

# Virtual: Phi Program – Module 5

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## READY: BEFORE THE MEETING

- Announce:** Communicate with new members regularly and provide the group with enough notice of any meeting.
- Online Learning:** Expect new members to complete the online learning module before participation in the discussion.
- Review:** Review the discussion prompts and personalize how you will contribute to the discussion.
- Connect:** Connect with new member(s) who you have not had a chance to connect with one-on-one.

## SET: HOSTING THE MEETING

- Get familiar with the interface.** Select and become familiar with the platform you plan to use for your meeting discussions. Practice setting up and using breakout rooms, screen sharing, and chat functions.
- Set the tone.** The meeting is a facilitated discussion. New members should be prepared to participate in conversation and contribute the same way they would in an in-person meeting or online learning.
- Be prepared and consistent.** We want to model professionalism by being prepared. Sticking to the same agenda and format will create an environment new members can count on.
- Stimulate conversation.** We are suggesting that discussions be formatted to encourage close friendships among the new members. New member classes larger than 20 should have *breakout rooms* where they can communicate and make deep connections in the same group of 8-12 new members. Breakout rooms should be the same week to week whenever possible.
- Monitor participation and discussion.** Throughout the meeting you or a member of your committee should quietly keep a tally (hint: use page 23 of the guidebook) of the number of times each new member contributes or engages with the group. Follow up after the meeting with anyone who seems disengaged or may benefit from some one-on-one time and attention.

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## **GO: LEADING THE DISCUSSION**

### **WELCOME**

*ENCOURAGE CASUAL CONVERSATION AS PEOPLE LOG ON*

*ATTENDANCE – Hint: you can use page 23 in your guidebook*

*CREED – Reciting The Creed is optional in this format, but you may find that it helps very naturally cut off casual conversation and focus people into the discussion.*

### **DISCUSSION**

*TRANSITION: During the online module, you were introduced to Phi Sigma Sigma’s staff and volunteer structure tasked with supporting the almost 100 Phi Sig chapters. Phi Sigma Sigma’s Supreme Council, Headquarters staff and alumnae all play an important role in our chapter’s success.*

#### **1. How does the organization’s structure benefit us as a chapter? Us as members?**

*Listen for: networking, support, answers, long-term plans/vision, assistance in navigating times like these*

*INCLUDE: Our chapter works directly with \_\_\_CSMs\_Name\_\_\_ who works for Headquarters as a chapter services manager or “CSM”. Other positions on our executive board have assigned professionals that lead trainings and answer our questions.*

*TRANSITION: We also have alumnae who stay connected to one another and the sorority beyond graduation. We have alumnae from our chapter and sisters from many others that live all over the globe. These women continue to love the sorority and benefit from membership and the relationships they have gained in college and beyond.*

#### **2. What is the significance of an alumna member in a life-long organization?**

*Listen for: mentorship, giving back to the organization, volunteer, perpetuity*

#### **3. In what ways do you see yourself enjoying and benefitting from alumnae involvement?**

*Listen for: networking, jobs, volunteering, helping ensure that future members get a similar/better experience, creating connections, lifelong friendships*

*TRANSITION: Phi Sigma Sigma is a place where you can grow, learn, serve and share your gifts and talents with others. We truly care about you! We want to see you be successful while in college, but also to help you accomplish your goals and navigate uncertain times. When COVID-19 started to effect our opportunity to be around one another, Phi Sigma Sigma adopted a “detour” and offered the following message to all members.*

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## READ TO NEW MEMBERS:

*We are faced with tough choices every time the road turns unexpectedly. BUT, because you had the foresight to choose a lifetime of sisterhood, you will never be alone on your journey.*

*The path may not be what it originally seemed, but you are supported to overcome every detour that comes your way. While out of our control, detours challenge our character and hold us accountable to our commitments.*

*Because of the Oath you ONCE took, you are ALWAYS a sister with a plan and a path forward. Follow the turns, lean into the curves and stay grounded to the road ahead.*

*This may not have been the path you had in mind as you began this semester with excitement and optimism, but we invite you to trust in us. As sisters we are choosing to connect and engage with one another in new and exciting ways. Follow us . . . the journey through begins here.*

**4.** Because you made the choice to join Phi Sig, what have you experienced or benefited from that you would not have otherwise?

*Listen for: help with classes, new friends, confidence, structure, accountability, consistency*

*TRANSITION: You were introduced to our motto – Aim High – and several significant symbols you will learn more about at initiation, but one symbol you already know is the LITP hand sign which you were taught early on. LITP stands for Love in the Pyramid. As members, we are the building blocks that create the foundation of our chapter, the pyramid. The love that we foster through our sisterhood helps strengthen the walls of our pyramid, therefore allowing the fraternity to grow. This notion can be expressed through the symbol of our hand sign, which creates a heart within a pyramid.*

*INSTRUCTIONS: Ask new members hold up the LITP hand sign (representing their commitment to be the best of what Phi Sig stands for).*

- Lower a hand if you have missed chapter meetings without a valid excuse.
- Lower a hand if you have skipped class.
- Lower a hand if you have peer pressured a friend to break the rules?
- Lower a hand if you skipped or given only partial effort/attention at a service or philanthropy event?
- Lower a hand if you have talked negatively about one of your sisters?
- Lower a hand if you have talked negatively about another chapter on our campus?

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*SHARE: As members, we are going to be faced with challenges and it is our actions in the face of difficult decisions that represent our values. We don't expect perfection, but we should be reminded that when we fail to represent the things we value in our day-to-day actions – we will struggle to remember who we are.*

*TRANSITION: While ritual may seem now to just be a collection of ceremonies, it becomes something that matters based on the commitment we are making to one another.*

**5.** Can anyone list for me the ceremonies we have completed so far?

*Listen for (if applicable, given the circumstances): pinning, big sister commitment, sapphire sister; IF you have not completed any/many ceremonies – share: While we were not able to complete many of the Fraternity's new member rituals while we were still on campus, each represents and marks the progression toward initiation that we can't wait to share with you.*

**6.** What does commitment to an organization for a lifetime mean? How has this experience differed from joining another campus organization?

*Listen for: upholding their ideals for life, took an oath, our ritual separates us from any campus organization*

**FINAL ASSIGNMENT** – Required for Pyramid Ceremony

*Ahead of initiation I ask you to complete a final assignment. It is important that you take this assignment seriously. You are to write a one-page written essay\* titled:*

**“What I Hope to Gain and Contribute through My Phi Sigma Sigma Membership”.**

*Please bring this to our Pyramid Ceremony.*

*\*Be sure to be clear and direct about the length and format of the assignment (double/single spaced and/or front and back).*

## **CLOSING**

When we all come together next, our sisters will have the opportunity to hear from you what you hope to gain and contribute throughout your membership. Until then, know that we are so glad you are here and we couldn't imagine what our chapter would be like without you.

This is the last of our meetings before your initiation! Thank you for participating!