

— — **Annual Report** — —  
**to the Association of College Honor Societies**  
**2018-2019 Academic Year**

**Society**

**Phi Sigma Tau**

**1. Key contacts**

**a) Official ACHS Representative for fiscal year July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019**  
(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  
24255 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu  
CA 90263-4225
- iii. Telephone (805) 482-0138
- iv. Fax (310) 506-7307
- v. E-mail address gibson@pepperdine.edu

**b) National Headquarters**

- i. Headquarters executive Dr. David E. Gibson  
Title Executive Secretary
- ii. Mailing Address Humanities Division, Pepperdine University  
24255 Pacific Coast Highway  
Malibu  
CA 90263-4225
- iii. UPS Address Humanities Division, Pepperdine University  
24255 Pacific Coast Highway  
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CA 90263-4225
- iv. Phone (805) 482-0138
- v. Fax (310) 506-7307
- 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  
P.O. Box 1881  
Milwaukee, WI 53201-1881
- iii. Phone
- iv. Fax 414-288-3010
- v. E-mail lee.rice@marquette.edu

**2. Internal performance and key concerns**

**a) Membership**

- i. Annual 1,241
- ii. Grand Total 45,470

**b) Membership trends**

During the 2018-2019 school year, Phi Sigma Tau initiated 1,241 new members. During the past seven years we have averaged about 1,225 new members each year. So, our membership seems to be holding fairly steady at around 1,225 new members a year.

**c) Number of chapters**

i. Total 255

ii. New in last academic year 2

**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. 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. We do allow email memberships in the Alumni Chapter at no cost to our members.

**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. In 2016-2017 we published a Supplementary issue on ethics, and we will consider occasional Supplementary issues in the future. In 2019, the Phi Sigma Tau Executive Council voted to send complimentary copies of our journal to all schools that have Phi Sigma Tau chapters. Because of limited staff, we were able to send copies only to schools that provided appropriate library addresses.

**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. A second challenge has been the cancellation of philosophy majors at several schools.

**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. 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 members who are retiring; we will expect those members to participate in the work of the society.

**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. However, financial difficulties at some schools

have caused the cancellation of several philosophy majors; where possible, we will continue a chapter if a resulting combined major still meets our curriculum requirements.

**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 97.8%
- ii. Dues 0%
- iii. Other sources 2.2%

**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.achsntl.org/search.asp> Yes

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