

PHI SIGMA TAU Installation Ceremony For New Chapters

INSTALLING OFFICER: It is a pleasure to be here to install <State & Greek Letter> chapter of Phi Sigma Tau, the International Honor Society in Philosophy.

The National Honor Society was founded in 1930 as Alpha Kappa Alpha, with chapters in Pennsylvania and Maryland. In 1955 it was incorporated as Phi Sigma Tau, and began to assume national status. Two years later the organization was accepted as a full participating honor society in the Association of College Honor Societies. Growth of the Society has been continual; and, with the installation of the chapter at <Institution>, we have <Number> chapters nationally.

As defined by Article II of the Phi Sigma Tau Constitution:

The objects of the society are: (1) to serve as a means of awarding distinction to students having high scholarship and personal interest in philosophy; (2) to promote student interest in research and advanced study in this field; (3) to provide opportunities for the publication of student research papers of merit; (4) to encourage a professional spirit and friendship among those who have displayed marked ability in this field; (5) and to popularize interest in philosophy among the general collegiate public.

In keeping with these purposes, the National Office awards certificates of membership to students who have met the Society's high requirements of scholarship; it publishes a journal, *Dialogue*, for student papers of high merit; it encourages through *Dialogue* and the *PST Newsletter* a spirit of interest and friendship among students in philosophy at chapters throughout the United States; and it disseminates information concerning significant programs developed at these institutions.

The Standards of Phi Sigma Tau are high, membership being conferred in strict compliance with the standards established by the Association of College Honor Societies. Reception into membership is consummated without formal pledge or secret order training. Collegiate chapters may be established only at accredited and degree-granting institutions of recognized merit which offer such courses in philosophy as constitute a "philosophy major" or its equivalent. The institution must possess qualifications sufficient to justify confidence in the future success of its prospective chapter. Charter petitions must be endorsed by the Society's Executive Council, and ratified by vote of all of its active chapters.

The <Name of Institution> has fully met the requirements of the Society. The Philosophy Department fulfills all requirements imposed by the National Office. It is obvious that excellence is not only encouraged but achieved, both among students and by faculty. It is my happy privilege to announce that the Executive Council has endorsed the charter petition, which was then ratified by the Society's chapters. I shall now read the letter of authorization from the National Office:

Phi Sigma Tau: International Honor Society in Philosophy

<Reading of the Letter and Greeting>

Will the official representative of this institution, the faculty advisor, and chapter officers please come forward.

<To the Representative>

It is both my pleasure and privilege, as <Office or Designate of Phi Sigma Tau>, to present to you this charter establishing at <Institution> the <State Name & Greek Designation> chapter of Phi Sigma Tau.

<To the Chapter Officers>

As officers of the new chapter, you are cognizant of the duties of officers outlined in Article XIV of the PST Constitution. Do you accept these obligations, fully aware of your responsibilities to serve the major goals of Phi Sigma Tau?

<Answer: I DO.>

In recognition of your assumption of these duties, I therefore install you as officers in the <State & Greek Designation> chapter of Phi Sigma Tau. The National Office pledges its support to you in all of your efforts.

<To the Faculty Advisor>

The function of the Advisor is not purely nominal, as it is in many organizations. Rather, the Advisor serves as a liaison between the chapter, Philosophy Department, and National Office. The duties of the Chapter Advisor are outlined in Article XIV of the PST Constitution. Do you, as Faculty Advisor, accept the obligations of your office?

<Answer: I DO.>

In recognition of your willingness to assume these obligations, I therefore install you as Faculty Advisor of this chapter. My congratulations to the chapter and its officers on your acceptance of these responsibilities, and my pledge to you of the support of the National Office in every way that it may assist you. The <State & Greek Designation> of Phi Sigma Tau at <Institution> is now officially installed.

If desired, the chapter may proceed directly to the initiation ceremony for accepting new members into Phi Sigma Tau.
