

PROPOSAL 1: CHANGE “PLEDGE” TO “NEW MEMBER”

Proposed By: National Council

Vote Required for Approval: $\frac{3}{4}$ and ratification by the chapters

Background:

Triangle’s governing documents use the term “pledge” to describe someone who has accepted a bid to join the organization but has not yet been initiated. This terminology was once commonplace among Greek letter organizations but has become outdated due to its association with hazing and its emphasis on setting these men apart from the active membership. Many NIC organizations have formally discontinued use of the “pledge” in favor of names such as “associate member,” “candidate,” “postulant,” and “new member.”

Considerations and Effects:

This proposal takes all references to “pledge” as a status and changes them to “new member”. In some cases, minor rewording is done to improve workflow. The rights and responsibilities of these men are unchanged.

References to “pledging” as an action are left unchanged.

Proposed Changes:

ARTICLE 3 MEMBERSHIP

(National Constitution)

SECTION 2 At the time of election to membership, all members of TRIANGLE shall be men who:

1. are enrolled in programs of study leading to degrees in engineering, architecture or science;
2. are engaged in an engineering, architecture, or scientific profession; or
3. qualify for membership as a distinguished fellow.

The status of a ~~pledge~~ **new member** and his initiation to the proper grade of membership shall be governed by the Ritual and Bylaws.

SECTION 3 TRIANGLE shall not allow dual ~~pledging or~~ membership with members of national academic college fraternities as defined in the Bylaws, except in the grades of chapter honorary, national honorary and distinguished fellow.

ARTICLE 6 FUNDS

(National Constitution)

SECTION 1 For each ~~man pledged~~new member, the active organization shall pay to TRIANGLE the National ~~Pledge New Member~~ Fee. This fee shall be waived for associate, chapter honorary, national honorary and distinguished fellow members.

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 1 ACTIVE MEMBERS

Para. 1 Qualifications for Membership

- a. Active members shall be chosen from undergraduate or graduate students whose curriculum leads to a baccalaureate or higher degree in engineering, architecture or science and whose curriculum has been:
 - i. requested for approval by the member's chapter, and
 - ii. approved by the Approved Courses Committee.
- b. No man shall be pledged until he has matriculated for full-time study.
- c. A man may be pledged only if his cumulative grade point average is at least 2.5 on a 4.00 scale or, if he has not completed the first term of the freshman year, if his high school cumulative grade point average is at least 2.5 on a 4.00 scale or equivalent. The scholastic requirements above shall be a minimum national standard; chapters may have more stringent standards.
- d. A man may be initiated only if his cumulative grade point average is at least that required for graduation in his curriculum and at least 2.5 on a 4.00 scale or equivalent. This requirement shall be waived if the man has not completed the first term of the freshman year. The scholastic requirements above shall be a minimum national standard; chapters may have more stringent standards.
- e. Any man pledged or repledged after completing his first academic term shall, at the time of pledging, meet the minimum scholastic requirements for initiation and shall have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 on a 4.00 scale or equivalent.
- f. Membership is for life. Once he has been initiated, a member does not relinquish membership in Triangle as a result of any changes such that the member no longer meets the initial qualifications for membership.

Para. 2 Recruitment and Pledging

- a. Any member of TRIANGLE may suggest the name of a man for consideration for membership in the Fraternity.
- b. A recruitment committee or team shall make proper and convenient arrangements to entertain and/or interview prospective members in an informal way to enable as many of the active members as practicable to become acquainted with the prospective member and to enable him to become acquainted with the membership of the chapter.
- c. After the name of a prospective member has been suggested, and as soon as sufficient information is available, his suitability for membership shall be discussed.

After the discussion, any active member may propose him as a new member candidate for pledgeship. The vote upon each individual prospective member shall be conducted by secret ballot in a regular meeting or in a special meeting of the active organization (or recruitment team, if provided by the chapter constitution) that has been previously announced to the active members of the chapter.

Each active member of the chapter shall indicate his favorable vote by casting a white ball in the ballot box, or his unfavorable vote by casting a black cube; but every active member of the chapter shall have the opportunity to vote on each prospective member. However, by provision of its constitution, an active organization may use any other method of determining the eligibility of an individual for pledgeship a potential new member.

A prospective member shall be elected to pledgeship as a new member unless three or more unfavorable votes are cast; however any chapter may by provision of its constitution change the number of such unfavorable votes.

- d. The invitation to a prospective member shall be extended as soon as possible after his election has been announced. The prospective member shall be allowed ample time to privately consider the invitation of the Fraternity. No attempt shall be made to urge him to make an immediate decision. However, the invitation shall not be extended beyond a reasonable period of time.
- e. Having voluntarily stated his acceptance of the invitation to pledgeship become a new member in TRIANGLE, the prospective member shall be promptly pledged in a ceremony which shall include the administration of the pledge new member oath before two or more members of the chapter. The president of the active organization or his designee shall administer the pledge new member oath as follows:

“Mr. _____(state full name), please raise your right hand and repeat these words after me:

I solemnly swear (or affirm) upon my word and honor as a gentleman that I will become a member of _____ Chapter of TRIANGLE at such time as it may prescribe, and that I will follow to the best of my ability any directions regarding my actions which TRIANGLE may offer, and that I will so conduct myself as to warrant the respect and esteem of my fellow men. I promise to in no way make intelligible to others any of the secrets of TRIANGLE that may become known to me.”

- f. The president or his designee shall then affix the pledge new member pin to the coat lapel or shirt or sweater of the pledge new member, telling him that he is expected to wear it in an appropriate manner until initiated.
- g. Following administration of the pledge new member oath, the active organization shall forward to the National Office a Notice of Pledging New Membership and the appropriate National Pledge New Member Fee. A separate form shall be filed for each pledge new member. These forms and fees shall be received by the National Office not more than fourteen (14) days following the date of pledging.

Para. 3 Education and Probation Period

- a. During the probation period, each pledge new member should be made to feel that he has a part in the affairs of the Fraternity, and he should be required to attend chapter meetings, except those parts related to membership, initiation, the Ritual, and the Graduation Ceremony. The pledges new members should be encouraged to take an active part in the social, professional, and athletic programs of the chapter, but may not vote for active organization officers or hold elective active organization office. Pledges New members should be urged to live in the chapter house and attend meals there; if a pledge new member is unable to do this, he should be encouraged to visit the chapter house frequently to associate with the members.
- b. Pledges New members shall be encouraged to take part in special or routine work of a constructive nature, in and about the chapter house, to the advantage of the chapter. All special or routine duties shall be shared equally among pledges new members and actives and there shall be NO special duties or work required of a pledge new member solely as a result of his pledge new member status. Members of the chapter shall not be permitted to impose requests for personal service upon the pledges new members.
- c. There shall be NO activity or function required of a pledge new member by any member of TRIANGLE which violates the precepts of TRIANGLE, the National Constitution, Ritual, Bylaws, or Fraternity Regulations or which violate any national, state, university, or local laws or regulations.
- d. The TRIANGLE Pledge New Member Pin must be worn at all times except when it is impractical, such as participation in athletic events or while sleeping.
- e. The requirements to be met before a pledge new member may be initiated into TRIANGLE include attending at least eight classes of a member education program which shall include the following information:
 - i. the responsibilities of members,
 - ii. the chapter roll,
 - iii. the Founders of TRIANGLE,
 - iv. the National Organization,
 - v. the Greek Alphabet,
 - vi. review of the National Constitution, Bylaws and Fraternity Regulations,
 - vii. chapter history,
 - viii. school history,
 - ix. chapter officers' duties,
 - x. chapter constitution and bylaws,
 - xi. Robert's Rules of Order, and
 - xii. risk management and the effects of alcohol consumption on human physiology.

- f. The chapter should supplement the above information with programs such as how to study and time management.
- g. These classes are to be completed in no less than twenty-one (21) days and no more than eighty-four (84) days.

Para. 4 Initiation

- a. During the probation period each pledge new member shall read the History of TRIANGLE and the play "Everyman". He shall prepare a neat synopsis of each, which he shall present for approval to the secretary of the active organization at least two days before the initiation ceremony.
- b. Eligibility of each pledge new member for active membership shall be determined in a secret ballot at a regular meeting of the active organization. Every member of the active organization shall have the opportunity to vote on each pledge new member. Such vote shall not be taken upon any pledge new member who has not been a pledge new member of the chapter for at least four weeks.
- c. A pledge new member shall be elected to membership unless three or more unfavorable votes are cast; however, any chapter may by provision of its constitution change the number of such unfavorable votes. Any pledge new member who fails to be so elected shall be released immediately, in the manner prescribed in these Bylaws.
- d. After selection of a date for initiation, the active organization shall forward to the National Office a Request for Initiation, the form of which shall be specified by the National Office, and the appropriate National Member Service Fee. Such requests and fees shall be forwarded to reach the National Office at least fourteen (14) days before the date of the proposed initiation.

No candidate shall be conducted through any part of the initiation ceremony until definite permission to initiate has been received from the National Office.

- e. The initiation ceremony shall be conducted in accordance with the Ritual.
- f. A banquet shall be held as part of the initiation ceremony.

The new initiates, all active members of the chapter, and other members of TRIANGLE shall attend the banquet.

A suitable program shall be planned primarily with the motive of extending a hearty welcome to the initiates and to advance the knowledge of TRIANGLE ideals, traditions, history and fraternal spirit among the members.

- g. After completion of the initiation ceremony and the banquet, each initiate shall have no voting rights beyond those accorded pledges new members until he has satisfied the following requirements:
 - i. Each initiate shall fill out and sign a Membership Record which he shall present to the secretary of the active organization for approval;
 - ii. Each initiate shall fill out and sign a sheet in the Membership Book of the chapter;

- iii. Each initiate shall read the National Constitution, Bylaws, Fraternity Regulations, and Ritual within a few days after the initiation; and
- iv. Each initiate shall memorize the Oath and shall repeat it correctly, from memory, at a regular meeting of the active organization.

Para. 5 Posthumous Initiation

- a. National Council, upon request from a chapter, may approve the posthumous initiation of a pledgenew member. Such approval shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of National Council.

SECTION 3 ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Para. 5 The pledge-new member oath shall be administered to candidates for associate membership and they shall be conducted through the initiation ceremony in the same manner as an active member.

SECTION 5 DISTINGUISHED FELLOWS

Para. 3 A candidate for distinguished fellow shall be pledged and initiated in the same manner as an honorary member.

SECTION 6 RELEASE OF PLEDGES-NEW MEMBERS AND MEMBERS

Para. 1 Release of PledgesNew Members

A pledge-new member shall be released:

- a. if he has not been initiated within one calendar year after pledging;
- b. if he withdraws from school or if he fails to return for school for any regular term during his pledgeshipperiod as a new member;
- c. if he becomes ineligible for membership by reason of not being enrolled in an approved curriculum as specified in these Bylaws;
- d. upon his own request, after the president and vice president of the active organization have discussed the matter with him and have clearly determined his reasons for the request;
- e. if, at any time, it is found that he was ineligible for pledgingto become a new member at the time of his pledging, according to the requirements of these Bylaws and of the National Constitution;
- f. if he enters into any negotiations for securing membership in any other national academic college fraternity;
- g. if he evidences unwillingness to conform to the directions given for preparation for initiation;
- h. if he refuses to complete or to regard seriously the various steps in the initiation; or;
- i. upon the majority vote of the active organization taken not less than two weeks subsequent to such a proposal at an active organization meeting.

Para. 4 Release of a Member or PledgeNew Member.

- a. The Release Oath shall be administered by the president of the active organization for pledges new members and active members and by the president of the alumni organization or a representative designated by National Council for other members. Whenever possible, the release oath shall be administered in the presence of at least two members as witnesses.
- b. In case the pledge new member or member to be released has left the chapter and a personal meeting cannot be arranged, the president shall forward, by certified mail, a copy of the Release Oath, requesting the person to affirm the Release Oath by signing it and returning it by mail.
- c. Every release, whether in the case of a pledge new member or of a member, shall be recorded with the Secretary and a statement of the details of the case shall be filed with the Secretary.
- d. If for any reason, a member or pledge new member is to be released, the following Release Oath shall be administered:

“I solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will in no way make intelligible to others any of the secrets of TRIANGLE that are known to me. I will never express myself in any way so as to defame the name of TRIANGLE or any of its members.”

ARTICLE 2 ORGANIZATION

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 3 CHAPTERS

Para. 2 New Chapters

- b. Colony/interest group members shall subscribe to the Pledge-New Member Oath administered by a representative of National Council and shall become pledges new members of TRIANGLE.

ARTICLE 4 FUNDS

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 1 FEES

Para. 1 National Pledge-New Member Fee

- a. The National Pledge-New Member Fee, as defined in the National Constitution, shall be billed per individual pledged and shall not be refundable. The National Pledge New Member Fee shall be remitted to the National Office with the report of pledging.
- b. In the event the National Pledge-New Member Fee is received in the National Office after the time provided for in these Bylaws, the active organization shall pay an additional fee per individual pledged.
- c. In the event the National Pledge-New Member Fee is received in the National Office after the date of initiation of the pledgenew member, the active organization shall pay an additional fee per individual initiated.

Para. 2 National Member Service Fee

- c. In the event the National Member Service Fee is received in the National Office after the date of initiation of the pledgenew member, the active organization shall pay an additional fee per individual initiated.

ARTICLE 5 EMBLEMS AND MOTTO

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 3 PLEDGE NEW MEMBER PIN

Para. 1 Description

- a. The Pledge New Member Pin shall be an equilateral triangle, each side to measure 9 mm. It shall be of blue-gray enamel, in the center of which shall be another triangle measuring 4 mm on each side, this center triangle to be of lavender enamel. A thin line of gold shall separate the two colors of enamel. In the center of the smaller triangle shall be an upper case Roman letter "T" in gold, at right angles to the base of the triangle.
- b. The thickness of the Pledge New Member Pin shall be 1 mm and it shall be made of what is known as "gilders' metal", a copper alloy, over which shall be electroplated 22 karat gold.
- c. The pin shall be equipped with a threaded post hard soldered to the triangular back of the pin with a threaded stock pin back, also gold plated, or a short pin stem without joint or catch of the same type used on scarf pins. The length of this pin shall be approximately 9 mm.

Para. 2 Use of pin

The pledge new member pin shall be worn only by pledgesnew members, from the time of pledging until the initiation ceremony, and may be worn on the coat lapel or on a shirt or sweater.

ARTICLE 6 CHAPTER AFFAIRS

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 1 MEMBERSHIP

Para. 1 A membership roster of pledges new members and active members, in a form approved by National Council, shall be submitted to the National Office at times prescribed by the Fraternity Regulations.

Para. 2 Each chapter and colony shall establish procedures whereby the National Office is notified of the pledging of prospective members and the National Pledge New Members Fees are remitted as prescribed by these Bylaws and the Fraternity Regulations.

TRIANGLE RITUAL

(Ritual)

The Ritual contains current instructions referencing “pledges,” “pledge pins,” and “pledge button,” which will be updated accordingly. References to someone being “pledged” will be left unchanged.

The Abridged History mentions the adoption of the Pledge Oath and pledge pin. These references will be left unchanged in order to reflect the terminology in use at the time.

PROPOSAL 2: CHANGE “COLONY” TO “PROVISIONAL CHAPTER”

Proposed By: National Council

Vote Required for Approval: $\frac{3}{4}$ and ratification by the chapters

Background:

Triangle’s governing documents use the term “colony” to describe a campus group that is authorized to use the Triangle name with the intent of becoming a chapter of the fraternity. When such a group has met certain requirements involving organization, scholarship, and size, National Council may authorize its installation as a chapter of Triangle.

In recent decades, greater attention has been paid to the negative effects of colonial expansion in world history, and, as a result, the term “colony” has increasingly acquired a negative connotation.

Considerations and Effects:

This proposal takes all references to “colony” in the National Bylaws and changes them to “provisional chapter”.

This change applies to current and future campus groups only. All historical references to past Triangle colonies will remain unchanged.

Proposed Changes:

ARTICLE 2 ORGANIZATION

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 3 CHAPTERS

Para. 1 Chapter Organization and Name

- a. At the time of their initial recognition by National Council, a ~~colony~~ **provisional chapter** or interest group shall be designated by the name of the college or university at which they are located. A subsequent change in the name of the college or university shall not necessitate a change in their designation.

Para. 2 New Chapters

- a. National Council may establish, or authorize the establishment of, a colony provisional chapter or interest group, or may designate an existing local organization as a provisional chapter colony, for the purpose of assisting such provisional chapter colony or interest group in meeting the national requirements of TRIANGLE.
- b. Provisional chapter Colony/interest group members shall subscribe to the Pledge Oath administered by a representative of National Council and shall become pledges of TRIANGLE.
- c. National Council may authorize the President or his designee to grant permission to initiate provisional chapter colony/interest group members meeting the membership requirements specified in the National Constitution, Bylaws, and Fraternity Regulations, upon request therefor and payment of the National Member Service Fee as provided for in these Bylaws. Such initiation shall be conducted by members of any Chapter of TRIANGLE, or by a ritual team appointed by the National Secretary. The National Active Fee, as provided for in these Bylaws, shall be payable for such provisional chapter colony/interest group members upon and following their initiation.

ARTICLE 6 CHAPTER AFFAIRS

SECTION 1 MEMBERSHIP

Para. 1 A membership roster of pledges and active members, in a form approved by National Council, shall be submitted to the National Office at times prescribed by the Fraternity Regulations.

Para. 2 Each chapter and colonyprovisional chapter shall establish procedures whereby the National Office is notified of the pledging of prospective members and the National Pledge Fees are remitted as prescribed by these Bylaws and the Fraternity Regulations.

Para. 3 Each chapter and colonyprovisional chapter shall establish procedures whereby no man is initiated who does not meet the membership requirements and who has not been granted permission for initiation from the National Office.

SECTION 2 PROGRAM

Each chapter and colonyprovisional chapter shall submit, in a form approved by National Council, a statement of chapter program for the academic year at such times as prescribed by the Fraternity Regulations.

TRIANGLE RITUAL

(Ritual)

The Ritual contains several references to “colony” or “colonies.” Current Triangle chapters that were originally organized as colonies may continue to use the historic terminology when describing their chapter history. All other references will be replaced by “provisional chapter” or “provisional chapters.”

PROPOSAL 3: REQUIRE SEPARATE HOUSING ORGANIZATION

Proposed By: National Council

Vote Required for Approval: $\frac{3}{4}$

Background:

Many Triangle chapters own property in the form of chapter houses and the land on which they sit. The management and maintenance of a property is very different work than alumni relations and/or chapter advising and requires a different set of knowledge and talents for success.

In addition, chapter properties under an alumni chapter can be at risk, if there are acts or accidents during chapter events, which result in litigation. Fraternity legal experts recommend that the title to chapter property be registered under a legal entity separate from the chapter. Structuring property ownership in this way can help protect chapter assets if legal issues arise.

Considerations and Effects:

This amendment would add a requirement that any real property purchased for use by a chapter or provisional chapter after August 1, 2024, must be owned by a separate entity (typically a corporation or LLC) and not directly by the chapter or provisional chapter.

The proposed wording uses the term “provisional chapter.” If Proposal 2 is not passed by National Convention and subsequently ratified by the chapters, the term “colony” will be substituted in the ultimate amendment.

Proposed Changes:

ARTICLE 2 ORGANIZATION

(National Bylaws)

SECTION 3 Chapters

Para. 5 Chapter Housing Organizations

- a. Any chapter or provisional chapter purchasing real property after August 1, 2024, must organize an entity, separate from its active and alumni organizations, in accordance with the laws of the state where the chapter or provisional chapter is located. This entity shall be responsible for holding title to the real property and conducting such transactions as may be necessary.
- b. Housing entities shall have not less than three (3) Directors. Directors may not also have an official role with a chapter (e.g., Active or Alumni Organization officer, Faculty Advisor, Chapter Advisor), at the national level (e.g., National Council, Triangle Education Foundation, Triangle Building and Housing Corporation), or with an Alumni Association.

PROPOSAL 4: ALLOW NATIONAL COUNCIL TO WAIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR ALUMNI STATUS

Proposed By: National Council

Vote Required for Approval: $\frac{3}{4}$

Background:

Currently, an active member of Triangle shall become an alumni member upon (1) graduation, (2) leaving the school, or (3) choosing to change his status and notifying the National Headquarters. This third option may only be selected if the member has been an active member for at least four years and a regular student at the school for at least five years.

Upon transitioning to alumni status, a member loses voting privileges with his active organization and he is no longer included in the active organization roster used to calculate national fees and insurance costs.

On occasion, the National Headquarters receives a request from a member to transition to alumni status even though he has not met the criteria specified in the National Bylaws.

Considerations and Effects:

This proposal would allow National Council to waive the specified requirements under extraordinary circumstances and permit an active member to change to alumni status before the specified time period had elapsed.

This change in status would still require a request from the member; the National Headquarters could not change an active member's status against his will as long as he met the other criteria for active membership.

Proposed Changes:

ARTICLE 1 MEMBERSHIP (National Bylaws)

SECTION 2 ALUMNI MEMBERS

Para. 1 An active member shall become an alumni member upon graduating from or leaving the technical institution at which he held active membership in a TRIANGLE chapter.

Para. 2 An active member may choose to become an alumni member if:

- a. he has been an active member for at least four (4) years, and
- b. he has been enrolled as a regular student for at least four (4) years.

In extraordinary circumstances, National Council may waive these requirements and allow an individual member's change in status.

An active member who chooses to become an alumni member shall inform the secretary of the active organization in writing. The member's change in status from active to alumni member shall be effective with the beginning of the next regular school term.

Para. 3 Alumni members are encouraged to visit and participate in the activities of TRIANGLE chapters other than the one in which they held active membership. Nothing in the National Constitution or these Bylaws shall be construed to discourage such visitation and participation. Subject to the provisions of chapter constitutions and bylaws, alumni members may attend meetings, hold elective offices and attend National Conventions as voting delegates of any chapter.

Para. 4 A chapter may, in its constitution and bylaws, create and provide for special designations for alumni members of other chapters for whom the chapter has developed a special affinity or affection, based upon the alumni member's service to or participation in the affairs of the chapter. Such designations shall be subject to the prior approval of National Council.