

7.15.2020 Chapter Advisor Zoom Call

- Panelists: Dr. Jay Gabbard, Delta Mu chapter at Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY. Laura Gibson, Chi Psi chapter at Brescia University, Owensboro KY; Debbie Olson-Morrison, Rho Epsilon chapter at Park University, Parkville, MO.
- Moderator: Paul Baggett, ED/Phi Alpha International
- Convenor: Sue Bowden, Phi Alpha International Board Member, Chair of Chapter Advisor Training Committee

The following content, quotes and summaries, comes from the panel discussion and chat box content. It is organized by themes.

Certificates/Merchandise/Awards

- Update from Tammy on Spring certificates/merchandise: Our goal is by the end of July, we will have all the certificates, lapel pins sent to each chapter. And I just really appreciate everybody's patience. And if you have not received what you need by the end of July, please email me and I will check on it for you and make it right and do what I can to get what you need. Thank you for your support and your patience.
- **What about damaged or lost certificates?** Any time you get anything damaged in the mail, any certificate, always email me. I am happy to replace those at no cost. I can also mail those to your home address. Or if you want me to send you an E file for certificates, I'm happy to do that as well. But the only thing with those certificates is that they won't have the official Phi Alpha seal.
- **Where can certificates/merchandise be mailed?** Tammy can mail certificates/merchandise to the home address of the advisor. For students: there [will be a shipping cost for each individual shipment. Students will need to mail the merchandise form/payment \(form is provided on our website\) to the Home Office until our electronic merchandise cart is available on our website.](#)
- When 2019-2020 phi alpha awards(e.g., best chapter award etc,) will be announced? The application window for [awards is extended through July 31st. Awards will be announced the first of September.](#)

Inductions

Online applications.

- Student applications. Some advisors have created their own using google forms, JotForms, excel.
- **Would home office create an individual student application template?** One that is modifiable so that chapters can edit for their own needs. Yes, [Tammy has an individual membership template available for advisors to modify for student applications.](#)

Induction delays/cancellations

- Many chapters shifted their inductions to online. Others didn't have time to do so. Some are planning to invite their graduates back next year.
- **Is it too late to allow 2020 spring graduates membership into Phi Alpha? What about applications for summer graduates.** No, it's not too late to induct spring/summer graduates. Phi Alpha has an open enrollment policy. So anytime that your student or you catch somebody that maybe didn't get a certificate at some point in time. I'm always available to issue certificates, as always, to approve that they have met the criteria.

Virtual induction ceremony comments/ideas

- We did our induction in the spring via Zoom and it was a great experience. Each student brought a candle to the screen and we did a full ceremony with a speaker. Certificates will be mailed.

- GMU convened a virtual zoom based ceremony, had them raise their hands for the pledge (and turn to those around them), made a list of names and read each one, and convened it just before the virtual Dept graduation. And of course - we did a walk-through with the IT gurus beforehand because there is always a glitch ;) ANd you just reminded me we had students type in I DO as well - and there were some really great encouraging comments as well.
- At NSU Louisiana, we have a large percentage of online students. These students loved the online induction ceremony.
- We do our induction ceremony online. So I meet with the officers in a in a short meeting ahead of time. And they all take pieces of the script that they read. And we practice it. I have a candle that I make sure when I lighted that it's in camera so everyone can see it. And then we've also got a little gif camera flickering kind of on the screen.
- And so we show the screen that has the names of all the people who are being inducted. They usually give them the option to be off camera if they want to, because I feel like it's their group and if they want to be off camera. So it's kind of different rules than in the classroom. But when we all when the president calls out their names, the group, the group gets on camera. And then when they're asked to say, you know, support the tenants of the of the organization, then they all type.
- Jay Gabbard: And I'm going to record a virtual induction thing that anybody who wants to access can access it.
- **What do we do about signatures on the certificates since the officers are not able to sign?**
From Jay Gabbard : I signed in one signature spot since one of our officers moved back to Estonia! From Laura : What I have done is ask the officers if I have their permission to sign their name, and then I sign them.
- **Has a here ever been a National induction and if not could it be considered. groups could be inducted by school and program?**

Induction timing comments

- We do Fall, Winter and Spring inductions
- We induct in junior year, so students can be active during senior year.
- I think it is important to induct after first semester for those Advanced Standing MSW students who can only be active one semester during grad school.
- We induct in junior year too; some students meet the eligibility in senior year and are inducted at the time.
- We do Spring but again that limits advanced standing student participation so I may do Fall and Spring.

Recruitment and Engagement

Recruitment

- Start approaching students when they're sophomores. They have a second semester sophomore. They should be all eligible to join. Then you will have them all the junior year and all the senior year.
- First of all, recruiting members and making sure we have enough members because it really is a vital part of our park community that we stay connected to the food pantry. And then once we recruit those members, them into the volunteer work any way we can, when we're largely operate operating virtually we pantry is still we're still delivering food to students once a week much. So that's going to be our biggest challenge, I think, from a chapter perspective, as far as having enough students and being able to complete the service that we normally complete get in.
- Drop into online classes and recruit?

- **Can we talk a bit about the alumni recruitment and participation ?**
- Our chapter has a benefactor pay the inductees membership fee.

Officers

- **How long do chapters have officers hold office (one year or per semester)?** Offices are for one year.
- **But if the student is graduating in fall, is ok to have that person for one semester**
- So I just sent out actually basically a e-mail to the officers today saying, OK, get ready. I need you to meet and these are the tasks that you need to set. And so they will set up a poll for the members to ask the members what's the most convenient day in time for them to meet?
 - They will emphasize how the different ways that students can participate.
- **I'd like more info on how MSW chapters integrate new BSW members on arrival into advanced standing. Just welcome at orientation and encourage to run for office or something else?** Susan- our BSW's going straight into MSW often run for office at the end of the BSW year so they can be on the board as an MSW.
- **Is there a minimum number of students required for a chapter?** Yes, the minimum is five (5) students, including the required collegiate officers. The officers of each chapter shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer (or a combined Secretary-Treasurer position).

Engagement/Meetings

- Online platforms. We shifted from Adobe Connect to Zoom and the students LOVE it;
- So we want people to come to meetings, but sometimes they want to participate, but they are just not available. They have other commitments. So we would record it. And then we ask them, if you want to get counted as having participated, then you watch the recording within a week and then you give feedback to the secretary treasurer about the recording.
- Our Chapter has a Canvas LMS page as well to communicate and house documents, meeting recordings, etc.
- And then we have speakers. It's a real benefit to be an online for having speakers, because you can have people come from all over the country. So you're not limited to just the people in your community.
- One of the things that we do every year that's fairly popular and I hesitate to say this because I'm afraid everyone's going to rush down there and do the same thing. But I have someone from ASWB who comes and talks about the licensing exam.
- Online Jeopardy! And I had I had set it up ahead of time. And it was the theme was the code of ethics. They liked playing the game.
- We've also given away shirts before to encourage attendance so we would raffle them off.
- Combining in-person and online attendees. If you do that, I recommend that you have a moderator who can help keep the online people connected to the group because it's the sort of this natural human inclination that you speak to the people who are in front of you.
- Concerns about their (and their families') stress/mental health and how that may affect their participation in Phi Alpha. Jay noted that he is considering an online service project where his students will create a resource (e.g. website)

Service

Service requirements

- **Are there mandatory Phi Alpha activities to be done each year?** There aren't any mandatory activities but, in the spirit of Phi Alpha, we definitely encourage chapters to do service projects.

Service activity concerns

- But our chapter is so active within the department as sort of like a group that sort of nurtures the faculty and their fellow students. We purchase food and treats and go into classrooms. The students write letters and bring cupcakes to faculty during finals week. I mean, they do so much for our department just in terms of culture that I'm really having to as we're talking, I thought, oh, my gosh, what am I going to do with this piece of what Phi Alpha does for our department as we move into online?
- I mean, we even I mean, we have tables at all of our events. We're handing out things and like I said, free T-shirts and stuff. And one of the things that are we have a real tight knit culture.

Service activity ideas

- We've started a program where Phi Alpha members will be "mentors" to Freshman and Sophomore.
- The SW Club sponsors our food pantry. We started a yearly workshop and hope to continue it.
- We also implemented virtual volunteering since COVID-19 impacted a lot of different areas.
- Our service project in the spring was - collecting masks for senior adults that are members of a local community center. Students signed up online to say how many masks they would donate (they could buy them, make them, or ask someone to make them). Then we had a couple of collection dates and times in a parking lot where they passed by and dropped the masks in a box to stay physically distant. Then, the masks were delivered to the director of the senior center. It worked out well.
- The first thing that we tried was we went through one of these online organizations where you design your own t shirt and then you sell them and the t shirt manufacturer gets a cut and then they cut you a check. And then what they did was they voted on the organization that they wanted to donate the check to. So they designed T-shirts that said Phi Alpha on them because they had pride in their organization. I like to doing that at work. It worked out.
- Random Acts of Kindness Week, which is in February. And there's a Web site where random acts of kindness dot org, and they have lots of suggestions and calendars and activities and things that I really liked about this was it let everybody do individual things, but it was also based on what their community needed. So we have students all across the country. And so what one community needed and not in another one didn't. So we had people who put together kits and took them to a homeless shelter. We had people who delivered donuts to the local police station.
- We had there was one person who spent four hours in the parking lot of Sam's Club taking the carts in to help out the person who was supposed to be doing that. It was like it was like freezing cold weather. We had one person who cleaned up the dog poop from every place in her apartment complex to make it better for everybody. That was the that was the one that is the most memorable to me. Mm hmm. So anyway, we will we will probably do that again.
- A national service project would be great that anyone could do if they wanted.
- Our Phi Alpha students, a couple of them, took on the project of creating a comprehensive community resource list for students at the university and faculty, actually. And we've had great success with that. We've posted on the Web site and distributed to all the students, and it's been a big help.

- **Is it possible to have a list of ideas resources of community projects created that you can disperse to advisors?** Yes, we have some ideas available in the chapter handbook but will be updating the handbook with ideas for virtual projects.

Competition/collaboration with other social work associations.

- Yes. It becomes competitive. Social Work Club does a lot of events, which leaves Phi Alpha at times in the cold. Collaboration and communication is key.
- Competition / Collaboration between Phi Alpha and other Social Work Clubs/Association type student orgs would be a great topic for future discussion!
- Working with the social work club advisor is helpful
- I really have had good luck of having officers of student associations meet with Phi Alpha officers. All three of those groups converse about who's doing what re: goals/projects. This also addresses officer overlap between associations (ie, the president in one group may be then the secretary in another, etc.). The students have found it to work out well because they can collaborate more easily on the on the projects and the work that they're going to do.