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A Fraternity for male and female students of Southern New Hampshire University College of Online and Continuing Education.

Pursuing the goals of lifelong and worldwide fraternity and excellence.

Fraternity for Life.

Fraternity for Life

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Minutes

Meeting Called to Order.
Old Business:
I. Discussed briefly a question from Tiffany Fifer (online community facilitator) asking for the organization's definition of "Fraternity." Issue was tabled for later discussion in open forum.
II. Brief mention was made regarding the purpose of this organization. The purpose was stated broadly as serving the community of online students, but further discussion was held for open forum.
III. Likely changes to the constitution (the addition of a pledge clause) and the need for signers was mentioned.
Official Roll taken:
   Oren Hammerquist
   Steed Benson
   JB Russell

New Business:
I. Whether BΣM should institute a pledge process and what that process might look like. Oren Hammerquist was the primary presenter.
   a. The members at the meeting agreed that the concept of pledging enthusiastically.
   b. It was agreed that "contingency member" should be changed to "pledge" in the constitution. However, it was proposed and not opposed that the actual process will be defined through bylaw rather than constitution.
   c. The members at the meeting agreed that education of new members should be central to this process. This was listed as including bylaws, operations, and activities. The concept was not elaborated more.
   d. It was agreed that more members are needed to develop this process and recruiting in conjunction with more open-source information was called for. University concerns with a Facebook page entered into the minutes.

Minutes

II. Whether the general membership processes and statuses are adequate, reasonable, and logical. Oren Hammerquist was the primary presenter.

    a. The types of membership were presented: Active, Associate, Contingency, and Honorary. Contingency was agreed to change to pledge.

    b. The paths to membership were presented. Sponsorship requires a "vouching for" by two members. Honors was defined as exceptional academic achievement especially relating to a high GPA. Leadership was presented as proposed or demonstrated leadership—managers, teachers, military, etc. Scholarship was presented as excellence in a field not necessarily limited to academics, but including artistic expression. Combat veterans warrant automatic admission if they hold a purple heart, valor medal, or similar.

    c. Accidentally omitted was service—demonstrated or proposed community service—and innovation—demonstrated excellence or proposals of technological advances helping the Fraternity. These were implied in other sections.

    d. All paths were approved in concept, but more detail was requested. An appropriate forum was discussed and a website proposed.

    e. The five questions every member must answer were presented and not objected. These are:

    -Why do you want to be a member of this Fraternity?

    -How can you best improve or honor our organization?

    -What is your greatest strength or talent?

    -What is the most important virtue and why: pride, piety, courage, loyalty, integrity, excellence, ambition, or perseverance?

II.e (cont).

   -List two short term and two long term goals. There are no right or wrong answers, but these measure verbal expression and dedication. The frame of an Army board was mentioned.

   f. The final requirement that every pledge write his or her own oath rather than read a formulaic sentence. This would be approved by the Honor Committee. All ideas were found to be interesting and worthy of developing in greater detail.

   g. The primary agreement was that membership should focus on a variety of skills and interests. Difficulty of joining was neither encouraged nor discouraged. This issue probably requires greater discussion.

   h. The members reiterated the need for a more robust recruiting campaign and strongly encouraged forming a website. No solution to the university's concerns (that we have a website before recognition) were found during the meeting.

IV. That the Fraternity should form a digital debate club. Oren Hammerquist was the primary presenter.

   a. Explained the idea of either live or recorded debates with subjects assigned by members was presented. Length of pieces (text or video) would be strictly limited. This fills a need to replicate real life experience.

   b. The concept was enthusiastically supported, and a concept was requested at a later time. The issue of no current forum for this was not solved. Also causing an issue was what the purpose of this would be—recognition, award, monetary consideration, etc.

V. Whether we should create a proprietary publication as a guidebook to online school.

    a. The concept includes information on using platforms specific to SNHU and general information such as how to understand GPA, credit hours, whether to choose a minor, and similar questions especially helpful to freshmen.

    b. The members noted that it wold be extremely helpful to have this in one place, but noted that many of these already existed. The idea of making the Fraternity a portal for these resources was raised and not opposed.

    c. The idea of recruiting from the SNHU magazine was raised and Oren Hammerquist agreed to speak with the relevant people. The Fraternity already shares a great deal of potential members which the members agreed shows that these are similar in focus group.

VI. Whether we should create a new web platform for meetings.

    a. A lengthy proposal for a new system of online interaction requiring webprogramming was given by Oren Hammerquist. The presentation is available on request.

    b. JB Russell noted that he can build anything we need built, but we cannot build anything without knowing how much space we have.

    c. Steed Benson noted that current systems seemed fully effective.

    d. This idea was shelved until a much later time.

VII. Final remarks. Overall, a great need was identified for more information, better dissemination of concept, and a need for an active recruiting strategy. All members agreed to the need for an open website, and Oren Hammerquist agreed to discuss the issue with Tiffany Fifer at a later time.

VIII. Next meeting. No time was set, but the 2nd, 4th, 6th, and 9th were convenient days for all in attendance.