

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OF
THETA TAU

C. W. BRITZIUS
2440 FRANKLIN AVENUE
ST. PAUL 14, MINNESOTA

November 14, 1956

A. D. Hinckley,
Grand Regent,
90 Morningside Drive,
New York 27, N. Y.

Re: Chapter Inspection
ALPHA CHAPTER
University of Minnesota

Dear Brother Hinckley:

On October 26th I made an inspection of Alpha Chapter of our fraternity as a representative of the Executive Council.

At the time of this inspection the weekly Chapter meeting was being held. Previously on a number of occasions I had attended formal initiations. A previous contact with the Chapter was made on October 15th when the Founders Day Banquet was held, at which time most of the members of the active Chapter were present.

The charter was framed and was displayed in the meeting room of the Chapter house. The fraternity properties were stored in a locked metal compartment which is in the Chapter house. Regent Tschida has the ritual. It is in good condition because a new one had been obtained only recently. A copy of the constitution was on hand. Because of a recent letter written by Brother Pope to the Chapter, Regent Tschida is preparing all recent changes in the constitution and will soon have it up to date. I will try to remember to see that it is done. The Chapter Roll was filled out, and had some additional unfilled pages. The minute book is kept with the other properties. There was a supply of pledge forms on hand.

Special consideration was given to the general operation of the Chapter as to procedure. At the start of the meeting I was properly examined and was asked to sign the minute book, and to give the official password. As was mentioned before, I had previous occasions to attend initiations. The standard robes were used. The purchase of the standard badge is required, pledge buttons are used. A supply was on hand. Members are chosen on an individual basis by invitation to an open meeting at which time an outside person is speaker. After pledging, the new men are given specific duties and are examined.

Alpha Chapter is still occupying its old house at 324 Walnut S. E. in Minneapolis, which a little over a year ago was taken over by the University by condemnation. The Alumni organized as the Theta Tau Association of Minnesota, purchased a lot on the campus and have plans completed for a new Chapter house. The start of construction awaits the obtaining of a building permit, which has been withheld up to now because the lot was possibly situated in the path of a proposed freeway. It is hoped that at any time now the new house can be started, for it is understood that a location for the freeway has been decided upon that will not necessitate the taking of our lot.

The scholastic standing of the Chapter is fairly good. The members have a point ratio of 1.6333. The average for the Institute of Technology is 1.30. Men belonging to Honorary Fraternities are as follows:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| James Foley | Eta Kappa No |
| James Milner | Sigma Gamma Tau |
| Hotten A. Elleby | Chi Epsilon |
| Frank Massey | (Tau Beta Pi |
| | (Pi Tau Sigma |
| | (Beta Gamma Sigma |

An analysis was made of the Treasurer's accounts. The Spring report showed that \$557 was owed by the actives and \$473 by the alumni. The condition has been improved so that the actives now owe \$311.65 and the alumni \$503.08. It must be said to the credit of the Chapter that the actives have prepaid \$579.14 and the alumni \$18.40. I will also endeavor to keep in touch with the Chapter's financial condition to see if I can help improve it.

The Chapter was reminded of the beneficial aspects of carrying on a professional program. Such a program is carried on with varying emphasis. After the Chapter meeting which I attended, the speaker was Everett Taft, President of the Engineering Union of the Minneapolis-Honeywell Company.

At the time of the inspection, the total number of initiates to date was 462. There are presently 25 actives and one pledge. The next initiation will be held in January. There is one member, Dick Catura, who has become inactive, apparently because of lack of interest. Another member, Fred Hallberg, is inactive because he transferred to philosophy. The present honorary members are Brothers Kersten, Lee, Eggers, Schroefper and Joseph. The honorary members take a varying degree of interest in the fraternity. Brother Kersten is the Chapter Advisor.

The initiation fee is \$37.50 which includes a badge and subscription to the GEAR. Town men pay \$11.00 dues divided as follows: \$5.50 for Chapter, \$2.00 for social, and \$3.50 for parlor. House men pay \$25.00 of which \$17.50 is for rent, \$5.50 for Chapter and \$2.00 for social.

The present enrollment of the Institute of Technology at the University of Minnesota is about 3820, divided approximately as follows:

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|--|---|-----|
| Civil | = | 359 |
| Mechanical | = | 920 |
| Electrical | = | 968 |
| Aeronautical | = | 358 |
| Chemical | = | 320 |
| Mines | = | 191 |
| Agricultural | = | 34 |
| Architects, Mathematics, Physics and Miscellaneous accounts for the remainder of the total. | | |

The general feeling of the University toward fraternities is cordial. The Chapter feels that the Department of Student Affairs is interfering with their operation more than is necessary, but I hardly feel that this is the case. There are a number of competitive fraternities on the campus which include: Triangle, Kappa Eta Kappa, Alpha Rho Chi, Alpha Chi Sigma and Phi Delta Chi.

The Chapter has a good alumni roster, which has been developed because of the solicitation of funds from the alumni necessitated by the proposed construction of the new Chapter House.

Brother Kersten, the Chapter advisor, is an honorary member who was initiated to membership in January '53. He is a young man of considerable talent, but does not have the advantage of having been a member during his college days. He is not able to attend all of the Chapter meetings, but attends quite frequently.

As to personnel, I would say that the Chapter rates fairly well. The membership was down a couple of years ago, but because of the interest in the new house, rushing has been carried on to build a good chapter. The present membership is about the average of the last 25 years. At no time has the Chapter been up to the maximum number allowed.

In H and T,



C. W. Britzius

CWB:MJ

2 cc: Grand Scribe Pope
1 cc: Councilor Schraeder