



Model Standards and Ethics Board

Purpose

The purpose of the Standards and Ethics Board shall be to bring to the attention of the brothers the obligations they made at initiation, to uphold the standards of “The True Gentleman,” and to ensure a quality reputation for the chapter. A trial is the last resort. The Standards and Ethics Board should seek out mutually beneficial solutions to situations before a trial is called. The Standards & Ethics Board is not empowered to suspend or expel any members. A trial for suspension or expulsion should follow the guidelines outlined in the Fraternity Laws, Title IX, Article 50.

Composition of the Board

In order to ensure fair representation, and to eliminate any claims of favoritism, the Standards & Ethics Board should consist of:

- two senior members
- two junior members
- two sophomore members
- two freshmen members (if applicable)
- one past EA or past Executive Council member

The Eminent Deputy Archon will preside over any hearings and ensure that they are conducted in a fair and efficient manner. The Eminent Archon should attend the hearing, but is to remain silent, so as not to have influence over the proceedings.

All members are allowed to attend but must remain silent unless asked a question by the board.

Violations/Sanctions

The chapter should create a list of possible violations and classify them as a being minor or major offenses. Then a list of possible sanctions should be developed and classified as minor or major sanctions. This list should be voted on and approved by the chapter. This helps to eliminate any ambiguity in what the results of misconduct will be and will maintain consistency amongst hearings. These lists will serve as guidelines for the Standards & Ethics Board. They will be able to choose the appropriate sanction, or combination of sanctions, based on the severity of the violation. Sanctions for major violations could be pulled from minor sanctions, in combination with major ones. Sanctions may include a trial by the chapter for suspension or expulsion. If the board feels that a sanction not on the list is appropriate, a majority vote of the chapter is needed to impose it.

Procedure

Allegations are brought in front of the Executive Council, which will determine whether or not the allegations merit a Standards and Ethics Board hearing. There should be no discussion of the guilt or innocence of the party(ies) involved by the Executive Council.

A letter announcing the charges should be sent to the defendants. If the defendant chooses to have a hearing, the Eminent Deputy Archon will schedule a hearing with the defendant. The hearing should be announced at least two days in advance.

The trial agenda should be as follows:

- Reading of the charges
- Witness testimony
- Questioning of the witness(es)
- Defendant testimony
- Questioning of the defendant
- Closing remarks by the defendant

After the closing remarks by the defendant, everyone must leave the room, except for the EDA and the Standards and Ethics Board. At this time, the board will determine the guilt or innocent of the defendant. If guilty, they will decide which sanctions are appropriate. In the case of a “hung jury,” the EDA will be the deciding vote.

Sanctions decided upon by the board will be final, unless an appeal is made to the chapter and is overturned by a three-quarters vote. It will be the duty of the Eminent Warden to ensure that sanctions are enforced.

Formal Charges

Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity

_____ Chapter Vs. (defendant) _____ Date _____

The _____ Chapter accuses the defendant(s) of the offense of (circle offense(s)):

- Commission of a flagrant offense against the laws of the land or university
- Violation of the laws, bylaws and lawful orders of the Fraternity
- Violation of the policies of the Alumni Commission
- Violation of the Oath of Initiation
- Conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline, or unbecoming of "The True Gentleman"

The defendant is alleged to have committed the following:

Defendant was caught (activity) _____ at
(time) _____ on (date) _____ by (accuser) _____.

Eminent Deputy Archon's signature

I take responsibility for the facts as explained within and therefore waive my right to go through a trial to determine guilt or innocence. In signing this document I am entering a plea of guilty.

Defendant's signature

I request my right to go through a trial to determine my guilt or innocence. In signing this document I am entering a plea of not guilty.

Defendant's signature