Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity Board of Directors Candidate 2022 – 2024 Term Scott Kaspar, Illinois Alpha Chi Chapter



1. Over the past decade, Sig Tau has taken many steps to build a strong foundation for a successful future. What action(s) by the Fraternity in recent years do you believe is (are) the most critical to it building a strong, successful future? What are the implications of that action? Explain why.

Response: While there are many important actions that have contributed to our Fraternity's success, I believe two specific actions have been the most critical to building a strong, successful Sig Tau and will be critical to our future.

First, Sig Tau has retained top talent at its Headquarters and on its Boards that has provided the leadership necessary to move our Fraternity in the direction of our Strategic Plan. Notably, we have retained an amazing CEO, who has worked tirelessly to increase member-facing services and programming while at the same time placing the Fraternity on a sustainable financial path. This has been incredibly challenging the past two years in particular, as we have been responding to the pandemic. As a Fraternity, we also have elected talented brothers to our Board of Directors who have provided the financial, legal, and business expertise necessary to make difficult decisions to realize a successful future. We also have placed adept minds on our other national boards. As we look towards the next biennium of the Board of Directors, we need to ensure we are continuing to elect the right brothers to our Board who will continue to provide skilled insight.

Second, the Fraternity has taken great steps to reach out to and engage alumni in recent years, to reconnect with alumni and get them excited about being involved with and contributing again to the Fraternity and the Foundation. In order to continue our expansion on campus and to fund our headquarters, staff, and operations, the Fraternity needs to grow and expand its fundraising efforts among its alumni. An engaged alumni base also provides networking and mentoring opportunities for our undergraduate members, which leads to better programming for our members, better job prospects, and overall better opportunities to become Noble Men.

2. What do you believe is the most critical external challenge faced by the Fraternity? Explain why. How should Sig Tau position itself to successfully deal with this challenge?

Response: Fraternities as a whole have been struggling the past two decades to find a place of relevance on college campuses and to move away from the age-old stereotypes that fraternities only foster alcohol and substance abuse, hazing, sexual abuse, sexism, racism, homophobia, and other societal illnesses. While none of us would include Sig Tau in the same category of other fraternities that have struggled very publicly with these issues, the notoriety of these horrible instances affects all fraternities' recruitment, including Sig Tau.

The way forward for Sig Tau to demonstrate its relevance on college campuses and avoid the pitfalls of other fraternities lies in our rich history of championing our Principles and using our programming to help our Brothers develop leadership skills to become Noble Men. Through programming such as our Webb Academy and Noble Man Institute, we have demonstrated the value of being a part of Sig Tau.

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This is something that holds true for me – it was my participation at Webb Academy in 1998 that taught me how to be a leader, and that experience continues to impact me even today.

Our long history of education and programming is what has distinguished Sig Tau from the pack. Continuing and expanding these programs is how we endeavor forward.

3. What career or life experiences you have had that would most beneficially contribute to the deliberations and decisions of the Board?

Response: I have been a lawyer for the past two decades, having handled complex and high- profile patent, antitrust, and class action litigations in courts across the country. Through those experiences, I spent the majority of my time talking with witnesses and studying the evidence, and then presenting that information before judges and juries to try to explain how the train fell off the tracks. Patent litigation adds a further difficulty to the process because it often involves technologies that are beyond the average juror and judge. The process forced me to become a teacher of something difficult and to distill it down into concepts anyone could understand, in an effort to bring forth the truth in any given case.

Through my career as a lawyer, I have been uniquely qualified by my experiences to analyze complex problems and help others come to a common understanding. Only when we have analyzed all of the pieces of a puzzle can we begin to understand how each piece fits together to create something bigger and more beautiful. Being a lawyer has helped me to hone my critical thinking skills. It also has helped me to develop great time management skills, which have allowed me to excel both as a lawyer but also as a husband and father of two children.

I also have served on a number of Boards over the years, in which I have worked with others to address and resolve problems, manage and grow financial resources, fundraise, among other functions typical of any Board. The past four years I have served on our Sig Tau Board of Directors during a time when our Fraternity has worked through many challenges, and I believe my analytical skillset has contributed greatly to how we have dealt with and risen above those challenges.

4. What item(s) in the 2025 Strategic Plan do you think is (are) most important? What item(s) would you change? Explain why.

Response: During the past three years as part of my service on the Sig Tau Board of Directors, I had the privilege of working to update our current Strategic Plan to help guide our Fraternity towards 2025 and beyond. While all of the goals of our Strategic Plan are important, I believe that Goals A (Growth) and B (Alumni and Parent Engagement) are of great significance to our path forward.

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Recruitment is important to build the next generation and future generations to come, but we also need to continue to tap into our alumni to foster their support and financial resources to fund our expansion, headquarters, and other major endeavors.

Reengaging our alumni is important to our financial health. We have brought the Fraternity to an exciting point where we have grown the number of chapters and have a bold headquarters well positioned in the Indianapolis Greek community.

This growth is not without its cost, but we now have much more to offer our alumni, to get them reconnected, and to win over their pride and support for Sig Tau. As a result of rebuilding and reconnecting with our alumni, we will see our resources grow, and the Fraternity and Foundation will be strengthened and poised to tackle the challenges of tomorrow.

At this time, there is nothing about the Strategic Plan that I would change. I think it is a bold vision, and we are seeing the positive impact from its implementation.

In fact, the various pieces of the Strategic Plan drive or build upon one another. For instance, in order to enhance our operations and grow our number of chapters, we need the help of alumni.

5. If you could ask a candidate for the Board any one question, what would it be? Please provide your own answer to that question.

The question I would ask is: What will you do to ensure our Fraternity will celebrate its Second Centennial?

Response: I would answer that question as follows: Should you entrust me with a new term on the Board of Directors, I will work my tail off on all Board matters and make my service to the Fraternity a high priority. I will seek to discern those aspects of the Strategic Plan for which my skills and experiences make the best fit, and I will engage in those aspects to push the Fraternity forward. During the past biennium, I worked to understand how we can best utilize member dues and alumni contributions to maximize the member experience and deliver high-quality, meaningful memberfacing programming and services while, at the same time, focusing on our expansion plans and our financial budgeting to be sure that we are moving in the best financially sustainable path to be sure future generations will be able to gather 100 years from now for our next Centennial.