



FarmHouse International Fraternity

Builder of Men since 1905

International Executive Board Meeting Minutes **46th Biennial Conclave** **August 4-5, 2010 – Columbus, Ohio**

Welcome and Opening Procedures

President Freeman called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. EST at the Renaissance Hotel, downtown Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, August 4, 2010. He welcomed everyone and led the Board in the opening prayer and the recitation of The Object. The board provided personal and professional updates before proceeding with the remainder of the business meeting agenda.

Those attending included: Brothers Bryce Freeman (IA '93), president, Garry Weston (KY '97), vice president, Brent Bible (PU '93), Cameron Dunlap (NM '93), Shawn Eagleburger (IA '02), Dale Pracht (KS '92), Brian Hogue (TAM '05), Jeff Norris (TT '89), undergraduate chapter members Daniel Keeton (AR ('07) and Patrick McDonagh (MO '08), ex-officio member Tony Fiore (OH '05) and Fraternity executive director/Board secretary/ex-officio member Chad Harris (IA '98).

Invited guests joining the Board during their meeting included: Allison Rickels, FarmHouse Foundation and Foundation Trustees, Brothers John Foltz (OH '53) and Jim Herbert (TN '61).

Freeman and Harris led the Board through the weekend schedule and proposed agenda.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston moved to approve the agenda as presented. Bible seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Board reviewed the March 2010 meeting minutes.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Hogue moved to approve. Norris seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Finance

Norris presented the Board with the June 2010 Financial Statements, as provided by Harris, and the Board reviewed the completed IRS Form 990 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2009. Harris noted that in the coming year, the Fraternity will have to complete the new Form 990, which has received much attention in professional development conferences the last few years, but that the proper governance policies and practices were in place for compliance with this form.

Harris presented the Board with a draft budget for the 2010-11 fiscal year, which took into account a dues increase.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Eagleburger moved to approve the proposed 2010-11 budget, pending the approval of chapter dues increase at the upcoming 46th Biennial Conclave. Bible seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Harris reported that the Fraternity had secured an additional corporate sponsor, ADM. Their sponsorship recognition will begin in the Fall 2010 and they will be incorporated in the programs and communication pieces their sponsorship will support.

Harris also presented the Board with information from the June 2010 FRMT Board meeting, which included the opportunity from UBS, financial manager of FRMT reserve accounts, to invest reserves in a more aggressive account, with long term return. The Board requested the Harris seek more information on this PACE program with FRMT Director, Art Heggen and review with Norris.

Expansion

The Board received an update on expansion groups in progress – notably Tarleton State and Virginia Tech and discussed the chartering of the Ohio State chapter occurring in conjunction with the 46th Biennial Conclave. The Board discussed the need to re-establish a long-term 5-6 campus expansion plan for the next 4 to 10 years and that the chartering objectives, colony expectations and campus leads should be reviewed at the Fall 2010 meeting of the Board. A committee will be established to further aid in this effort with the staff to seek out leads and assist in making campus presentations.

Educational Programming

Harris provided the Board a brief recap on the 2010 To Be and Become...Emerging Talent Retreat sponsored by Monsanto held in May and reviewed the list of 2010-11 important dates, including the FarmHouse Leadership Academy, Jan.6-9, 2011 in Kansas City.

Harris also provided information in the form a presentation called The Case for Fraternity Rights, as provided by the North-American Interfraternity Conference (NIC), which highlighted data and research found on the relevance of fraternity membership and its positive impact on college students as part of the University Learning and Outcomes Assessment (UniLOA), administered through Indiana State University. The research study provides fraternity's the opportunity to enroll, with the assessment being administered to all chapter members. Results will then be provided in comparison data in seven-behavior areas relative to campus peers, other fraternity men and national standards for both fraternity men and all college students – the result being a tool to better assist chapters in programming or understand where a fraternity may be succeeding in helping develop relevant skills in fraternity undergraduate members. Following discussion the Board took action on Harris' request that the Fraternity participate.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Pracht moved to approve the allocation of money (\$1,750 per year licensing fee, plus hard cost expenses) for the Fraternity to enroll as a participant in the University Learning & Outcomes (UniLOA) project. Hogue seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Board recessed at 7:00 p.m. for dinner and reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

Conclave Meeting & Legislation

Board discussed its biennium board report and the Conclave business meeting and reviewed the business items proposed to date including:

- Chapter Dues Increase Resolution
- Association Dues Increase
- Creation of Geographic Alumni Associations
- Change in selection and length of term for the two undergraduate chapter members serving on the International Executive Board
- Allowance for the International Executive Board to assess fees, pending chapter/association majority approval, for programmatic initiatives or in times of mitigating circumstances;
- Creation of Board-appointed committees to assist the IEB and staff in implementing programs and strategic initiatives;
- Mandated Conclave delegate attendance for all chapters and associations;
- And update in the IEB officer descriptions for President, Vice President, Secretary and Executive Director.

Board members broke to work on individual reports for the Biennium Board report, reflecting vital sign/committee reports and achievements from the last biennium.

Ceres Fraternity Relationship

Prior to its breakfast meeting with the Ceres International Executive Board, the Board discussed the current health and relationship with Ceres. The Board recommends that the International Fraternity discontinue any administrative support to Ceres Fraternity, as FarmHouse does not have the staffing, monetary or but in doing so assist Ceres finding a successful administrative support, development and leadership model. Furthermore the Board recommended that a letter be drafted summarizing the Board's view regarding this matter.

Board recessed at 10 p.m. and reconvened meeting with the Ceres Board at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast.

Following breakfast a joint meeting was held between the Ceres and FarmHouse International Executive Boards to discuss the current and future relationship with FarmHouse and Ceres and understand the future focus of Ceres. Ceres efforts in the 2010-11 year and next biennium plan to focus on:

- Centralized event at the RLC in St. Louis in February 2011;
- Concentrated effort to re-engage local support, rather than from the International level for consultation, advisor, etc. in the next two-years;
- Desire for every chapter to have 20-25 members and have 10-15 healthy and operating chapters in the next two years.

The Board asked what the role of FarmHouse is in this Ceres future? With the reply from Ceres requesting a true partnership – joint effort, dual opportunity, not just a one-way agreement. The Board also asked Ceres to consider and respond to the question, what does Ceres need, want, expect from FarmHouse in their future planning efforts?

FarmHouse Foundation

At 10 a.m. Allison Rickels and Jim Herbert joined the International Executive Board staff to discuss the Foundation's developing plans for the Learn. Live. Lead. Capital campaign. The Board emphasized the continued need to consider financial support for expansion housing in the campaign as it is a continued challenge in the chartering process and will be a need on the campuses the Fraternity wishes to consider for future expansion. The Board suggested the Foundation consider the possibility of an appropriation percent from all gifts be designated toward an expansion housing fund. The Fraternity and Foundation staff and Boards will collectively work to better assess the current Housing situation of chapters and report back to both Boards at their fall 2010 meetings. The Board also discussed with Brother Herbert and Rickels the need to consider future real estate options for FarmHouse headquarters. Rickels also requested the Fraternity Board continue to monitor and update funding priorities, should they change, so as to inform the Foundation Trustees and staff

Following the meeting with Rickels and Herbert the Board continued to discuss housing issues as they relate to expansion and growth of the Fraternity – including the use of funds currently held in reserves to be investment for the purpose of granting further support to expansion groups.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Eagleburger moved to transfer money from Operational Reserves to the Housing Account for a balance of \$50,000 to use for expansion housing. Seconded by Hogue. **MOTION PASSED.**

Communications and Marketing

Harris provided a brief update on recent efforts in the realm of communication and marketing including:

- Implementation of an interactive online version of Pearls & Rubies, which was launched with the spring 2010 edition.
- Selection of The Conference Group as a webinar vendor and provider of teleconference and webinar services to be launched in Fall 2010. The Conference Group was selected by the staff after reviewing proposals and pricing from four vendors recommended by peer-organizations, colleagues or which the staff were familiar. The Conference Group is utilized by many fraternal groups and is an FEA sponsor.
- The Fraternity has been in discussion with Jack Wheat of Stites and Harbinson in Louisville to assist in the license and trademark of the Fraternity's symbols. Wheat provides the services on a pro-bono basis

for fraternal groups. Once registered the Fraternity would then be able to enroll and become a member of the Collegiate Greek Licensing group which protects brands and symbols and provides royalty payments back to fraternal organizations.

- Launch of a corporate apparel web site through Land's End Business to provide embroidered FH clothing for purchase. No royalty is provided to the Fraternity, but the apparel is high quality with 3 symbols the crest, FH and FarmHouse Fraternity Builder of Men, available to place on hundreds of clothing items.

Chapter Health

The Board reviewed a jointly written letter dated June 22, 2010, submitted to the International President, from the New Mexico State chapter and association. The recommended and requested that the chapter become inactive due to declining membership, financial sustainability and loss of communal chapter housing.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston moved to accept the recommendation to close the New Mexico State chapter. Eagleburger seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

Harris will coordinate that exit interviews be held with the remaining chapter members by the association or advisors and that they be offered alumni status within the Fraternity and ensure that any outstanding bills are paid. The Board also encouraged Harris to communicate their desire to the New Mexico State Association that it remain active and recognized by the International Fraternity – as means to continue to engage alumni locally and as a mechanism to allow for re-establishment of a chapter in the future, when appropriate. Harris will communicate the decision to the respective campus officials and to all involved parties, including the current chapter membership and alumni association; in addition will be communicated to all FarmHouse alumni members of the chapter and all alumni of the Fraternity living in the state of New Mexico, regardless of their chapter of initiation.

Additional chapter health topics of discussion included:

- Request to continue to monitor growth and progress with the Colorado State chapter.
- Formal agreement for repayment of Fall 2009 dues between the International Fraternity and the Texas A&M chapter.

Risk Management

Bible, chair of the Probation Review Committee, provided an update on recent communication had with alumni, advisors, local oversight committee and chapter officers with the Auburn chapter – following the PRC visit and intervention in spring 2010. The Fall 2010 semester will be an important one for the chapter and should be closely monitored regarding new member education practices on the campus and in further adherence to the implemented eight-week new member education program – as mandated in the sanctions from the campus judicial board and International Fraternity.

Harris provided information regarding the 2010-11 premium renewal for FRMT liability insurance coverage. With continued good practices in risk management there was not a rise in premium rates.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Bible moved that the 2010-11 FRMT Liability Insurance Premium rate assessed to undergraduate chapter members be set at \$135/man/year. Eagleburger seconded. **MOTION PASSED.**

The Board recessed at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, August 5, 2010.

Election of Officers and Closing Procedures

Following the completion of the Closing Business Meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, August 7, the International Executive Board re-convened. Joining the Board were newly elected alumni members Brothers Patrick Robinson (KY '98) and Tony Fiore (OH '95), in addition to new undergraduate representatives Clark Siddle (OH '10) and Mike Revis (MO '10). Brothers Norris and Dunlap were re-elected to serve another four-year term.

After welcoming and congratulating new members, the Board proceeded with the election of officers for the 2010-12 biennium.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston nominated Brent Bible to the office of International President. Norris seconded. Call for nominations fell silent. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- **BOARD ACTION:** Hogue nominated Shawn Eagleburger to the office of Vice President. Weston seconded. Call for nominations fell silent. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston moved that the Board designate Chad Harris as the Board Secretary and re-appoint him Executive Director of FarmHouse International Fraternity. Bible seconded. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- Weston requested that the minutes reflect the unanimous action taken by the Board. So noted.

Freeman passed the gavel to Bible, who called for further action of the Board.

- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston moved to thank and commend the service provided by Daniel Keeton and Patrick McDonagh, as the undergraduate representatives from the Arkansas and Missouri chapters. Freeman seconded. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- **BOARD ACTION:** Eagleburger moved to thank and acknowledge the tireless service and sacrifice of time, pleasure and comforts exhibited by Brother Garry Weston, during his two-terms (eight years) of service to the International Executive Board and as International Vice President for two-terms (four years), as the entire Fraternity benefited from his leadership and is in deepest appreciation for his time of service. Dunlap seconded. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- **BOARD ACTION:** Weston moved to thank and acknowledge the tireless service and sacrifice of time, pleasure and comforts exhibited by Brother Bryce Freeman, during his two-terms (eight years) of service to the International Executive Board and as International President of the Fraternity for two-terms (four years), as the entire Fraternity benefited from his leadership and is in deepest appreciation for his time of service. Hogue seconded. **MOTION PASSED**, unanimously.
- Hogue requested that the minutes reflect the unanimous action taken by the Board. So noted.

The Board's next meeting will be held in Kansas City at the Headquarters Office, November 19-21, 2010. The call for further business fell silent and the Board adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Chad E. Harris, CAE (IA '98)
Secretary, International Executive Board
Executive Director, FarmHouse International Fraternity