

PRESIDENT

ADDRESSING CONVENTION:
STATE OF THE ASSOCIATION

MENNA M. YOUSSEF, Ph.D., *Virginia Gamma '04*
President of the Association through December 31, 2022.

We have gathered here in Knoxville, TN, home of the Association's Headquarters, for Tau Beta Pi's 116th Convention. I am pleased that we are finally convening in person.

I would like to begin by thanking our hosts, the Tennessee Alpha Chapter at the University of Tennessee and the Great Smoky Mountains Alumni Chapter. They, along with HQ, have graciously hosted us, pivoted their plans with last year's cancellation, and provided us with the support needed to conduct the Convention. Their hard work and dedication is much appreciated.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

Earlier this year, our dear friend and Tau Bate, Roger Hawks passed away on February 28. Roger was Assistant Executive Director Emeritus of the Tau Beta Pi Association. Inducted into the New York Lambda Chapter class of 1975, he served as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer from 1986-2016, and as Director of Chapter Programs from 2016-18. Roger was the sixth person to hold the position of Assistant Secretary-Treasurer. Throughout those years, many members who interacted with Roger will remember his lightheartedness, genuine smile, and dedication to the Association through his work with the District Program, Convention, and collegiate chapters. I had the privilege to attend my first collegiate inspection with Roger. We offer our sincere condolences to his family. He will be missed.

INTRODUCTION

The Executive Council (EC) has multiple responsibilities established under the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) of the Association. Among those responsibilities, the Council reports its activities during the preceding year by addressing the Convention with the State of the Association. As Council Chair and President of the Association, this report is presented on behalf of the EC.

In general, we as a Council receive direction from the Convention to guide the programs of the Association. This work is, in turn, carried out by the Executive Director, our dedicated HQ staff, the

program directors, and numerous volunteers.

Four committees met virtually at the 2020 *Unvention*. The **Petitions Committee** reviewed and recommended a chapter at Georgia Southern University. The Georgia Gamma Chapter was installed later in the year and their delegate joins us today at the chapter's first Convention. The **Rituals Committee** recommended that we approve the use of the virtual initiation indefinitely. The **Financial Affairs Committee** approved expenses for the 2021 Convention which are in effect for the 2022 Convention. The Computer Science program was approved at NC State University by the **Program Review Committee**. The 2021 Convention was cancelled due to COVID protocols and its business will be conducted at this Convention.

The Association is comprised of 251 active collegiate chapters and 47 active alumni chapters. Collegiate chapters initiated 8,624 members in 2021 and 7,374 members in 2022. As of July 2022, we have initiated 625,275 members. One member was expelled and eleven resigned. This year, WV Alpha at West Virginia University, MO Gamma at Washington University, and MA Beta at Massachusetts Institute of Technology celebrated their 100th Anniversary. IL Alpha at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign celebrated its 125th Anniversary.

Petitions from Lipscomb University, Merrimack College, University of Georgia, and Western Carolina University were approved by the EC. The petitioners were visited by inspection teams and reports were submitted to the Petitions Committee for recommended action. In addition, petitions were submitted by Campbell College and Fairfax University. The Association is in the process of scheduling its first two international inspections at Texas A&M in Qatar and American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates. This is an exciting time for us to expand globally.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

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FINANCES

The Trust Advisory Committee (TAC) is responsible for the financial portfolio of the organization. The TAC grew at the end of 2020 to increase the number of members from three to five. The EC transitioned the trustee of the funds from PNC Bank to Vanguard. By request of the TAC and trustee, the Convention Chapter and Association Financial Affairs Committee will review a recommendation to allow the Association to invest in private equity.

The EC undertook a thorough review of the current restricted and unrestricted funds. Approximately five million dollars of net assets that were considered donor restricted appear to be donor unrestricted. We will continue to work with our auditors and update the Association accordingly.

The Tau Beta Pi Trust was valued at \$25.93 million in 2020, \$41.6 million in 2021, and \$35.7 million in 2022.

As of July 2021, our unrestricted alumni giving was \$1.13 million from 10,073 donations. This July 2022 saw the largest giving in our Association's history with \$1.274 million from 9,332 donations. The generosity of our donors allows us to continue our programs.

SCHOLARSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS

Tau Beta Pi awarded 261 Scholarships and 28 Fellowships in 2021 and 254 Scholarships and 31 Fellowships in 2022. Recipients will use these funds to continue their education. We encourage our students to apply for Fellowships and Scholarships.

The use of Student Assistance Program (SAP) Fund was leveraged in 2020. Although not technically within the scope of the report, it deserves a second acknowledgement by the Association.

The SAP Fund was created based on the interest and generosity of **C.C. Young, IL Alpha 1924**. It was established in 1992 to provide funds to student members of Illinois Alpha and other TBII chapters who would otherwise be without financial resources to remain in college. Repayment is not required and interest is not charged.

One of the few principles of the SAP is that "students are asked to help others in need when and if they become financially secure."

The decision was made in spring of 2020, at the height of the global pandemic and with many students struggling to find summer work or intern-

ships, to spend a large portion of the Student Assistance Program Fund.

In September 2020, TBII distributed \$112,500 in grants to 45 student members in amounts of \$2,500 each. The primary goal was to relieve student tuition debt and alleviate other financial burdens.

ORGANIZATIONAL ADDITIONS

Four new committees were chartered this year: **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), Chapter Development, Membership, and Advisors**. The Chapter Development Committee works to support the chapters throughout the year. The Advisors and Membership Committees are working to improve the core of advisors and enhance membership activities. The DEI Committee is exploring the leadership role Tau Beta Pi can play in those efforts.

New Engineering Solutions for Tomorrow, or **NEST**, is the newest program proposal submitted to the EC. The program seeks student submissions of solutions to general topics chosen by the Convention body. Its mantra is to "engage engineers to create awareness to solve societal challenges of today."

ELECTIONS

A Ratification Ballot was sent to every chapter with a proposal to change the current EC election process. Because a sufficient number of chapters did not submit a ballot, the EC voted in April 2022 on behalf of the missing chapters to ratify the change. An addendum to the C&B was given to each delegate that reflects the change. The new process uses an instant runoff ranked choice voting method.

Four members are seeking a three-year term on the EC. Three will be elected using the instant runoff ranked choice voting.

NEW NORMAL

We are currently navigating a new normal mode of operation. This year's Convention will cover two years of business, which for some committees is a heavy lift. The EC appreciates the time taken by our members to attend Convention and conduct the business of the Association.

We invite attendees to come meet and discuss Tau Beta Pi with any member of the Executive Council. We are available and at your disposal.

MENNA YOUSSEF works as a supervisory patent examiner for the USPTO. She was first elected to the TBII Executive Council in 2016, was re-elected in 2019, and served as president in 2022. Her B.S. and M.S. degrees in electrical engineering were earned at Old Dominion University and her Ph.D. is from the University of Dayton.