

1) Articulate your vision for the Fraternity in the next 5 – 10 years.

My vision of Sigma Tau Gamma for the next 5 – 10 years is a “Back To Basics” approach to our Fraternity. We, as a National Organization, have to do a better job servicing our existing Chapters, Members, Alumni Chapters/Associations and Alumni or we are going to continue to lose Chapters at an alarming rate. When I was an undergraduate, our primary form of communication was by mail, phone and field visits. A visit from a Field Consultant, a National Officer or a Volunteer was welcomed as were our Regional and National Meetings. The Regional Structure broke down, there was less face to face contact with the National Fraternity and our Chapters suffered. While Chapter Growth is important, taking care of the Chapters that already exist also needs to be a priority. We have to improve our Regional structure and involve more Alumni as volunteers. This will enable us to better serve our Chapters. Finally, and most importantly, we need to continually work to have all members feel as though Sig Tau is for life as we educate and challenge our undergraduates and alumni brothers to act as Noble Men as a way to live their life. We have to provide them with the opportunities to become leaders in their Chapters and communities. We have to provide them with the tools to cope with challenges as individuals or as Chapters. Finally, we have to encourage them to remain committed to our goals and value them as alumni members.

2) Explain what you believe is the most exciting opportunity for the Fraternity. How should Sig Tau prioritize this opportunity?

I believe that the most exciting opportunity that we have as a Fraternity is to mold young men to be the best version of themselves. Sigma Tau offers programming for leaders in Chapters through Webb Academy and Noble Men Institute, but we have to offer all members the opportunity to grow as Associates, Undergraduates, Chapter Officers and as Alumni. Our Principles lay the foundation for members to live their life by, but we have to make them “breathing principles” that brothers live a principled and noble life. An example and personal reflection is as follows: I was at the National Meeting in Arkansas and was walking with then President, Joseph Musselli. Past President Ron Erickson asked him if he had a moment. I told Joe to go ahead as he was more important. Joe stopped me and said that he was no more important than me, only our issues were more important. That memory from nearly 40 years ago will forever be a part of my life and taught me that all people are important and have value. Sigma Tau Gamma, as a fraternity has to foster those relationships and life lessons. The greatest opportunity we have as a Fraternity is one that teaches each of our members their own personal value through a principled life and their value to others by embracing differences and supporting one another.

3) Explain what specific skill set(s) and career experiences have you had that would most beneficially contribute to the deliberations and decisions of the Board?

As an Undergraduate majoring in Psychology and through my career as a Probation and Parole Officer and a Drug and Alcohol counselor, I learned the importance of addressing Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol issues that left unchecked can manifest themselves into far greater problems, such as physical assaults, sexual assaults, DUIs, and other criminal activity. I also worked with individuals that became part of a “pack” to fit in and engaged in anti-social conduct with others. Drug and Alcohol issues and Hazing to get others to “learn our ways and be part of us” are the two greatest threats to our Fraternity and Chapters. My approach to offender supervision and counseling was one that stressed personal responsibility, developing a structure of values, surrounding yourself with individuals who hold similar values and fostering a group structure to hold others accountable when there was a break in that value structure. That same approach for fraternity men has to be the same and the programming must come from the National Fraternity. We must teach our members to accept responsibility for their actions, to have a structure of values, to be part of a Chapter where a positive support structure flourishes and one where anti-social conduct is not only discouraged, but addressed. We need to give our members the tools to confront unprincipled behavior and the resources to assist members who engage in that conduct. I believe that my background provides the impetus to develop these programs for our members.

4) Explain what you believe is the most critical external challenge faced by the Fraternity? How should Sig Tau position itself to successfully deal with this challenge?

I believe that the greatest challenge to our Fraternity is Fraternity men. Everyday, Fraternities across America are doing great things such as member development, leadership programs, fund raisers, service projects and campus projects. None of that appears on the national news and rarely on the local news. What does appear is a hazing or drinking, that leads to paralysis or death. I would suggest that nearly every Chapter closing across America for any fraternity is either alcohol or hazing related. Sigma Tau Gamma has to be a leader in the Fraternity world promoting a noble and valued life for each of our members. One that promotes the responsible use or non use of drugs and alcohol and one that teaches members that hazing can no longer be a part of Fraternity life, no matter how “harmless” it may seem. Our fraternity structure and programming has to offer each member the opportunity to live a principled life that enhances the worth of belonging, rather than one that pits associates against actives and chapters against the National Fraternity.

5) With undergraduate enrollment expected to decrease and as generational preferences evolve, how can Sig Tau strategically enhance its membership experience to attract new members, stay relevant, stand out from the competition, and keep existing members engaged?

This may be the most important of the 5 questions, but it is one that encompasses my answers in the other 4 questions. A decrease in enrollment only matters when we are one of many fraternities. Every young man that walks on to a campus of 5,000 or 50,000 has choices. They can choose to join a Fraternity or not. They can choose to join our Fraternity or not. They can choose to spend their money anyway they want, so we have to offer value for them to spend their time and money on us. Sigma Tau Gamma has to be a leader in the development of members at each and every campus that we exist at. As a National Fraternity we have to offer membership development programs that encourage personal achievement, group leadership and empowers each member to confront negative behaviors in themselves or others. We have to recognize and develop programs to foster strong mental health and the tools necessary to confront mental health and drug and alcohol struggles. If we develop these young men to live a valued and principled life, our Members and Alumni become more engaged, more committed and more productive members of our Chapters, Campuses, Communities and our National Fraternity. That was the Sigma Tau Gamma that I joined, developed personally, fraternally and professionally as part of and the one that I would like to help lead into the next generation of fraternal men. We have got to get "Back to Basics" in the support of our Chapters and Members