



2016-2017

Senate

May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Bill: SRSD050127

Sponsor: Fiona Sutherland, School of Business Senator

Co-Sponsors: Sophia Troeh, School of Arts & Sciences Senator; Kau‘i Ho‘opi‘i, School of Education Senator; Isabelle Lada, School of Nursing and Human Physiology; Joshua Budig, School of Engineering and Applied Science; Molly Wilson, Arts & Sciences Senator.

Title: Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honors Society) Resolution of Action

Purpose: To provide a blueprint for subsequent committee action in support of the revitalization of Pi Sigma Alpha.

Text:

Section 1: Whereas, the School of Arts & Sciences has openly expressed a commitment to academic excellence and towards offering “transformative learning experiences that enable students to make a difference in our world<sup>1</sup>.”

Section 2: Whereas, academic honors societies provide several valuable opportunities for students with regards to scholarships, essay competitions, research and leadership positions within their local chapter and the national organization.

Section 3: Whereas, the acceptance of a student into a respective honors society signifies the degree of commitment to his/her field of study. Moreover, student engagement within the local

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gonzaga.edu/Campus-Resources/Offices-and-Services-A-Z/University-Relations/Giving/What-to-Support/Academics.asp>).

chapter, and the possible attainment of leadership positions within the organization, will provide valuable points of discussion in planning for future graduate school placement.

Section 4: Whereas, GSBA Senate voted on the “School of Arts & Sciences Honor Society Support & Recognition Resolution” on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The resolution passed with the required two-thirds majority vote (20-0-0).

Section 5: Whereas, the Committee on Academics recently became aware of an initiative from the Political Science Department pertaining to the development of a political science honors society.

Section 6: Whereas, a political science honors society previously existed through a Gonzaga chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, but has since become inactive, without any current membership or communication platform.

Section 7: Whereas, Pi Sigma Alpha offers a variety of opportunities for both undergraduate and graduate students to become more involved in their particular field of study. Such opportunities include four McManus Washington Internship Scholarship, which is a merit based scholarship with provisions for students who demonstrate financial need.

Section 8: Whereas, Pi Sigma Alpha offers grants to university chapters to facilitate society events, including speaker’s series, debates, conferences and community engagement.

Section 9: Therefore, GSBA recommends the following blueprint to support the development of a political science honors society within the College of Arts & Sciences:

*The Senate Committee on Academics shall maintain communication with the respective Political Science faculty who have expressed interest in the revitalization of a Pi Sigma Alpha Chapter.*

*The Senate Committee on Academics shall survey student feedback through the collection of testimonials from political science majors.*

*The Senate Committee on Academics shall facilitate a collaborative network between the proposed honor society and the Undergraduate Center for Research and Creative Inquiry for the purpose of developing academic advancement opportunities for members of the society.*

*The Senate Committee on Academics shall include the revitalized political science honor society in itinerary for the Honor Society Informational Event for prospective students. The date and content for the event shall be organized by the Senate Committee on Academics.*

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President

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Speaker of the Senate