

— — **Annual Report** — —
to the Association of College Honor Societies
2016-2017 Academic Year

Society

Phi Sigma Tau

1. Key contacts

a) Official ACHS Representative for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017
(the official representative who is appointed by the governance body of the organization)

i. Name Dr. David E. Gibson

Title Executive Secretary

ii. Address Humanities Division, Pepperdine University

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v. E-mail address gibson@pepperdine.edu

b) National Headquarters

i. Headquarters executive Dr. David E. Gibson

Title Executive Secretary

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vi. E-mail gibson@pepperdine.edu

vii. National Web site <http://phisigmatau.org>

c) President/ Board Chair

i. Name Dr. Lee C. Rice

Title President

ii. Address Philosophy Department

Marquette University

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Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881

iii. Phone

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v. E-mail lee.rice@marquette.edu

2. Internal performance and key concerns

a) Membership

i. Annual 1,198

ii. Grand Total 43,016

b) Membership trends

During the 2016-2017 school year, Phi Sigma Tau initiated 1,198 new members. During the past six years we have averaged about 1,225 new members each year, though we were down 74 members from the preceding year. So, our membership seems to be holding fairly steady at around 1,225 new members a

year.

c) Number of chapters

i. Total 250

ii. New in last academic year 6

d) National has an IRS Group Exemption Number (GEN).

No.

e) 990-N IRS Form

Chapter

f) Benefits to members

Our main activity is the publication of *Dialogue*, our journal dedicated to student publications of work in philosophy. This year we published a Supplement, allowing us to print another ten articles by student authors. We also publish a *Newsletter* three times per year describing the activity of individual chapters. Students who enroll in our Alumni Chapter continue to receive the journal, newsletters, and an Alumni Bulletin for one year at no further charge. After the first year of membership in the Alumni Chapter, we do ask a \$5.00 fee for continuing, and that fee just about covers the cost of mailing the journal and other papers.

g) Benefits to profession and society at large

One of our main goals is to encourage philosophical inquiry and discussion on college campuses by making students aware of the importance of philosophy. Our chapters often do that by holding conferences on their campuses, participating in local conferences, holding meetings that are open to the campus, and engaging in other activities. We published a supplementary issue of our journal during the 2016-2017 school year to offer even more opportunities for student publication; the subject of the issue was ethics, a topic very much in the line with the aims of ACHS.

h) Accomplishments

i) Challenges to your society

One main challenge is to encourage chapters to remain active. Since chapters are often small (philosophy programs are often small), a committed advisor is essential to keeping the chapter active and operating. Advisors are essential to encouraging students to plan and execute various activities. Usually a junior faculty member is assigned the role of advisor; this means that there is quite a lot of advisor turnover, and the advisors often have heavy demands placed upon them for publication and tenure.

j) Renewal efforts of your society

Since all of our staff work on a voluntary basis, time is limited. We need to work more to encourage chapters that are inactive to become active again. Last year we revoked the charters of eight chapters for inactivity. Sometimes inactivity is because an advisor has left, and often it is difficult to find out that an advisor has left a school. We are also looking to get some younger members onto our Executive Council to replace some members who are retiring.

k) Trends in higher education with potential impact

Rising costs may impact membership, both because of possible lower enrollments and because students may have difficulty with the membership fee (though we have kept our membership fee quite low). The costs do not seem to have affected our membership requests for the past few years though. As tuitions increase and if students move to areas related to job opportunities, we may see a decline in membership, though often in difficult times, philosophy enrollments increase some.

l) Learning and development outcomes for assessment of chapter programming

m) Collaboration with other student groups

3. Summary of revenue and expenditures

a) Fees

- i. Initial membership fee \$25.00
- ii. Annual dues NONE

b) Total revenue

Percentage from:

- i. Initial member fees 97%
- ii. Dues 0%
- iii. Other sources 3%

c) Total expenditures

Percentage for:

- i. Administration 23% (postage, supplies, website, etc.)
- ii. Governance 0% (all staff are volunteers)
- iii. Publication 76%
- iv. Scholarships/awards 1%
- v. Conventions 0%

d) Retirement benefits for employees? None.

iii. Company

- e) i. Official Audit No
- ii. Compilation No
- iii. Member/Committee No

review

- f) **Staff** Number Full Time: 0
Number Part Time: 0

g) Policies

- Whistleblower Policy No
- Conflict of Interest Policy No
- Document Retention &
Destruction Policy No
- Process for Determining
Compensation Policy No

h) Transparency to the General Public

- National Officers and
Headquarters Staff URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/officers.html>
- National Office mailing,
telephone, fax, & e-
mail addresses URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/form-contact.html>
- Criteria for Membership URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/eligibility.html>
- Benefits of Membership URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/membership.html>
- Membership Fee URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/membership.html>
- Bylaws URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/bylaws.html>
- Chapter charter policies
and procedures URL: <http://www.phisigmatau.org/constitution.html>
- Society chapters have
been posted to the
ACHS Member Chapter Search at
<http://www.achsnatl.org/search.asp> Yes