**Ritual Committee**

Chair: *Harry Marcelin*

Members: *Calin Cantrell, Sanaz Farhadian, Alexis Gaggini, Matt Irwin, Stephanie Jacobson, Natalie Kokta, Christyn Mullen, Zach Rivers, Janelle Rychlick, Allison Strobel, and Joseph Walker*

Charges:

1. Continue to promote the use of the Graduation Ritual at Province Assemblies with a goal of >90% of all Collegiate Chapters using the Graduation Ritual, and continue to track Ritual use through an annual survey.
2. Promote the use of Kappa Psi graduation cords and/or medallions as gifts for the Graduation Ritual.
3. Ensure that all Chapters have the 2013 version of the Ritual books by Spring of 2014.
4. Work with all Chapters that do not have an Insignia to develop a plan to acquire one.
5. Work with Chapters that do not have sashes to develop a plan to acquire them.
6. Develop a general process to assist Chapters in acquiring the robes used for the Ritual.
7. Complete the Origins of Ritual Characters document initiated by the previous Ritual Committee.
8. Consider finding alternate vendors for our ritualistic regalia that can provide similar quality at a lower cost.
9. Promote the Chapter and Province Ritual Checklist and ensure that Province Chaplains are promoting this at their respective Assemblies.
10. Consider filming other aspects of the Ritual as a training video for Chapters.
11. Educate Chapters on how to perform the Ritual properly and the reasons behind certain aspects of our Ritual.

Brothers of Kappa Psi,

It is my pleasure to present the 2013 – 2015 International Ritual Committee Report. I have had the opportunity to work with some of the finest, hardest working brothers as they have worked diligently in completing the tasks ironed out by Grand Regent Gupta. I would like to formally thank him as well as the IRC in being able to chair this committee. I am proud to report that the committee has made progress in each of these charges. It is my hope that the fraternity will benefit from these actions.

1. The promotion of the graduation ritual at province rituals for collegiate chapters to perform before commencement was achieved. Announcements were made at all province meetings via live or written correspondence from the Grand Ritualist. In addition to this, province chaplains also worked with collegiate chaplains to ensure that the graduation rituals were being promoted. Finally, a ritual survey was sent out to the fraternity which highlighted the importance of practice the ritual survey. Survey results were calculated and out of the 40 collegiate chapters that answered the question on the survey, all 40 chapters responded saying that they conduct the graduation ritual.
2. With regards to the promotion of the Kappa Psi Graduation Cords and/or medallions, work was done in 2013 / 2014 to spread the news about these items during correspondence from the Grand Ritualist during province meetings, and emails to the Kappa Psi listserv from the International Ritual Committee about these items and the directions on how to obtain them. Province Chaplains also assisted in spreading the information to all collegiate chapters. These actions helped promote the promotion of the graduation cords and medallions.
3. With regards to the obtainment of the ritual books by all collegiate chapters, out of the 55 chapters who answered the question, 53 chapters had answered that they had the book. The 3 chapters who answered no received follow up by the ritual committee to obtain the ritual book.
4. With regards to the insignia, 38 chapters indicated that they already had the insignia in their possession. 15 chapters responded stating that they did not have an insignia. The ritual committee followed up with the 15 chapters during the rest of the year. At this time, 4 out of the 15 have since purchased an insignia. The responses of the 15 chapters for their plan mostly responded that they were going to use either fundraising or existing funds as their way to come up with finds to purchase the insignia. In addition to having members from the International Ritual Committee follow up with the chapters, province chaplains also followed up with individual chapters in the form of province chaplain calls to assist in obtaining the materials.
5. With regards to the sashes, 37 chapters had at least one of the sashes and 16 chapters stated that they did not have any of the sashes. Based on these results, chapters were followed up on by the committee to come up with plans on how to obtain the sashes for their use in the future.
6. With regards to robes, out of the chapters who responded, 49 of the chapters indicated that they did not have the robes. In following up with the chapters, the number 1 reason why chapters did not have the robes was cost. Fundraising was the majority of the feedback that chapters gave in plans on how to obtain these goals.
7. With regards to the Origins of Characters document, the document is in the final stages of revisions and will be ready for publication in the near future. This document will be an additional resource to the ritual in order to help Brothers better understand the characters of the Ritual.
8. With regards to the robes in the ritual, as discussed in charge 6, the cost of the robes is a major deterrent for collegiate chapters to obtain the paraphernalia. The International Ritual Committee is currently working with a vendor for a request for proposal for to produce KY’s ritual robes. Based on the prices for the robes, if it is in the favor of the fraternity to change vendors, we will move forward and change vendors. The information should be presented the International Executive Committee in the near future. The goal is that a change of vendors to one that can provide more affordable prices will increase the opportunities for chapters to purchase the ritual robes.
9. With regards to promoting the province and chapter ritual checklists, a chaplain’s guide was developed and distributed to the province chaplains. It is with this province guide that province chaplains would work with collegiate chaplains in order to help educate chaplains on their roles and duties. In the chaplain guide, the province and chapter checklists are highlighted and explained.
10. With regards to the filming of the ritual, the International Ritual Committee recommends to build upon the current ritual video by adding the following parts to the ritual video
    1. Graduation Ritual
    2. Pledge Oath / Initiation of Graduate Brothers
    3. Ritual for the Instillation of Chapter Officers
    4. Ritual for Opening Chapter Meeting / Closing Chapter Meeting
    5. Ritual for Grand Agora or Memorial Exercises

These items would be added one by one until all of the items in the ritual has been covered. Also, it was recommended that the current ritual originals be digitally remastered and kept so that there is a historical link that will be kept to our ritual.

1. With regards to the education of the ritual to our current brothers, the Chaplain Guide was introduced in 2014 to our province chaplains (see question 9.) The purpose of the chaplain guide is to give guidance to chaplains about the ritual to supplement what is written in the constitution as well as what is in the ritual. Between the chaplain guide and the origins of characters document, these items will give Brothers a better understanding of our ritual and a strong foundation for ritual education.

On behalf of the International Ritual Committee 2013-2015, I would like to thank you all for your time in looking over our charges and the work the committee has done in these past 2 years. It is our hope that we have been able to provide the fraternity with guidance in ritualistic activities. I would again like to thank the committee for the hard work that has been placed on completing the charges of this committee. I would also like to thank the province and collegiate chaplains that have worked hard in educating the brothers of the fraternity in the ritualistic activities that bind us. Respectfully Submitted

International Ritual Committee 2013 - 2015