



**ALPHA SIGMA PHI FRATERNITY**  
to **BETTER** the MAN.

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Grand Council, Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity

CC: Gordy Heminger, President and Chief Executive Officer

FROM: Sam Franzoia, Director of Provisional Chapter Development

DATE: April 8, 2021

RE: University at Buffalo Chartering Recommendation

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**Location:** Buffalo, New York

**It is the recommendation of the Fraternity Staff that the Grand Council approves the Charter for the University of Buffalo Chapter.** By approving the recommendation for the Gamma Epsilon Provisional Chapter and bringing them back to the ranks of our chapters, it continues to improve the overall quality of our organization. The Provisional Chapter has achieved all benchmarks as outlined below:

**Brotherhood Benchmark:** The Provisional Chapter had at least one brotherhood event per month (in-person or virtual) during the academic year that was substance-free and attended by at least 50% of the members.

- During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Gamma Epsilon Provisional Chapter held many brotherhood events that fulfilled this requirement. They put a large focus on continuing brotherhood events throughout the summer of 2020 to keep members of the Provisional Chapter engaged, mainly through multiple virtual events. In May and July, Gamma Epsilon hosted Rocket League video game tournaments amongst their members. In June, the men of Gamma Epsilon hosted a Call of Duty Tournament, and in July, they hosted a virtual movie night. They also had smaller virtual events throughout the summer such as a recurring bi-weekly Virtual Poker Night.
- During the fall 2021 semester, the Provisional Chapter was able to host a variety of socially distanced in-person events as well as virtual events for brothers that couldn't be there in person. They began the semester in August with a brotherhood hike to the Eternal Falls Flame in Erie, New York. In September, their large group brotherhood event was a Virtual Hot Ones Challenge, where the brothers challenged each other over Zoom to eat the hottest wings they could find.
- Throughout the remainder of the fall, they continued hosting multiple video game tournaments due to the success they had seen with these brotherhood events over the summer. During the month of October, they hosted multiple Rocket League Tournaments as well as Call of Duty Tournaments. In November, they shifted their focus to a Fifa Tournament since it was something they hadn't done



before, and then ended the month with a Garage Band event. Before everyone went home for winter break, the men of Gamma Epsilon hosted an in-person Poker and Board Game night.

- The spring began for them in February of 2021, where they kicked off the semester by hosting another virtual Call of Duty Tournament. In March, the Provisional Chapter went to a local park where they hosted a basketball tournament that the entire brotherhood was able to attend. They ended the month with an in-person Guitar Hero Tournament.
- Gamma Epsilon also has multiple upcoming brotherhood events throughout the month of April, such as an in-person Mario Kart Tournament, a chapter-wide Video Game Olympics, and a Kickball Tournament to end the semester.

**Recruitment Benchmark:** Group has shown the ability to recruit through the changes brought by COVID-19.

- Gamma Epsilon currently has a roster of 41 initiated members. The IFC chapter sizes on campus range from 20-90 members, with an average chapter size of 30. The Provisional Chapter has demonstrated the ability to consistently recruit on their own, bringing in 29 new members over the last four semesters. We are confident that Gamma Epsilon will consistently have a roster between 35-60 members.

**Community Engagement Benchmark:** The Provisional Chapter can show how they have engaged with the campus and community. They can describe what they want to be known for on campus and how they are working towards it.

- The Gamma Epsilon Provisional Chapter prides themselves on their involvement in the on-campus community and more specifically, the fraternity and sorority community. In June of 2020, Gamma Epsilon was able to raise \$420 in total donations from both their brothers and members of the community which they donated to the Black Lives Matter Global Network Foundation through ActBlue.
- In October of 2020, the Provisional Chapter co-hosted a philanthropy event with the sorority Phi Sigma Rho to raise money and spread awareness for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation by selling t-shirts and accepting donations via Venmo. In total, they were able to raise \$450 to donate to the BCRF. Later in the month of October, the men of Gamma Epsilon participated in Alpha Phi's social media philanthropy event in support of Breast Cancer Awareness, where they were able to raise \$200 to donate toward the total amount raised at the event. The Provisional Chapter also put together a community trash pickup where they had 20 of their brothers participating in a 3-hour community walkthrough in which the group walked around the streets near their houses and campus picking up any trash and litter they saw.
- In November, they supported Alpha Epsilon Pi's Challah fundraiser by going to the Hillel House of Buffalo right next to campus. In December, the Provisional Chapter partnered with Delta Phi Epsilon for their Cancer Research philanthropy event by doing a social media fundraiser where they were able to raise \$125. In February, the men of Gamma Epsilon supported Phi Sigma Rho by attending a Blaze Pizza fundraiser they were hosting.
- In March, the Provisional Chapter continued to support their community by organizing a can and bottle drive to raise money for the local Buffalo Veteran Affairs (VA) Medical Center – which is currently raising funds to be able to build additions to their hospital. Gamma Epsilon spent time walking through neighborhoods near campus asking residents for spare cans and bottles, as well as helping spread awareness for the purpose behind the fundraiser. In total, the Provisional Chapter raised over \$150.00 for the VA Medical Center, which was almost 100 pounds of cans and bottles collected.
- The Provisional Chapter also has many members involved in other student organizations and athletic teams at the University of Buffalo. One of their members is the captain of the Water Polo team, and they have brothers on the Rugby, Boxing, Spikeball, Wrestling, and Ski teams. They also have members who are a part of the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Institute of Industrial Systems Engineers.
- Upcoming events for Gamma Epsilon include a Community Cleanup for the South Campus in April, and a Brother of the Month competition where the winner chooses which of our philanthropic partners the Provisional Chapter will support in their upcoming Venmo Board initiative on Instagram.

**Financial Benchmark:** All men in the Provisional Chapter are paid in full or are on an approved payment plan. The Provisional Chapter utilizes Omega Financial for dues collection and dues are relative to the IFC average.



The Provisional Chapter should have zero debt and a line-item budget in Omega Financial, including costs for the Chartering Ceremony.

- Each member of the Provisional Chapter has been paying \$175 per semester in local dues since the pandemic began and will begin charging more in the fall of 2021 as restrictions are lifted. All men are either on an approved payment plan or have paid their dues in full, with a collection rate of 83%. The Provisional Chapter has set their chartering date for October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and provided a line-item budget for the event.
- The Provisional Chapter is current on payments to the Fraternity and has a detailed line-item budget in Omega Financial.

**Accountability Benchmark:** The Provisional Chapter has member expectations and communicates them to all of their members. The Provisional Chapter has a trained and fully functioning Standards Board.

- The Provisional Chapter has a fully functioning standards board comprised of 4 board members and the Vice President of Standards. The standards board was initially trained by Fraternity Staff and goes through retraining every semester in the areas of how to conduct a hearing, how to think of creative/educational sanctions, and how to be impartial toward their brothers.
- The Gamma Epsilon Provisional Chapter has set expectations for its members that focus on the areas of attendance, academics, adhering to bylaws, fraternity finances, philanthropic participation, and abiding by COVID-19 restrictions. These expectations are communicated to the brothers continuously at meetings throughout the semester.

**Scholarship Benchmark:** The Provisional Chapter GPA meets or exceeds the IFC average in the semester prior to chartering.

- The Gamma Epsilon Provisional Chapter had a cumulative GPA of 3.05 in the fall of 2020. Since the Provisional Chapter is not affiliated with the campus, information is not available on the average IFC GPA. The Provisional Chapter's new member GPA from the fall of 2020 was also a 3.08.

**Grand Chapter Advisor Relationship Benchmark:** Group has a positive relationship with their Grand Chapter Advisor and secured a positive, written recommendation from the Grand Chapter Advisor.

- Attached



I write this letter of recommendation on behalf of the brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity at the University at Buffalo, as they seek to become a chartered organization on the university's campus. I have worked with the men in provisional status for eight months now and have seen their dedication and growth individually and as a group with their work as brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity. The chapter has achieved academic success throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, including earning a 3.0 GPA as a collective group.

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic that plagued the past year, students had to find alternative ways to restructure their programs and engage with others, while also facing personal barriers. The men of the Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity at the University at Buffalo have defied all odds through their leadership abilities amid the pandemic.

As many students chose to telecommute this year, the chapter was still able to build connections and maintain relationships with students through virtual programs, such as JackBox Games, Among Us, and utilizing discord. In addition to the virtual events hosted, socially distant, in-person events like Kickball events and Poker Nights allowed the brothers to have face-to-face interactions. The chapter was also able to increase its recruitment numbers this year, doubling from five young men to eleven from last semester.

By utilizing their resources and maintaining relationships with other student organizations, the chapter has hosted events to give back to their community. They have done so by showing their support through fundraising for the Black Lives Matter Movement and Breast Cancer Awareness, in addition to cleaning up Buffalo's streets through Trash Pick-Ups. They consistently strive for growth and have achieved that through event planning, building connections, mentorship, and are developing action plans for the upcoming years.

I believe that the work they have done, the goals they have accomplished continue to prove that they have what it takes to advance to chartered status. As their Chapter Advisor, they have my full support in becoming a chartered chapter of Alpha Sigma Phi Fraternity. I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

Sincerely,

Cassie Sanzotta