

Greetings fellow Sigma Gamma Epsilon members,

As most universities are now moving to "alternative learning environments" in an effort to slow/stop the spread of COVID 19, most students will be completing their education this semester remotely. While this is necessary given the circumstances, it presents a break in the continuity of many aspects of society, including in the maintenance of *our* society. In order to keep Sigma Gamma Epsilon strong and thriving, we have made the decision to temporarily modify certain aspects of what would be the normal tasks to do in any Spring semester. Please read through and act accordingly so that *your* chapter of Sigma Gamma Epsilon stays strong for the future.

1) officers for the next academic year should be elected now while the current officers and members are still in contact. As most are on Spring Break right now, time can be given to thinking who would make good leaders for your chapter. According to the Constitution of this Society, elections are to be held but there is no stipulation as to how, so an electronic ballot and voting is allowed. Waiting until the summer or later is not a good idea, especially now.

2) according to the Constitution, meetings are to be held no less than once a month during the school year. This rule shall be temporarily suspended for this academic year given the situation. IF, however, you would like to conduct electronic meetings, by all means do so!!

3) Initiations of new members - Chapters are not required to conduct the initiation ceremony, but new members can be elected into the society. Chapters can choose to do one of the following after proper submission of dues/fees and paperwork:

- mail the certificates to the new member(s) without a ceremony
- mail the certificates to new member(s) and hold a ceremony in the Fall
- set up a Zoom/Skype/whatever ceremony and then mail the certificates
- mail the certificates to graduating member(s) and hold a ceremony in the Fall for the remaining members

Advisors, if you wish to have your Chapter's shingles, membership cards, pins, etc. sent to a different address this spring, please notify Paula Even at even@sgeearth.org.

4) Quality Chapter and Service Award service hours - as most chapters engage in service activities when the weather starts to get warm and/or have had the time shortened as to when chapter members can come together to do service, the number of service hours required for each member for each award have been temporarily altered. In order to qualify for the Quality Chapter Award, there should be 1.5 service hours per member. In order to qualify for the Service Award, there should be 4 service hours per member.

5) Tarr Awards - these awards should still be given to worthy recipients. This year, however, the chapter can elect to have the certificate/check sent directly to the recipient instead of to the university. If this is to be done, please email this request to Paula Even at even@sgeearth.org when the Tarr Award paperwork is submitted.

6) Graduation cords - it is unknown at my university and I'm sure yours as to whether or not graduation ceremonies will be held. Members who want to buy cords, however, are still more than welcome to do so according to the guidelines/deadlines on the website.

If you have any questions, please let me or Paula know. Be safe and healthy!
Diane

Diane Burns
President, Sigma Gamma Epsilon