

Delta Omega Annual Business Meeting

October 5, 2023

Draft Minutes

Attendees

Mumbi Anderson, Beta Chi
Caitlin Barrows, Gamma Nu
Laura Beebe, Xi Chapter
Jessica Brown, Beta Tau
Michelle Burbage, Gamma Rho
Andrea Carcelen, Alpha
Jan Carney, Epsilon Omicron
Genny Carrillo, Alpha Tau
Shartearra Chanel Conigan, Beta Omega
Ashley Cifarelli, Beta Xi
Elizabeth Claydon, Gamma Mu
John Clements, Epsilon Pi
Dorine Cooper, Beta Iota
Haley Cothorn, Gamma Mu
Miranda Dally, Alpha Upsilon
Tara DeMaderios, Alpha Upsilon
Nina Diamond, Delta Psi
Kaelyn Duke, Iota
Trish Elliott, Alpha Beta
Rebecca Fischer, Alpha Tao
Denise Fredi, Alpha Psi
Cheryl Gaddis, Delta Zeta Chapter
Wendy Genovez, Kappa
Jamil Gharib, Epsilon Kappa
Susy Gomez, Alpha Omega
Muriel Harris, Beta Pi
Paige Hornsby, Gamma Pi
Jonesey Johnson, Gamma Sigma
Julienne Jose-Chen, Iota
Matthew Kelley, Epsilon Delta
Amy Lee, Alpha Chi
Sylvia Ley, Eta
Fitumai Madrid, Gamma Upsilon
Margaret McCarthy, Rho
Michael McLeod, Epsilon Kappa
Lynda McPhail, Alpha Chi
Jessica Meadows, Alpha Kappa
Naomie Olivos, Kappa
Marian Passannante, Alpha Eta
Sara Paton, Gamma alpha
Katherine Peterman, Delta Eta
Sharia Phillips, Epsilon Pi
Gillian Plaunt, National Office
Cindy Prins, Beta Upsilon
Pooja Rachewad, Gamma Rho Chapter
Martha Riddell, Beta Gamma
Mitchel Rosen, Alpha Eta
Brit Saksvig, Gamma Zeta
Jennifer Schindler-Ruwisch, Epsilon Omega
Claudia Serna, Alpha Xi
Risa Silverman, Rho
Kulsoom Sizar, Alpha Iota
Colin Smith, Gamma Upsilon
Leslie Stalnaker, Delta Nu
Hannah Starkey, Alpha Kappa
Noell Stone, Gamma Epsilon
Jeanelle Sugimoto-Matsuda, Gamma
Francsco Sy, Delta Theta
Paula Tavrow, Iota
Michael Thompson, Beta Phi
Chiwoneso Tinago, Beta Xi
Jacqueline Troxell, Delta Gamma
Jenna Wintemberg, Gamma Eta
Sunita Wolford, Beta Xi
Roxanne Towler, Sigma Chi
Allison Foster, National Office

Welcome. Cindy Prins welcomed the council members to the meeting at 2:00 PM. Attending chapter representatives introduced themselves by zoom chat. Cindy gave a special welcome to representatives of the newest chapters, Epsilon Nu at Fairfield

University, Epsilon Omicron at University of Vermont, Epsilon Phi at Albany Pharmacy, and Epsilon Pi at Michigan State. She then asked for approval of the agenda.

Business Session. Secretary Report. Allison provided an update on the number of chapters and members as of September 30. To date, chapters have reported 1,979 inductions. We currently have 131 chapters and 31,348 members.

Allison explained why the meeting was being held virtually. Last year, in-person attendance was very low. The National Office surveyed the chapters and found most respondents said they either do not attend APHA or have too many conflicts. The National Office decided to hold the annual meeting virtually and host an award ceremony and reception at APHA. The awards ceremony will be held on Monday, November 13 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM.

Other updates included:

- The National Office has launched a fundraiser to support those impacted by the Maui wildfires. Chapters are encouraged to hold their own fundraisers and send proceeds to the National Office, which will remit funds to Hawaii Community Foundation/Maui Strong.
- Earlier this year, the chapter portal was enhanced so chapters can see if their inductees have paid their own induction dues.
- The requirement that student inductees be in the top 25% of GPA was removed. (Chapters can have their own GPA requirements but national does not.)
- The National Office is developing a chapter guide which will include the most essential information needed to manage a chapter.
- Several new committees were launched this year: New Chapters, Chapter Engagement, Awards Committee and 100 Year Anniversary planning committee.

Treasurer Report. Michal Thompson then gave the treasurers report. He reviewed the FY23 actual activity, noting that revenue was slightly higher than budgeted due to increased inductions and sales of stoles. Expenses as of the meeting date were tracking lower than budgeted. Final FY23 numbers would be available in November after the close of the fiscal year.

He then reviewed the FY24 proposed budget, which predicted the same volume of inductions as in the past year. The budgeted expenses were higher than in the previous year because of an increase in staff time to support ongoing activities and an increase in the award amount for student poster presenters (increased from \$350 to \$500). He mentioned that Delta Omega's 100-year anniversary would be in 2024 and a goal to build up reserves so that a celebration could be held at the fall meeting in 2024. The members of the council attending the meeting voted to accept the treasurer's report and to approve the budget as presented.

Breakouts. The meeting attendees met in breakouts to discuss how each chapter makes induction decisions. The discussions revealed a lot of variation between processes. About half of the participant chapters used a nominations process in which students were nominated by faculty or a membership committee. The other half invited students apply for membership.

The criteria for selection also varied from chapter to chapter. About half of the chapters use GPA as a criterion but it was most often used in conjunction with other criteria. Most chapters look at community engagement, research experience, service, and leadership activities as factors as well. Several considered student commitment to public health/career goals.

The final decision was most commonly made by a membership committee/chapter leadership, though some chapters ask their full membership to vote, and one asked the dean of the school to make the final decision.

Awards Committee. Mitch Rosen presented on behalf of the awards committee, which also included Jeanelle Sugimoto – Gamma, Hawaii. Jessica Brown – Beta Tau, Maryland SOM, Nivia Gomez - Beta Iota, SUNY Downstate and Sylvia Ley – Eta, Tulane.

Student Poster. He started by noting that response to the call for abstracts for the student poster session award was good. He noted that three of the four new chapters had students selected to present in the session.

The committee took notice that the number of chapters is growing but the number of nominations is not. Chapters which had not sent nominations recently were surveyed and it was discovered that cost of attending APHA is a big factor, followed by chapter lack of resources in making the selection process. The awards committee recommended adding value for the presenters and recommended the following changes:

- increase the cash award from \$350 to \$500 and add additional value to being selected. Participate in professional development sessions hosted by Delta Omega in addition to presenting their posters at APHA.
- branding the poster sessions by asking the presenters to either use our template or to include our logo.
- select a winning poster

Curriculum. The call for nominations for the innovative curricula award had a record number of nominations this year. Mitch announced Amy Velonis from the University of Illinois Chicago whose submission was “Community-Engaged Program Evaluation” as the winner. She will be formally recognized at the November 13 reception. As with previous years, Delta Omega will continue to host webinars for the top scored nominations in the spring of 2024.

Chapter. Mitch thanked all of the chapters that submitted nominations for the chapter of the year awards. He announced the winners which were:

- New chapter of the year - Epsilon Omicron, University of Vermont
- Chapter of the year runner-up - Gamma Mu, West Virginia University
- Chapter of the year - Gamma Rho, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine MPH program

Representatives of each of these chapters then each briefly presented on their chapter.

National Planning. Cindy led the group in a discussion about national goals.

- Chapters at every CEPH accredited school and program
- Increase chapter engagement.
- Promote Excellence in public health education, research, and practice.
- Increase individual engagement.
- Ensure Delta Omega is an inclusive organization.

Chapter Breakouts. The chapters then adjourned to breakouts and were free to discuss any topic they wished.

Centennial. Allison presented plans for the 100-year anniversary. A committee has been formed to lead the celebration activities. The current members are Satish Bidaisee – Gamma Kappa. Alison Oberne – Tau, Christi Navarro – Alpha Xi. Other members were encouraged to join by contacting the National Office.

Next year, chapters and the National Office plan several 100-year challenges:

- 100 chapters will host a service activity in 2024
- 100 chapters to induct an honorary member in 2024
- 100 new chapters will be established in 2024

The National Office was also organizing a monthly webinar series which would feature one significant public health issue per decade. Most decades had nominations but open slots remained for the 1940's, 1950's and 2000s or 2010.

The reception next year will be bigger than normal. The National Office was also considering sponsoring an exhibit at APHA.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 pm.