

SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY  
**An Open Conversation with Grand Sire Archon  
Loren R. Douglass**

*Minutes of the Virtual Town Hall*

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**Date:** Tuesday, July 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m. EDT

**Format:** Virtual session via Zoom (recorded)

**Moderator:** Archon Barrye Price

**Presenter:** Loren R. Douglass, 51st Grand Sire Archon

**Duration:** Approximately two hours

### **Purpose of the Session**

Grand Sire Archon Douglass convened this open forum, moderated by Archon Barrye Price, to speak directly with Archons about the ongoing governance dispute within the Fraternity, to answer questions candidly, and to set out the specific actions he is asking delegates to take at the Grand Boulé. He framed the matter not as a personal contest but as a defense of the Fraternity's governance, the rule of law under its Constitution and Bylaws, and the right of the membership to choose its leaders.

### **1. The Grievance and Complaints Committee**

Grand Sire Archon Douglass reviewed the proceedings of the Grievance and Complaints Committee, which considered allegations concerning, among other things, the use of official letterhead. He reported that the Committee dismissed most of the charges and ultimately found no good cause to pursue the matter further. He expressed concern that he was not informed of the Committee's ruling until months after it was made, and stated that, should the present situation resolve favorably, he is prepared to make the Committee's decision public.

### **2. The Court's Ruling and the Status of the Chair**

Douglass explained that the court has confirmed the reading of the Bylaws under which removal of the Grand Sire Archon requires a two-thirds vote of the Grand Board's fourteen members present and voting — that is, at least ten votes. Because only eight votes were cast in favor of removal on April 9, 2025, the required threshold was never met and the chair never became vacant. This finding underpins the motion he is asking delegates to bring at the Grand Boulé (see "Actions Requested of the Delegates" below).

### **3. Activities and Initiatives During His Tenure**

Douglass described the significant activity undertaken during his administration, including the Boulé Leadership Institute in Miami, an economic summit in Baltimore,

and planned engagements with senior political figures and international leaders, including a meeting with the King of England that was ultimately canceled.

He also addressed the mischaracterization of “Seize the Future,” which was written as a strategic plan and a love letter to Sigma Pi Phi. Its contents are consistent with the kind of information shared with sponsors, and he stated that passages had been read out of context to cast the work in a false light.

#### **4. Expense Authorizations**

**Past Grand Sire Archon pins.** Douglass explained his authorization of expenses for a special pin recognizing Past Grand Sire Archons. He conceived and designed the pin after witnessing an elderly Past Grand Sire Archon being challenged at the door of a Fraternity event. He consulted with the Council of Past Grand Sire Archons on the initiative and took full responsibility for the pins’ creation and the process by which they were submitted.

**Approval process.** He clarified that every expense he submitted was approved through the Fraternity’s established multi-step process, involving the Executive Director, the Grand Sire Archon-Elect, Grand Grapier Jackson, and the Grand Thesauristes, with Archon Roman required to approve payment.

**The Josephine Baker portrait.** Regarding the portrait of Josephine Baker presented to the U.S. Embassy in Paris, Douglass stated that no Fraternity funds were used: the project was fully funded by donations from individual Archons. His only related expenses were approved travel costs for the unveiling ceremony.

#### **5. The Cybersecurity Breach**

Douglass recounted the cybersecurity breach that occurred during his tenure, which he attributed to unpaid vendor bills carried over from the previous administration. The attack was severe: roughly forty years of the Fraternity’s digital records were lost, and sophisticated legal counsel was required to manage the response. He explained that he personally negotiated the associated expense down from approximately \$700,000 to approximately \$256,000, and he addressed directly the rumors that have circulated about that discounted amount, noting there remain internal matters the organization must still reckon with.

#### **6. Response to Allegations of Financial Overruns**

Douglass noted that he served only nine months as Grand Sire Archon, with limited signing authority, and that any spending attributed to him was minimal when measured against the far larger financial losses the organization has experienced. He committed to a full post-mortem review of the finances of past Grand Boulé events (including Nassau and San Diego), with a transparent report to the membership.

## 7. Leadership, Responsibility, and Vision

Douglass described his leadership approach as one of personal engagement and direct communication with members. He stated plainly that he takes full responsibility for the current state of the dispute, and that he views his obligation as defending the Fraternity's values of integrity, honor, and principle.

His definition of success: heal the breach of trust with Archons, serve and complete the term to which he was elected, educate members about the Fraternity's governance structure, rebuild relationships, and strengthen the Office of the Grand Boulé's capacity to serve both Archons and member boulés. He emphasized modernizing the organization — leveraging technology and the opportunities of globalization — while preserving its historical integrity.

## 8. Background and Qualifications

In response to questions about his background, Douglass confirmed that he holds multiple degrees from Johns Hopkins University and the Wharton School, and that his career includes positions at General Electric, Merrill Lynch, Goldman Sachs, BNY Mellon, and AIG, among others. He currently has pending patents and has authored books. Asked what he would do if he does not continue as Grand Sire Archon, he answered that the issue before the Fraternity is the integrity of its bylaws and governance — not his personal ambitions.

## 9. Unity Among Archons

Douglass called for action and unity among Archons, drawing on historical writings about similar challenges and on the resilience of the community. He described his plan — interrupted by recent organizational events — to convene the general presidents of the Divine Nine to issue a joint statement affirming their shared identity as Archons.

## 10. Questions and Concerns from the Floor

- **Archon Robert Holland** raised concerns about financial mismanagement, transparency, and accountability, and advocated for more rigorous oversight, improved processes, and fresh perspectives in leadership roles. He separately urged that constitutional and bylaw amendments be distributed to member boulés well in advance of the Grand Boulé — on the order of thirty days or more — rather than being proposed close to the meeting. Douglass agreed with this approach.
- **Archon Walt Pearson** raised concerns about financial oversight and transparency in budget management, and the need for better processes in handling organizational expenses.

## 11. Actions Requested of the Delegates

Douglass asked the delegates to the Grand Boulé to take four specific actions to restore proper governance:

1. **Reject the proposed meeting rules** that restrict free speech and impose onerous limits on debate.
2. **Move and vote to declare that the chair was never vacated**, based on the Bylaws' requirement of ten votes to reach a two-thirds majority of the fourteen-member Grand Board.
3. **Declare that the term of Grand Sire Archon Douglass continues through 2028**. The membership elected him to a full term of service. The invalid April 9, 2025 action consumed the balance of that term while the question of the chair was contested; declaring the term continues through the 2028 Grand Boulé restores to the membership the full benefit of its electoral choice, rather than allowing a procedural violation to run out the clock on the term the body conferred.
4. **Vote down the four proposed constitutional and bylaw amendments** that would fundamentally change the relationship between the Grand Boulé and the Grand Board, entrenching the Grand Board and reducing its accountability to the membership.

## 12. Commitments Made by Grand Sire Archon Douglass

- Conduct a post-mortem deep dive and deliver a transparent report to the Fraternity on the financial overruns and issues from past Grand Boulé events (e.g., Nassau, San Diego).
- Work to shut down all litigation within thirty days if the delegates vote to declare that the chair was never vacated.
- Make the Grievance and Complaints Committee's decision public if the situation resolves favorably.

## 13. Recording of the Session

The session was recorded. Any delegate or Archon who wishes to view the recording may request a copy directly from Grand Sire Archon Douglass at [loren@douglasslegacypress.com](mailto:loren@douglasslegacypress.com), or view it on The Public Record. A record of individual requests is maintained.

## Closing

Grand Sire Archon Douglass closed by reaffirming his commitment to transparency, accountability, and the modernization of Sigma Pi Phi — and to preserving the

historical integrity of an institution he loves. He thanked Archon Price for moderating and the attendees for their candor and their questions.

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*Prepared from the recorded session transcript.*