a change to any policy to be considered at the next Convention.

Additional specific roles, responsibilities, and qualifications are stated in the Executive Councillor job description<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Association Constitution, Article X, Section 6

<sup>2</sup> Association Bylaws, Bylaw II, Section 2.01

<sup>3</sup> [www.tbp.org/other/ECJobDescription.pdf](http://www.tbp.org/other/ECJobDescription.pdf)

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### Chapter Fines Policy

Mr. Rogers moved to rescind the Chapter Fines Policy (PO 10).

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### **Report of the Committee on Petitions**

Ms. Chase, Chair, moved to approve the petitions from Texas A&M University at Qatar and the American University of Sharjah and grant charters to both institutions.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

The committee provided recommendations to the Executive Council on naming and district assignments for international chapters. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Report of the Committee on Rituals**

During the report of Katerina Katsouleas (CA E), Chair, E.J. D'Avignon (Dir. of Rituals) rose to a question of privilege affecting the assembly regarding non-members being present during a discussion of the ritual. Mr. Abellada Abellada requested non-members to leave the meeting room.

**Convention Action: The Convention moved into executive session.**

The assembly made no changes to the ritual during the executive session.

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

### **Point of Personal Privilege**

Mr. Bussett rose to a question of personal privilege and requested that the committee use blue text instead of green text in their presentation to improve readability. Mr. Abellada directed the committee make changes to future presentations.

### **Adjournment**

Ms. Angeletakis announced that the Program Review Committee was considering nine program appeals and invited anyone with questions to attend their meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m. to meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

## **Saturday, October 14, 2023**

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Abellada called the Third Business Meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Mr. Abellada requested unanimous consent to amend the order of business for the Third Business Meeting.

### **Convention Action: The agenda as amended was adopted as follows:**

- Report of Credentials Committee
- Election of members of the Executive Council
- Report of Awards Committee
- Report of and action on Advisors Committee (ad hoc)
- Report of and action on Alumni Chapters Committee (ad hoc)
- Action if necessary on Rituals Committee
- Report of and action on DEI Committee (ad hoc)
- Report of and action on Program Review Committee (ad hoc)
- Report of and action on Resolutions Committee
- Report of and action on Image & Marketing Committee (ad hoc)
- Action if necessary on Financial Affairs Committee
- Report of and action on Convention Site Committee
- Report of and action on NEST Committee
- 11:00 a.m. Adjournment

### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Committee Chair B.J. Pollatz reported that registration was complete with 207 collegiate chapter delegates, 28 alumni chapter delegates, 8 Executive Councillors, 5 Program Directors, and 16 District Directors registered for a total of 264 voting delegates. With a majority of collegiate chapters represented, a quorum was present.

### **Election of members of the Executive Council**

Parliamentarian Ronald M. Hickling informed delegates that ElectionBuddy would be used to conduct the Executive Council elections and that a single ballot using "instant runoff voting" would be used to fill each of the three vacancies. Mr. Hickling reported that Thomas A. Pinkham IV had been elected to the first vacancy, and the results of the voting were as follows on the next page:

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Round 1 Votes</b>	<b>Round 2 Votes</b>	<b>Round 3 Votes</b>	<b>Round 4 Votes</b>
Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak	51	51	61	Eliminated
Henry H. Houh	70	70	76	113
Russell W. Pierce	34	34	Eliminated	Eliminated
Thomas A. Pinkham IV	87	88	105	127
No Confidence	1	Eliminated	Eliminated	Eliminated
Total Votes Cast	243	243	242	240

Mr. Hickling reported that Henry H. Houh had been elected to the second vacancy, and the results of the voting were as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Round 1 Votes</b>	<b>Round 2 Votes</b>	<b>Round 3 Votes</b>
Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak	79	79	100
Henry H. Houh	108	108	134
Russell W. Pierce	50	50	Eliminated
No Confidence	1	Eliminated	Eliminated
Total Votes Cast	241	240	237

Mr. Hickling reported that Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak had been elected to the third vacancy, and the results of the voting were as follows:

<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Round 1 Votes</b>
Colleen L. Hill-Stramsak	148
Russell W. Pierce	76
No Confidence	5
Total Votes Cast	229

### **Report of the Committee on Awards**

August B. Phelps (MD D), Chair, reported that the committee would present the winners and honorable mentions for the awards at the final meeting this evening. The committee provided recommendations to Headquarters to assist in their selection in future years. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Report of the Committee on Advisors (ad hoc)**

Peter A. Tsibouris (OH N), Chair, reported that the committee was providing recommendations to the Executive Council, including reasons why people join Tau Beta Pi, tagline suggestions, and recommending that the ad hoc Advisors Committee be reconvened at the 2024 Convention. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Report of the Committee on Alumni Chapters (ad hoc)**

Kurt P. Rouser, Ph.D., (Pioneer), Chair, reported that they made several recommendations to the Executive Council regarding the annual Alumni Chapter survey, dues collections, a standing committee for alumni chapters, and to continue the Alumni Chapter Committee at the 2024 Convention. They also provided recommendations for an elevator pitch with examples. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Executive Session**

Mr. Abellada moved that the Convention move into executive session to discuss the ritual.

**Convention Action: The Convention moved into executive session.**

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Report of the Committee on Rituals

During the executive session, Ms. Katsouleas moved three different changes to the ritual.

**Convention Action: Each of the three changes to the ritual were adopted.**

### Report of the Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) (ad hoc)

Leah D. Edwards (NC E), Chair, provided recommendations from the committee to the Executive Council regarding the Eminent Engineer initiation process and the chapter petitioning process. Jocelynn Nazarit (CA AG) added committee recommendations for bringing together communities sharing similar interests and backgrounds, providing additional DEI resources on the website, and increasing the inclusivity of initiation. There was no action necessary by the Convention regarding these recommendations.

### Quarterly Reviews

Ms. Edwards moved to have the Executive Council review the recommended actions and report back to the standing DEI Committee quarterly for amending the Eminent Engineer initiation process, maintaining internal affinity groups, and increasing HSI/HBCU outreach.

Mr. Phelps moved to amend the motion to include “/MSI” after “HBCU.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Mr. Peterson moved to amend the motion by striking out “Executive Council” and replacing it with “standing DEI Committee” and striking out “standing DEI Committee” and replacing it with “Executive Council.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Matthew V. Romero (D9 Director) moved to amend the motion by striking out “HSI/HBCU/MSI” and inserting “Increasing identified affinity group outreach.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was not adopted.**

**Convention Action: The motion as amended was adopted and appears below.**

Have the standing DEI Committee review the recommended actions and report back to the Executive Council quarterly for amending the Eminent Engineer initiation process; maintaining internal affinity groups; and increasing HSI/HBCU/MSI outreach.

### Future Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committees

Ms. Edwards moved to reinstate the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee at the 2024 Tau Beta Pi Convention to continue to create enduring actions.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### Code of Ethics of Engineers

Ms. Edwards moved to amend the “Code of Ethics of Engineers” distributed by Tau Beta Pi to add “8. Engineers shall act in such a manner to uphold and enhance the values of inclusivity and accessibility within the engineering practice.” at the end of the Fundamental Canons section.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

### **Report of the Committee on Program Review (ad hoc)**

Ms. Angeletakis (DE A) moved to adopt the following resolution: Resolved, following Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(a)(3); the appealed Computer Science programs of the American University of Sharjah, California Alpha Alpha, Michigan Epsilon, and Washington Beta, should be accepted in accordance with Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(b).

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

Nicholas R. Divilbiss (KS G) moved to adopt the following resolution: Resolved, following Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(a)(3); the appealed Master of Science in Environmental & Sustainability Engineering, Robotics with a Major in Smart Mobility, and Robotics with a Major in Intelligent Control programs of Michigan Epsilon should be accepted in accordance with Const. Art. II, Sec. 1(b). There was no debate, and the motion was adopted on a voice vote.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### **Report of the Committee on Resolutions**

Deepti Naruka (OH A), Chair, reported that the committee compiled recommendations to the Executive Council regarding the identity of Tau Beta Pi. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m. to meet at 3:45 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Abellada called the Fourth Business Meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Mr. Abellada requested unanimous consent to amend the order of business for the Fourth Business Meeting.

**Convention Action: The agenda as amended was adopted as follows:**

Report of Credentials Committee

Action if necessary on Convention Site Committee

Action if necessary on NEST Committee (ad hoc)

Action if necessary on Image & Marketing Committee (ad hoc)

Action if necessary on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs Committee

Action if necessary on Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Action if necessary on Resolutions Committee

New Business

5:45 p.m. Adjournment

### **Report of the Credentials Committee**

On behalf of the Credentials Committee, Committee Chair B.J. Pollatz, reported that registration was complete with 207 collegiate chapter delegates, 28 alumni chapter delegates, 7 Executive Councillors, 5 Program Directors, and 16 District Directors were registered for a total of 263 voting delegates. With a majority of collegiate chapters represented, a quorum was present.

### **Report of the Committee on Convention Site**

Rylie P. Steffen (NE A) moved to hold the 2026 Convention in Tucson, AZ.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Report of the Committee on New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) (ad hoc)

Gabriel J. Dimonde (LA D) moved to make waste management the 2023-24 NEST Challenge topic.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### Report of the Committee on Image & Marketing (ad hoc)

Macy B. Mekiliesky (SC B), Chair, reported committee recommendations to the Executive Council on the current posters, website navigation, and the chapter reporting website. There was no action necessary by the Convention on the recommendations.

### Graduation Stole

Ms. Mekiliesky moved to offer an additional stole design as part of the existing graduation regalia set.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### Future Committees

Ms. Mekiliesky moved to redefine the Image & Marketing (ad hoc) Committee as the Public Relations standing committee starting at the 2024 Convention. The purpose of this committee is to address the issues of image, marketing, social media, and website.

Ms. Mekiliesky moved to amend the motion to strike out the word “standing.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Joseph P. Blackford (D4 Director) moved to amend the motion to strike out the words “redefine the Image & Marketing (ad hoc) Committee as the” and insert “direct the Executive Council to appoint a” and insert “(ad hoc)” after the words “Public Relations.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

**Convention Action: The motion as amended was adopted and appears below.**

To direct the Executive Council to appoint a Public Relations (ad hoc) committee starting at the 2024 Convention. The purpose of this committee is to address the issues of image, marketing, social media, and website.

### Point of Parliamentary Inquiry

O. Stenstadvolden (SD A) raised a point of parliamentary inquiry to ask if it would be in order to propose that the 2024 Convention consider making the Public Relations Committee a standing committee. Mr. Abellada answered that such a motion would be in order during New Business.

### Report of the Committee on Chapter and Association Financial Affairs

Mr. Sheets moved that moving forward, for all Convention business, the Executive Council shall make all information sheets for committee charges available to the chapters at least 60 days in advance of Convention.

Zachary D. Rubinfeld (Washington, DC) moved to amend the motion to strike “all information sheets for” and insert “preliminary.”

Peter Porcaro (KS B) moved to amend the amendment to strike “sheets for preliminary” and insert “all information pertaining to and including.”

# Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

## Point of Order

Mr. Lady raised a point of order noting that the amendment to the amendment is not germane to the pending amendment. The point of order was well taken and the motion to amend the amendment was ruled out of order.

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

**Convention Action: The motion as amended was adopted and appears below.**

Moving forward, for all Convention business, the Executive Council shall make all information sheets for committee charges available to the chapters at least 60 days in advance of Convention.

## Investment Options

Mr. Sheets moved to amend the Constitution and Bylaws by striking Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 8, inserting the content of Const. Art. XIII, Sec. 8 into the Bylaws as a new Bylaw IV, Sec. 4.01 entitled "Investment Options," renumbering Bylaw IV to Bylaw V, and amending the new Bylaw V, Sec. 5.02 by inserting ", with the exception of Bylaw IV (unless proposed to the chapters 60 days in advance)," after the word "Convention" and before the word "may."

**Convention Action: The motion was not adopted by a three-fourths vote (131 affirmative, 94 negative)**

## **Report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee**

Mr. Rogers (NC Z) reported that an additional four policies, Financial Review (CC 09), Fellowship Program (CP 02), Scholarship Program (CP 07), and Tau Beta Pi Trust Management (PF 01), required no changes. There was no action necessary by the Convention on these matters.

## Chapter Fees Policy

Mr. Rogers moved to refer the Chapter Fees Policy (PO 07) to the 2024 Convention, but leave the policy as an Executive Council policy until the next Convention.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

## Convention Agenda and Minutes Policy

Jules M.A. Pénot (CA B) moved to adopt the revised policy.

An anonymous delegate moved to amend the motion to insert "an abridged version of" after the word "include" and before "Convention" in the description of the Convention histories.

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was not adopted.**

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted and appears below.**

<b>Title:</b>	Convention Agenda and Minutes	<b>Number:</b>	PG 06
<b>Category:</b>	Governance	<b>Effective:</b>	10/14/2023
<b>Change Authority:</b>	Convention	<b>Last Modified:</b>	10/14/2023

## **Purpose and Scope**

This policy establishes the recurring agenda items for the business meetings at the Tau Beta Pi Association, Inc., (the Association) annual Convention.

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

### **Background**

This policy incorporates and expands on the provisions that were formerly documented in the Constitution and Bylaws and those applicable to official meetings as prescribed by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Association.

### **Applies To**

This Policy applies to all Association members.

### **Committee Charges**

A list of committees, committee information sheets, and committee charges shall be published and distributed to all Association Officials and to all collegiate and alumni chapters at least 60 days before Convention. This Policy applies to all Association members.

### **Call to Order**

The Association President, or in his or her absence, the Vice President or other member of the Executive Council (EC), or, if no EC members are present, by the delegate from the oldest chapter represented, shall call the Convention to order.

The Executive Director shall serve as the Convention Secretary, shall examine the credentials of the delegates, and shall certify to the Convention the number of chapters properly represented and the number of Association Officers and Officials present.

The Executive Director shall determine and report if a quorum is present.

### **Order of Business**

The first order of business shall be the reading of the President's report on the state of the Association.

The second order of business shall be reports by the Program Directors.

The Executive Director shall then present the Convention agenda and the Convention shall adopt the order of business.

The Permanent Chair of the Convention<sup>1</sup>, appointed by the EC prior to the Convention, shall then assume the chair and conduct the Convention business in accordance with the approved agenda.

### **Convention Minutes**

The Convention Secretary<sup>2</sup>, appointed by the EC prior to the Convention, shall take full and complete minutes and history of the actions of the Convention and shall, within two months of the conclusion of the Convention, prepare official copies of the minutes and history and distribute them to all Association Officials and to all collegiate and alumni chapters.

Convention histories shall include Convention discussion, Convention debate, Convention attendees, committee assignments, professional development sessions and speakers, and meeting locations.

A copy of the minutes shall be signed by the Permanent Convention Chair and the Convention Secretary and be bound in the book of the Association Conventions' Minutes for permanent safekeeping at the Association's Headquarters.

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<sup>1</sup> Association Constitution, Article X, Section 5(m)

<sup>2</sup> Association Constitution, Article X, Section 5(n)



## Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated

### Report of the Committee on Resolutions

Ms. Naruka and her committee presented a video about the 2023 Convention. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### New Business

Nathaniel P. Burris (KY G) moved to require that any career/recruitment fair done as part of the Convention must have an on-site, in-person component. This motion shall not prohibit an online/virtual portion of said career/recruitment fair.

Dr. Youssef moved to amend the motion by striking the word “require” and inserting “request” and striking the word “must” and inserting “may.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

Mr. Divilbiss moved to substitute for the pending motion the following: “to have an in-person career/recruitment fair at Convention, unless the Executive Council deems it unreasonable.”

**Convention Action: The motion to amend was adopted.**

**Convention Action: The motion as amended was adopted and appears below.**

To have an in-person career/recruitment fair at the Convention, unless the Executive Council deems it unreasonable.

### Rituals Committee Charge

Shayla E. Peak (FL Z) requested that the 2024 Rituals Committee remove the requirement that a centralized light controller be used for initiation. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### PowerPoint Presentations

Maximilien M. Caffery (LA A) requested that PowerPoint presentations from the business meetings be made available as part of the Convention record. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### Close Captioning

Ms. Angeletakis moved that videos at the next Convention, including the Resolutions Committee, require captioning.

**Convention Action: The motion was adopted.**

### Constitution and Bylaws Committee Charge

An anonymous delegate requested that the 2024 Constitution and Bylaws Committee consider adding the Public Relations Committee as a standing committee. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### Initiation Ceremony Resource

Lauren H. Logan (D7 Director) recommended that information in the President’s Book and Officer’s Handbook be included with all copies of the ritual. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### Executive Council Responsibilities Policy Interpretation

Mr. Rogers (NC Z) provided context on the interpretation of the Executive Council Responsibilities Policy (PG-03) to the Executive Council. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

### Merchandise

Logan D. Schmidt (MT A) recommended revitalizing the merchandise offered from the Tau Beta Pi store. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m. to meet at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Abellada called the Final Business Meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2023.

### **Report of the Committee on New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow (NEST) (ad hoc)**

Christopher W. Potts, NEST Program Lead, presented the "Hatch" Award to California Alpha Alpha. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Presentation of Alumni Chapter Awards**

Ms. Gomulinski presented the Alumni Chapter Awards as follows: for collaboration with collegiate chapters to Southeastern Michigan and honorable mentions to the Great Smoky Mountains and Pittsburgh; for engagement with their community to Central Florida; for participation by members to Indianapolis; for the most improved to Indianapolis with an honorable mention to Baltimore; for outstanding to Milwaukee Area and honorable mentions to Front Range, Indianapolis, and Southeastern Michigan. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Awards Committee Report**

Mr. Phelps presented the Collegiate Chapter Awards as follows: the 2023 J.D. Froula Most Improved Membership to California Nu and honorable mentions to Florida Eta and Louisiana Gamma; the 2023 R.H. Nagel Most Improved Chapter to New York Tau; the 2023 R.C. Matthews Outstanding Chapter to Ohio Kappa with an honorable mention to Wisconsin Alpha. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Report of the Committee on Resolutions**

Ms. Naruka read a series of resolutions thanking and recognizing individuals and groups of Tau Beta Pi members and other people and organizations who support the Association. There was no action necessary by the Convention.

### **Recognition of Executive Council Service**

Vice President Hickling thanked M.L. Peterson, G. Youssef, and M.M. Youssef for their service on the Executive Council.

### **Installation of New Executive Councillors**

President Alexander congratulated C.L. Hill-Stramsak, H.H. Houh, and T.A. Pinkham IV for their election to the Executive Council.

### **Farewell Messages**

Jacques S. Singham (GA A) thanked numerous people for their support of the Convention on behalf of the host chapters and the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Ms. Alexander expressed her appreciation to the delegates for their work and encouraged them to stay involved in Tau Beta Pi.

### **Adjournment Sine Die**

Chairman Abellada recognized a delegate who inquired if anyone had a napkin; the entire banquet group produced a long, complex ring of tied dinner napkins.

## **Minutes of the 117<sup>th</sup> Convention of the Tau Beta Pi Association, Incorporated**

James D. Froula, Executive Director Emeritus, led the attendees in the Tau Beta Pi Yell.

Chairman Abellada declared the Convention adjourned sine die at 8:55 p.m.

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Michael L. Peterson  
Convention Secretary

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Jason A. Abellada  
Convention Chair