



AMERICAN CRIMINAL JUSTICE ASSOCIATION  
LAMBDA ALPHA EPSILON

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING  
GRAPEVINE, TX

Friday, 22 March 2024

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman of the Executive Board at 10:15am. Chairman Dr. Leslie Palmer led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mark Mitchell was appointed Parliamentarian. Stu Hamblen was appointed Sgt-at-Arms. Tellers appointed were: Cori Evans, Deborah Wallin, Samuel Miller, and Hannah Martinez.

Proxy registration and roll call were taken by Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary. The following chapters were present or represented by proxy:

**Executive Board:** Leslie Palmer, Chairman of the Executive Board & Region 6 President; Richter Clough, Interim Region 1 President; Kristen Bowers, Region 2 President; Dr. Morgan Steele, Region 3 President; Christina Fouse, Elected Delegate of Region 5; and Samantha Gaus-Schmidt, 2024 National Student Representative. Michael Snow, Region 4 President did not attend. Past President position is vacant.

**Region 1:** Alpha; Chi Tau Epsilon; and Sigma Pi

**Region 2:** Delta Chi; Delta Chi Alpha; Delta Kappa Epsilon; Iota Kappa Chi; and Sigma Kappa Chi

**Region 3:** Delta Tau Omega; Gamma Epsilon Delta; and Kappa Omicron Rho

**Region 4:** Alpha Upsilon Lambda; Gamma Epsilon Zeta Rho; and Members at Large Region 4.

**Region 5:** Alpha Omega Rho; Zeta Epsilon Nu; and Members at Large Region 5.

**Region 6:** Beta Sigma Omega Lambda; Kappa Chi Chi and Tau Alpha Omicron.

**The votes were counted by the Executive Secretary, Kristen Bowers. RESULTS: Number of votes possible 81; Number needed for a quorum: 54; Number of registered votes: 29. A quorum was not present under the previous interpretation of the Bylaws.**

The interpretation of quorum in the Bylaws was discussed by the Executive Board after receiving evidence during the Executive Board meeting from Troy Cochran, Region 2 Vice President. Definitions of *general membership* and *voting membership* are listed in the Bylaws in a way that suggest they are different. The articles provided to the Executive Board suggest that there is a precedence set of the *voting membership* to indicate only the Chapters that are physically present or present by proxy. ***MOTION by Dr. Greg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta, to change quorum to result in the number of Chapters present rather than including the Chapters nationwide. Second by Jacob Siebanoller, Delta Chi Alpha.*** Dr. Greg Etter expresses concern that business cannot be completed if the Association never has a quorum and that those who do not come to the meeting or submit a proxy, should not get a vote; instead, those that make an effort to be present, should be the ones to make decisions. Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President, requests Troy Cochran, Region 2 Vice President, express the evidence to support his interpretation. Dr. Michael Sanchez suggests quorum be set to a minimum number of Chapters based on current Chapter registration at conference. ***Carried Unanimously.***

**Based upon the new interpretation of quorum, the votes were counted by the Executive Secretary. Number of registered votes: 29. A quorum is present.**

**2022 Minutes Approval Committee:** Michael Collins, Member of the National Business Meeting Approval Committee, recommended the Minutes be approved and accepted. ***MOTION by Michael Collins, Kappa Chi Chi, to waive the reading of the 2022 National Business Meeting Minutes and accept them as written. Second by Dr. Greg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta. Carried Unanimously.***

**Report of Executive Board Activities:** Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President, reported that the Executive Board has been meeting monthly to address ongoing business and recruitment throughout the year prior to Paul Raffile's resignation. The

website continues to be updated regularly and members are encouraged to review it for the latest information. The bank accounts have been transferred to the Executive Secretary, Currently the General account holds \$38,355.09; National Conference account holds \$8,355.68; Scholarship account holds \$5,376.62. Flipcase, our web host platform, has an available balance of \$40,562.49 and pending balance of \$30,249.02. The current total membership count is 1,286 active members. The number of members who expired as of January 2024 is 1,153. Region 5 has the largest number of active members. New and reactivating chapters are Chi Tau Epsilon, Gamma Chi Chi, Beta Alpha Delta, Iota Eta Sigma, Phi Alpha Upsilon, Alpha Nu Omega, and Kappa Chi Chi

**Report of Officers:** *MOTION by Mike Biggs, Sigma Pi, to dispense with further Executive Board reports and to approve them as written. Second by Michael Collins, Kappa Chi Chi. Carried Unanimously.*

## REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

**Report from the National Student Representative:** Samantha Gaus-Schmidt, 2024 National Student Representative, reported the National Student Committee is comprised of herself as Chair, and four other committee members: John Paul Cruz, representing Region 2; Madelyn Underwood, representing Region 3; Madalyn Finstein, representing Region 5; and Samantha Wietecha, representing Region 6. Regions 1 and 4 are not represented. Samantha stated that the feedback from the Chapter Officers' Breakfast was mostly positive with Officers' reporting their Chapters were satisfied with the ice breaker, casino night, and crime scene workshops. There was some dissatisfaction with the instructions regarding the CSI competition and potential differences between the proctors in each CSI room. Reminder to reach out to Regional Student Representatives for any comments and suggestions. *MOTION by Dr. Morgan Steele, Region 3 President, to accept the report from the National Student Representative as verbalized. Second by John Paul Cruz, Sigma Kappa Chi. Carried Unanimously.*

**Report from the Bylaws Committee:** Ed Hemmelman II, Chair, not present, reported by email that there were three proposed Bylaw changes submitted to the Bylaws Committee: a dues increase, age requirement change, and wording change to add the word email. Bylaws.

**Chapter Advisors' Committee:** John Wilt, Chair, provided the Advisors' Report from Breakfast. John stated that the Advisors' feel it is important to reach out and continue to try and obtain the historical information from the Association, which is currently being held by previous historian, Lori Schmitz. Advisors recommend evaluating the travel dates for conferences and recommend considering changing to a start and end date that allow for flights to be booked during the weekdays (eg., Tuesday or Thursday). The advisors reviewed costs for 5 day versus 6 day conference, and also, the proposed bylaw change of membership age which might have negative repercussions regarding costs and liabilities that come with traveling with a minor.

**Academic Testing Subcommittee:** Dr. Leslie Palmer, Chair, submitted a report by email that exams are now electronically provided via Typeform with security measures in place to prevent any questions of integrity. Members are aware that they will need to bring a laptop or tablet to the conference; however, paper tests will be provided to those that need accommodations or provided written notice in advance. Leslie stated that the Forensic Psychology and Homeland & National Security Tests are now a permanent part of the testing line up, as well as the Sweepstakes calculations. Furthermore, all tests will be included in the Top Academic calculation.

**Firearms & Safety Subcommittee:** Mark Mitchell, Chair, reported that the committee does not have a full committee due to lack of correspondence from the president [at the time, Paul Raffile]. They were unable to establish a quorum to vote on anything at the committee level.

**Historian:** John Wilt, Chair, reported that ACJA materials are presumably being held still by previous historian Lori Schmitz.

**Student Representative Committee:** Samantha Gaus-Schmidt, Chair, reported that they are working to increase ACJA's social media presence. They have held only one meeting during the year due to scheduling challenges and that the committee is lacking representatives from Regions 1 & 4. Additionally, student representatives in Regions 3, 5, & 6 are graduating in the next year. She advises that the next Chair works to increase committee meetings.

**Scholarship Committee:** Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President, reported that Danny Hayes, Scholarship Committee Chair, submitted his resignation letter and recommended Shawn Sherman, Kappa Omicron Rho. Kristen asked if Shawn had anything to report for Danny. Shawn stated that there were 7 scholarships awarded, which leaves two scholarships on the table. He advises that more people apply for scholarships to ensure all scholarships are given out each year.

**Student Paper Committee:** Dr. Tamara Lynn, Chair, reported by email that 14 judges were recruited to read 25 de-identified papers that were submitted by 19 members. Tamara stated 88% of papers submitted were from members in Region 3; four were Lower Division, 17 were Upper, and four were Graduate.

**Conference Committee Report:** Christina Fouse, Conference Director, reported that concerns regarding the 2023 Conference were addressed on many levels going forward into this year's conference. Christina presents what goes into the budgeting process and planning for a conference and reviewed why the price of registration increased to \$265 this year. She reviewed the food and beverage expenses along with those from neighboring hotels that were also asked to provide quotes. Attrition rates were discussed and how staying off site impacts the Association. Christina explains the preliminary budget for the 2024 National Conference.

***MOTION by Mike Biggs, Sigma Pi, to accept the committee reported as written and reported. Second by Dr. Greg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta. Carried Unanimously.***

## OLD BUSINESS

**John Webb Community Service Award:** Dr. Leslie Palmer, Chairman of the Executive Board, reported that there needs to be a way to submit nominations and the need for someone to chair the award committee.

**Trailblazer Award:** Dr. Leslie Palmer, Chairman of the Executive Board, reported that this award will be given out for the first time at this conference. Suggested by Dr. Roger Pennel, the trailblazer award looks at the trophy count as it is calculated for sweepstakes and divides it by the number of members present at conference. A minimum of five members must be present to be considered for this award.

**IRS 501(c)7:** Dr. Leslie Palmer, Chairman of the Executive Board stated that the Executive Board is aware of the issues surrounding the revocation of the 501(c)7 and working diligently to correct the lack of attention caused by the previous administration.

***MOTION by Geordi-Lee McIntyre, Tau Alpha Omicron, to accept the report on old business. Seconded by John Paul Cruz, Sigma Kappa Chi. Carried Unanimously.***

## NEW BUSINESS

### **Election of Officers:**

**Election of National President:** There was no nominations committee established for President due to the short notice of resignation provided by Paul Raffile. Mark Mitchell, Parliamentarian, asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Office of National President. Mike Biggs, Sigma Pi, nominates **Troy Cochran**, Region 2 Vice President, to the position of National President. Second by Adrian Sanchez, Beta Sigma Omega Lambda. Troy accepts the nomination. ***MOTION by Dr. Tamara Lynn, Delta Tau Omega, to close nominations. Second by Ryan Dietering, Delta Tau Omega.*** Some vocalized in favor; more vocalized against. **Motion Does Not Carry.** Mark Mitchell calls for any other nominations from the floor. Mackenzie Williams, Gamma Epsilon Delta, nominates **John Wilt**, Alpha Upsilon Lambda. Seconded by Morgan Higgins, Gamma Epsilon Delta. John accepts the nomination. ***MOTION by Dr. Tamara Lynn, Delta Tau Omega, to close nominations. Second by Dr. Gregg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta. Carried Unanimously.*** Ballots were collected by Headtellers, but it was noted that the nominees had requested the chance to speak to the membership. Decision was made by the Executive Board to pull the ballots and allow the nominees two minutes each to address the membership. A coin toss determines John Wilt will speak first, followed by Troy Cochran.

**Results for the Election of National President: Number of votes cast: 30. Number of votes for John Wilt: 7. Number of votes for Troy Cochran: 23. Abstentions: 0. Illegal Votes: 1. By Secret Ballot, Troy Cochran is nominated as the National President.**

**Election of National Vice President:** There was no nominations committee established by Paul Raffile, the President at the time of Dr. Lee DeBoer's resignation. As such, Mark Mitchell, Parliamentarian, asked if there were any nominations from the floor for the Office of National Vice President. Dr. Tamara Lynn, Delta Tau Omega, nominates **Dr. Leslie Palmer**, Region 6 President, to the position of National Vice President. Second by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha. Leslie accepts the nomination. ***MOTION by Dr. Tamara Lynn, Delta Tau Omega, to close nominations and to elect Dr. Leslie Palmer as National Vice President by Acclamation. Second by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha. Carried Unanimously.***

**Star Member Award Election:** Kristen Bowers stated that Michael Collins, Kappa Chi Chi, had been nominated by Mark Mitchell, Kappa Chi Chi, to receive the Star Member Award. Three-quarters (3/4) of the voting membership present at the Annual Conference is required to secure this Award. Star Members are elected to Life Membership from within the membership of the Association in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the Association. Many members spoke in favor of awarding Michael Collins the Star Member Award.

**Results of Star Member Award Election:** *Number of votes cast: 29. Number Necessary to Elect. Votes for: 29. Votes Against: 0. Abstentions: 0. Illegal Votes: 0. By Secret Ballot, Michael Collins Was Elected to Star Membership.*

#### **Bylaw Amendments:**

**Bylaw Amendment - Lowering of the Age Requirements:** This amendment was proposed to the bylaw committee for the purpose of lowering the minimum age requirement from 18 years old to 16 years old. This amendment would be an addition to the Bylaws and would be added to the Bylaws as a subsection under **Article III.A.1**. The proposed amendment reads as follows:

***"Article III.A.1.a - The only exception to the 18 years of age requirement is for a person enrolled in a program of study in the criminal justice field at a college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accreditation association, approved by their Collegiate Chapter Executive Board or Advisor, and are at least 16 years of age."***

Dr. Gregg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta, stated that more and more students attending community colleges are under the age of 18 and denying membership to them when they request membership at this time will likely deter them from joining once they are of age. Additionally, he reported that some schools have requirements that all members must be allowed to attend conferences or none can attend. Shawn Sherman, Kappa Omicron Rho, stated that lowering the age requirement may increase certain liabilities for the membership. Troy Cochran, Region 2 Vice President, pointed out that there might be issues regarding the ability to sign liability forms required at the National and Regional Conferences and that more thought should be put into this amendment prior to voting.

***MOTION by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha, to table the bylaw amendment until the next General Business Meeting. Second by Madalyn Finstein, Alpha Omega Rho.*** Richter (Ric) Clough, Interim Region 1 President, stated that tabling the motion would give us more time to research the changes and impacts this amendment would have on the Association, not eliminate it, and the motion could be revisited at the next General Business Meeting in 2025. Bryce Hufford, Tau Alpha Omicron, argued that the motion should not be tabled and it needed to be discussed at the current General Business Meeting, instead of pushing it off until 2025. Some vocalized in favor; more vocalized against. **Motion Does Not Carry.** More comments. ***MOTION by Bryce Hufford, Tau Alpha Omicron, to amend the motion on the floor to be as follows:***

***"Article III.A.1.a - The only exception to the 18 years of age requirement is for a person currently enrolled in a program of study in the criminal justice field at a college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accreditation association, and not younger than 16 years of age, may join a Collegiate Chapter after being approved by their Collegiate Chapter Executive Board or Advisor.***

***Article III.A.1.a.i - Members under the age of 18 may not attend National or Regional Conferences."***

***Second by Misaelis DeAbreu, Kappa Omicron Rho.*** Dr. Michael Sanchez, Iota Kappa Chi, advised that members under 18 years of age joining at the Chapter level should have a requirement for a parent waiver form be signed prior to admission to ACJA. **Bryce Hufford, Tau Alpha Omicron withdraws his motion. Second by Dr. Tamara Lynn, Delta Tau Omega.** ***MOTION by Dr. Michael Sanchez to amend the motion on the floor to be as follows:***

***“Article III.A.1.a - The only exception to the 18 years of age requirement is for a person currently enrolled in a program of study in the criminal justice field at a college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accreditation association, and not younger than 16 years of age, may join a Collegiate Chapter after being approved by their Collegiate Chapter Executive Board or Advisor.***

***Article III.A.1.a.i - Members under the age of 18 may not attend National or Regional Conferences.***

***Article III.A.1.a.ii - Members under the age of 18 must have a signed parent waiver form to be admitted to ACJA.”***

***Second by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha.*** An unnamed member stated that she was concerned about the possibility of the new motion preventing a Chapter from attending conference if their college has a policy stating that if any members are prohibited from attending, then no one from the Chapter can attend. Lon Lovett, Member at Large Region 5, stated that he is currently teaching at a high school and has high achieving students that are eager to be involved in ACJA. He reported that, while there would be certain liabilities that come with having minors in attendance at conferences, as adults, the collegiate and professional members should be capable of behaving in a manner that is representative of the ethics of the Association, which would eliminate many of the possible liabilities. He indicated that high school students are watched more closely than his previous Collegiate level students were. Richter (Ric) Clough, Interim Region 1 President, pointed out that as an advisor, bringing an underage student to conference will create a financial burden on Chapters as underage students would not be able to room with other students, so additional rooms would be required, and they would need to be near the advisor’s room for visibility purposes. Additionally, he stated that his liability as an advisor would be increased as the one responsible for bringing students to conferences. Justin Lucibello, Tau Alpha Omicron, expressed concerns that it would only take one potentially inappropriate comment or misinterpreted remark to an underage student for an issue to arise, and that it only takes one dishonest person to cause an issue for the rest of the Association. Bryce Hufford, Tau Alpha Omicron, stated that no one was questioning the capabilities or achievements of students under the age of 18; simply that, this is a conference intended for adults and that there are legal and financial concerns at hand. Matthew Long, Gamma Epsilon Delta, recommended that the use of the word “or” in the bylaw amendment should be changed to “and” as it relates to “Executive Board ***or*** Advisor” approval. ***Dr. Michael Sanchez, Iota Kappa Chi, withdraws his motion. Second by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha. MOTION by Matthew Long, Gamma Epsilon Delta, to amend the motion on the floor to be as follows:***

***“Article III.A.1.a - The only exception to the 18 years of age requirement is for a person currently enrolled in a program of study in the criminal justice field at a college or university accredited by a recognized national or regional accreditation association, and not younger than 16 years of age, may join a Collegiate Chapter after being approved by their Collegiate Chapter Executive Board or Advisor(s).***

***Article III.A.1.a.i - Members under the age of 18 may not attend National or Regional Conferences.***

***Article III.A.1.a.ii - Members under the age of 18 must have a signed parent waiver form to be admitted to ACJA.”***

***Second by Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha. MOTION by Shawn Sherman, Kappa Omicron Rho, to close the floor to further comments. Second by Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President.*** Most vocalized in favor; very few vocalized against. ***Motion Carried.***

***Results of the Bylaw Amendment - Lowering Age Requirement, in its amended form: Almost all vocalized in favor; very few vocalized against. Motion Carried.***

**Bylaw Amendment - Increasing the New and Renewing Dues Amount:** This amendment was proposed to the bylaw committee for the purpose of eliminating the difference between new and renewing members and to update the cost of membership dues to reflect the increasing costs of membership materials and National Office. The current Bylaw verbiage is as follows:

“Article III.G.1. Dues Structure:

- a. The initiation fee is \$40.00 per applicant, which includes the annual dues.
- b. The annual dues are \$35.00 per member.
- c. The reinstatement fee is \$40.00 per applicant, which includes the annual dues.”

The proposed Bylaw amendment is as follows:

**“Article III.G.1. Dues Structure:**

- a. The initiation fee is \$50.00 per applicant, which includes the annual dues.**
- b. The annual dues are \$50.00 per member.**
- c. The reinstatement fee is \$50.00 per applicant, which includes the annual dues.”**

Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President, explains how reinstatement currently works and how common it is for long-expired members to renew instead of submit a new application. This creates an issue when requesting the \$5 difference, especially if they choose to pay online, as the web host platform takes a large portion of the \$5. She remarks it also seems quite petty to request \$5 in general, and it may risk losing that person as a member. Geordi-Lee McIntyre, Tau Alpha Omicron, stated he is not opposed to making the two dues amounts the same, but requested clarification on why \$50 was settled on. Richter (Ric) Clough, Interim Region 1 President, stated that the Executive Board looked at how long it has been since the last increase in membership dues and the current expenses of running the National Office and paying the Executive Secretary for their services, which is much lower than was previously set aside for the position. Cori Evans, Beta Sigma Omega Lambda, asked how the dues increase would impact Life Membership. Kristen explained that the current Bylaws state lifetime membership is granted by submitting 12 times the current annual dues; therefore, if the current dues increase, then so does the cost of lifetime membership. Samantha Gaus-Schmidt pointed out that while most members are college students and face financial challenges, the cost of membership doesn't adequately cover the material and office costs required to maintain a full-time National Office or the increasing membership materials. Troy Cochran, Region 2 Vice President, expressed that increasing the membership dues may provide the opportunity to reconstruct the new membership packets. Dr. Cindy Boyles, Zeta Epsilon Nu, asked if it had been considered to have a higher rate of membership for advisors and professionals, and lower rate for collegiate members. Ric responded that the issue with this option is that the Association is heavily based on collegiate membership and the change would not assist in maintaining professional members in the Association. ***MOTION by Troy Cochran, Region 2 Vice President, to close the floor to further comments. Second by Dr. Michael Sanchez, Iota Kappa Chi. Carried Unanimously.***

***Results of the Bylaw Amendment - Increasing the New and Renewing Dues Amount: Most vocalized in favor; some vocalized against. One abstention. Motion Carried.***

**Bylaw Amendment - Adding Email as an Option:** This amendment was proposed to the bylaw committee for the purpose of adding email as an option to any bylaws that didn't currently have email as an option for contact. The only one found by the Bylaws Committee was in the following bylaw:

“Article III.K.1. Nominations for Star Award; Tom Hunter Founders Award; Honorary Life Membership; Bill Melnicoe Distinguished Award; Jim Hooker Outstanding Advisor Award; and National Election Nominations will be sent to each member of the Executive Board and to each chapter Advisor, President, and Secretary of record by mail at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference by the Executive Secretary. Copies shall be made available to members attending the Conference. Conference notices shall designate the time, place and business to be transacted.”

The amendment would be as follows:

**“Article III.K.1. Nominations for Star Award; Tom Hunter Founders Award; Honorary Life Membership; Bill Melnicoe Distinguished Award; Jim Hooker Outstanding Advisor Award; and National Election Nominations will be sent to each member of the Executive Board and to each chapter Advisor, President, and Secretary of record by mail or email at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the first day of the Annual Conference by the Executive Secretary. Copies shall be made available to members attending the Conference. Conference notices shall designate the time, place and business to be transacted.”**

***MOTION by Geordi-Lee McIntyre, Tau Alpha Omicron, to close the floor to further comments. Second by Ashley Novak, Delta Chi. Carried Unanimously.***

**Results of the Bylaw Amendment - Adding Email as an Option: Carried Unanimously.**

**Graduate & Professional Division Discussion:** Richter Clough, Interim Region 1 President, stated that there was an ongoing issue with the current National Conference Manual regarding the three competition divisions and how graduate students, along with members of the Association who have not held a paid position in the field of criminal justice, do not fit in any of the current definitions. More specifically, graduate students have an unfair advantage over undergraduate students, but may be at a significant disadvantage against professionals, especially those in the academic field of criminal justice. Kristen Bowers, Executive Secretary & Region 2 President, reported that multiple Chapters were advised that the Conference Committee had reviewed the Divisions as described in the Conference Manual and stated that all graduate members shall register in the Professional Division, regardless of if they were paid now or previously. This decision was made with approval of the President despite previous communications.

Despite this, it is known to the Executive Board that some students were not appropriately registered. As such, the Executive Board has discussed that it might be in the best interest of the Association to consider a Graduate Division for other conference competitions, following the precedent set by a Graduate Division in the Student Paper, Poster, and Scholarship Competitions, and to prevent Sweepstakes from being swayed unfairly, the number of graduate trophy placements available would be directly related to the number of graduate students present at the conference. The Executive Board is opening the floor to discussion from the General Membership for transparency and to hear any opinions prior to the Executive Board making a decision at another point.\

Dr. Greg Etter, Gamma Epsilon Delta, is concerned about the financial cost for the Association and the Sweepstakes calculation. He stated that graduate students have been registered as Upper Division for the 17 years he has been advisor, and it should stay that way. Kristen reiterated the rules as they are stated in the National Conference Manual. Dr. Michael Sanchez, Iota Kappa Chi recommended graduate students with less than 50 hours be considered Upper Division and those with 50 or more should be considered Professional Division. Clarification was made that having attended or not attended an academy was not what determined if a member was a paid professional in the field of criminal justice. Alexis Altom, Delta Chi Alpha, noted that not all criminal justice professionals require an academy such as counselors, lawyers, psychologists, academics, etc... Andrew Heuring, Kappa Chi Chi, stated that Professionals should include anyone who has graduated from university and as such, is now prepared to join a criminal justice profession whether they actually do so or not. Many students had questions about what constitutes a member being placed in the Professional Division and what professions are considered criminal justice professions. Kristen recommended that any questionable situations should be referred to their respective Regional President for further consideration. Adrian Sanchez, Beta Sigma Omega Lambda, stated that adding in a Graduate Division could only offer more opportunities for students and be inclusive to other potential members. Dr. Michael Sanchez asks the Executive Board to consider establishing clarification on what professions would be considered criminal justice professionals as he doesn't feel professions such as a security guard at WalMart would fall into that category.

Ric stated the Executive Board will consider all remarks and recommendations and make a final decision on this issue. Dr. Leslie Palmer, voiced that she understands the concerns over an entry level criminal justice professional who is also an undergraduate may be at a disadvantage. She remarked that the Executive Board will have further discussion on this issue. The floor was closed to further comments.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Kristen Bowers was hired officially in February to the position of Executive Secretary. She thanks the Executive Board for trusting her with the position.

Madalyn Finstein, Alpha Omega Rho, requested the Executive Board consider appointing her Chair of an exploratory committee into hosting a conference specifically for membership under the age of 18.

Dr. Michael Sanchez, Iota Kappa Chi, stated that it would be a positive thing to introduce the concepts of junior members and junior advisors to incoming high school students and graduating college seniors, respectively.

Samantha Wietecha, Tau Alpha Omicron, stated that Stu Hamblen, Tau Alpha Omicron, is an amazing advisor and they are extremely thankful for his help and assistance in Region 6.

Richter Clough, Interim Region 1 President, announced that the 2025 National Conference will be hosted by Region 1, likely in Southern California. Information will be posted as soon as possible.

Dr. Leslie Palmer, Chairman of the Executive Board & Region 6 President, announced that the 2026 National Conference will be hosted by Region 6, likely in Minneapolis, MN. Information will be posted as soon as possible.

Next Meeting to be held in Region 1.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15pm.

Kristen M. Bowers  
Executive Secretary