

## **Committee Reports, Spring 2025** (September 2024 – March 2025)

**Committee:** Executive Committee

**Committee Chair:** Lexey Bartlett

**Committee Members:** Ami Comeford, Leigh Dillard, Matt Hlinak, Shannin Schroeder, Kevin Stemmler

### **Summary of Committee Activities:**

#### **1. Budget Review:**

Since the Fall Board meeting, much of our committee work has focused on budget review, which is a key responsibility of the Executive Committee. We worked carefully through the budget from October through mid-December, with multiple rounds of questions, clarifications, and adjustments, before we felt confident in presenting the proposed 2025 budget to the Board for review and a vote. Because of the timing with the holidays and university winter breaks, we were able to reach a final vote of approval by mid-January. However, we are also in the process of switching to a fiscal year that runs from July-June, which is better aligned with the academic year that governs much of our activity. We will meet to review the Executive Director's budget report and proposed budget for 2025-2026 just after this report is submitted so that they may be presented to the full Board for review and approval. However, these tasks help to fulfill our assigned Strategic Plan objective 7.b. around improving budget transparency, assessment, and financial planning, and there has been much work required over the past several years to achieve that objective, which we are finally seeing come to fruition with this latest document.

**2. Sigma Kappa Delta merger into the English Honor Societies:** We have continued to work with the Central Office and Sigma Kappa Delta to finalize our merger. We had a few meetings during the fall to discuss remaining issues and have addressed other questions through email discussion. On the Board, we have included representatives from Sigma Kappa Delta on several of our committees so that our shared activities and projects, and potential sharing of other systems like member databases, can be planned together going forward.

**3. New AR/AAR pilot along with an Alumni Advisory Council:** This structure continues to evolve. After the resignation of the Associate Alumni Representative in late fall, we discussed and appointed an interim AAR because Tiffany Nolde has been so active in developing a variety of activities and needed assistance immediately. Two changes will be implemented going forward: the appointment of a second AR this spring, which will allow overlapping terms of ARs, and the removal of the "Associate" designation. In addition, the Executive Committee has agreed to include faculty members of Sigma Tau Delta in the alumni group, which adds another group that the AAC can draw on for membership and support.

**4. EHS Logo:** We have reviewed the first round of promising designs from our contracted graphic designer, Maria Neale, and submitted feedback to her for a second iteration of designs, which will be delivered Friday, March 14.

**5. 2026 Convention Co-Chairs:** One of our committee responsibilities is designating future convention chairs, and that task has been accomplished, thanks especially to this year's convention co-chairs, who form half of our committee.

**6. Constitutional Change Vote:** We are expecting the results of the chapter vote on the proposed changes to the Constitution as these reports are due to be submitted, since the deadline was March 7.

**Recommendations or Resolutions:** None at this time.

**Special Concerns:**

- When we are designating Convention Chairs/Co-Chairs, we should consider their roles in other committees and consider whether the workload or scheduling of meetings might affect the work of other committees on the Board.
- The current political and economic situation of the United States, especially its likely effects on higher education, must be something we consider in relation to our budget, as well as its effects on our constituents. We must make sure that we are able to continue to offer our core programs in their support for our members, who may be vulnerable to reduced support from other sources.