

Region Q Sectional Conferences Policy

Adapted from predecessor Section 87/88/89 Conference Policy, adopted Spring 2007 and last revised Fall 2012.

Conferences

It has been tradition that the sections of Region Q hold joint sectional conferences semesterly in order to fulfill the requirements of the national bylaws. This document shall serve to guide conference chairs in successfully conducting these conferences.

- The exception to the semesterly conference schedule will be the Fall semester of odd years, which shall be reserved for the joint Regional (Area) conference with Regions O, P, and R.
- Bids for conferences will be adopted one year in advance of the conference. Chapters intending to bid should notify their section chair at least 3 weeks prior to conference.
- Bidding chapters should endeavor to bring as many of their brothers and pledges as possible to support their bid. When possible, it is suggested that at least 10% (minimum of 4) of the chapter members be present to support the bid.
- Chapters whose bids are accepted are required to present an updated pitch for their conference at the intervening sectional conference. It is also suggested that chapters send a comparable (or larger) contingent to the intervening conference as were sent to the bid, to increase conference experience and to promote their conference.
- Absent compelling evidence to the contrary or further action approved by chapters, approved bids are to be held to specifics presented in the accepted bid.
- Proposed banquet facilities should accommodate as many attendees as possible (preferably 300 or more), in order to accommodate as many brothers and pledges to conferences as possible. Where possible, arrangements should be made for overflow or alternative spaces for attendees.

Guidance and Direction

Sectional conferences are held by voted-upon host chapter(s) as indicated above. It is expected that the conference chair(s) should work diligently alongside the Section Chair of the host chapter's section, the Section Chairs of the other sections affiliated, and the Region Q Chair as appropriate. In the interest of shared knowledge and the greater good of the sections, the conference chairs should make themselves available to guide the chair of the subsequent conference, and provide a report to the section chairs and region director upon the conclusion of their conference.

Conference Costs and Deadlines

It is the stated objective of sectional conferences in Region Q that as many active brothers and pledges be afforded the opportunity to attend and participate in inter-chapter activities such as section conferences. As such, the following guidelines should be followed for conference costs and registration deadlines:

- Registration information should be made available by the end of the preceding semester for planning purposes.
- Hosting chapters have the right to set, or not set, an early registration discount or multilevel pricing as is deemed prudent.
- In the event that an early registration discount and deadline are implemented, that deadline should be no more than 30 calendar days prior to the start of the section conference.
- If a chapter's last scheduled pledge induction ceremony is less than 14 calendar days prior to the aforementioned early registration deadline, that deadline should be extended appropriately for pledges of that chapter in order to encourage pledge attendance.
- Host chapter brothers attending and running the conference are expected to register for the conference. Discounting of costs to encourage appropriate participation is allowable only down to the actual costs of attendance by those brothers (meals, supplies, etc.).

Note that the purpose of collecting registration fees for sectional conferences is ostensibly to cover the cost of carrying out the conference. In furtherance of the stated goals above, it is suggested that costs to active members and pledges be kept as low as is possible. A tiered approach to pricing may be employed if deemed necessary for the successful promotion and execution of the conference.

Alcohol

Alpha Phi Omega recommends that all conferences adopt a written conference alcohol policy. Therefore, the sections of Region Q will use a policy adapted very closely from the 1992 National Convention Alcohol Policy.

- All members of Alpha Phi Omega are responsible for compliance with state and local laws regarding alcohol consumption as well as those rules of the host school and chapter.
- No alcoholic beverages will be served or consumed at convention functions (for example: dances, banquets, casino nights, talent shows, regional or sectional meetings, etc.)
- No alcoholic beverages in open containers will be transported or consumed in common or public areas at the conference.
- Violation of local laws, institutional rules, or hotel regulations while under the influence of alcohol will be viewed as a violation of this Conference Alcohol Policy.
- The host chapter should make an effort to make local and school alcohol policies known to conference guests. The host chapter may set an alcohol policy more restrictive than this, but they may not relax any of the constraints in the Section Alcohol Policy.
- Declaration that an event is "Unofficial" in no way absolves the Fraternity, chapter, or brothers from liability. "Unofficial" parties must not be announced at any official function or indicated in writing in any conference materials.

Accessibility

Section conferences in Region Q should be accessible to all persons, regardless of disability. Therefore, conference host chapters should endeavor to see that all conference activities and aspects are freely accessible to persons with disabilities, including, but not limited to:

- Arranging for necessary parking
- Securing necessary keys for elevators, accessible doors, etc.
- Planning events in fully accessible buildings
- Planning at least some service projects which are accessible
- Arranging to provide accessible housing, and/or ensuring that hotel arrangements for persons with disabilities are available and providing that information to conference attendees upon request.

Conference registration materials should include information about any arrangements necessary for persons with disabilities. Conference planners should work closely with their school, since each school has designated officials responsible for arrangements for persons with disabilities.

Amendments

This document may be accepted or dissolved, during a joint section meeting, by a majority of active chapters in the sections of Region Q. This document may be amended by delegates in good standing at a joint business meeting or by electronic vote of chapters between conferences with 15 days' notice.

Adopted at the Region Q Sectional Conference (Q-1/Q-2/Q-3) at SUNY Oswego, April 2019.