



PHI DELTA THETA
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VIRTUAL CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Well-qualified and passionate chapter officers are essential for your chapter to continue bettering itself and to reach the goals you wish to achieve. As such, it's important that the chapter holds fair, balanced elections to determine these chapter officers. In a typical semester, this is a relatively easy process to manage but now, in the face of a potentially virtual semester, your chapter might be forced to reevaluate your entire election process. We've outlined two election scenarios for your chapter to reference as you determine your fall plans.

Scenario 1: Multiple-Day Elections

In this scenario, special meetings would be called to split the executive election into two days. The first meeting would be held to elect the following positions: president, vice president, treasurer, recruitment chairman, and Phikeia educator. The second meeting would be held on a following day to elect other executive positions.

At least a week before the virtual election happens, the chapter should accept position nominations. This can be done in a handful of ways including self-nominations/peer-nominations to the vice president, submitting an application for the desired positions, or filling out an online form through a medium such as a Google Form. Once the applications and nominations are closed, the vice president will then send out a list of all candidates to the chapter well in advance of the election meeting.

Elections would be held over Zoom or another video platform with a minimum of quorum met where each candidate would have an allotted time to present their speeches and answer questions from the chapter. Candidates not presenting would be removed from the larger Zoom meeting during the speeches and the voting process.

As paper ballots won't be feasible during a virtual election, the chapter will have to get creative on how they count votes. It is imperative to remember that the voting needs to be fair and confidential. Some suggestions include utilizing the polling feature in Zoom or submitting their choice of candidate directly to the officers tallying the votes (typically the warden and vice president).

*Example of a multiple day election timeline:

- November 13: Nominations begin
- November 21: Executive Officer Elections Day 1
- November 22: Executive Officer Elections Day 2
- November 23: General Officer Elections (can also be split over multiple days)

Choosing to hold your elections with this set up will allow for the most traditional feel to your process. Speeches can still be given, and discussion can still be had. One potential downfall with multiple day elections would be lack of participation, as it is a longer process. Make sure to let your members know well in advance if you choose this process to allow them time to prepare.

Scenario 2: One-Day Election

In this scenario, all elections would be held in one virtual meeting with a modified process to allow for a shorter meeting. Here's how this process would work:

- A week of nominations for positions begins two weeks before the election when potential candidates submit a video recorded speech to the executive committee outlining their desire for the position. Throughout this week, the executive committee will determine the eligibility of each of these self-nominated candidates and place their videos in a Dropbox or Google Drive folder that includes all the nominations for each position.
- Candidates also are able to be nominated throughout the week of nominations. Members will need a form such as Google Forms to indicate who they are nominating and for what. These nominations should be communicated to the individual so that he may either accept or decline the nomination and to prepare a video for elections.
- One week before the election, the video files will be shared with all members of the chapter. This allows the chapter members to watch each candidate's speech and ask one-on-one questions about their goals and ideas.
- The election would be held over Zoom with a minimum of quorum met. There should be time built in to answer any final pressing questions. Candidates would be removed from the larger Zoom meeting to allow brothers to participate in confidential discussion of the candidates and vote in a similar way to Scenario 1.

*Example of a One-Day Election Timeline

- November 8: Officer nominations begin, executive committee determines eligibility
- November 15: Officer nominations close and candidate videos are provided to members
- November 22: Officer Elections through Zoom or another online video platform

This version of chapter elections would allow for a quicker and more streamlined process than Scenario 1 and would increase person-to-person discussion about a candidate's plans and goals for the positions. It would be important though, to remind the brothers of their duty to be well informed of each candidate before joining the election meeting, as the speeches would have to be watched prior to the election.

No matter how your chapter decides to elect new officers, it's important to remember that Phi Delta Theta is a democratic fraternity and that each member's voice and vote is equal. The chapter's leadership team should be united in the process and find ways to promote the greatest amount of participation and engagement.
