

MICHAEL R. DIPIETRO

Archon Platform

THE POSITION

Explaining why I want to be archon is no easy task when put to paper. Pi Kappa Phi has enhanced my life in so many ways and developed a leader in me that has steadily emerged. The archon is the most influential character of the chapter and determines if it rises or falls. "The chapter morale will depend on his moral courage, his decisiveness, his tact, and his mental equilibrium. The condition of the chapter will reflect the tone of his admiration as a mirror reflects one's physical appearance." I believe that I am well balanced in all of these qualities that make a successful archon. I have the moral courage to listen to and understand others' opinions, the decisiveness to make important decisions in the chapters' greatest times of need, and the admiration and ability to represent and uphold this chapter during fortune and feat. Everyday, I strive for excellence for myself and the chapter, and I hope to further dignify it in my prospect for this position.

CURRENT STATE AND VISION

My vision is to build a structure upon the foundation of which Theta Mu was built. As a growing organization, we are still trying to build a structure that will support us in our time of need and raise us in our time of glory, one that works for men at this university, and one that brandishes the ideals upon which we were founded. We are still discovering the best methods of recruitment and the best techniques to become better men. We are currently leading our national organization and Greek campus in academics and service and have much to be proud of. We are, however, approaching a disturbance in the chapter where 22 men will move on into the world, leaving recruitment and the necessity for individual brother involvement at the height of our challenges. I can see the strength of this group to pull together as we start to recruit more men than ever, offer opportunities to retain them, and actively seek out a house where we can congregate and truly appreciate the spirit of brotherhood.

GOALS

» **Recruitment** – This may be, by far, the most pressing challenge right now. I think that this is going to take great collaboration and teamwork to discover what works and what we need to change to help us survive in the future. I think that we need to develop new ways to broadcast our name and story (possibly wear letters everyday for the first two weeks).

» **Brotherhood Involvement** – I believe that one of my main missions as archon would be to really concentrate on the dynamic of the chapter on both an individual and institutional level. I want to work with brothers to make sure they are getting out of Pikapp what they joined for. It is my hope to accomplish this through continual outreach on a very informal level.

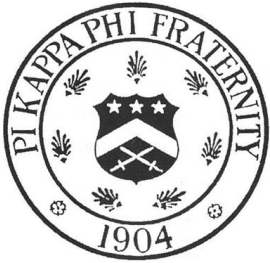
» **More Money from the SGA** - The SGA allocates money to RSO's based on programming that they provide for the campus. I want to look into ways that we can make this work for Pikapp and the campus. (ex: If we had a leadership seminar for the campus, it would get our name out there, and hopefully solicit more money from the SGA!)

» **Alumni Relations** – Gaining alumni support can only be done by providing opportunities for involvement. I think that it is even more important with the growing number of alumni, that we make sure that alumni know of our most important events and are formally invited, as well as planning an alumni event farther in advance, like any Push event or Formal event would be.

» **Housing** - I want to get an unofficial house in progress and/or work towards understanding the zoning rules in Amherst. People have previously looked into opportunities that have come to us; it's time to bring the opportunities and not wait.

» **Study Sessions** - Academics are our focus. I would like to host weekly study sessions. It would be a getaway from regular studying locations and offer great company. Hopefully, we can have a small budget for snacks, as well. (This could play into the new academic program.)

» **Strategic Planning** – We all have goals for the chapter, but they are not always written down or revisited. Often, goals are forgotten through semester or officer transition and I think it is important not to continue to let that happen. I propose that once a semester, at the chapter level or the executive council level, that we formulate realistic goals to work towards, in the short run or long run, that will be written down and visible. I would then have them hung at every chapter meeting so they are not forgotten and progress can be shown.



CHAPTER INVOLVEMENT

I have spent three consecutive semesters as secretary. Before and during my terms, I have related to many aspects of the chapter. I have helped with recruitments events, assisted in budgetary situations, created sub-rituals for new members, but most importantly been an active face and personality for our chapter. I have also made many lasting connections with the university through the Center for Student Development and Residence Life, the National organization and other members of Greek Life.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The dynamic of the executive council has been amazing. Three enhancements that I would like to see:

1. **Expectatory reviews by chapter before semester starts** – this will partially review their predecessor, but also let new executives know what they should be working towards in the coming semester.
2. **Accountability** – often there are ideas thrown out by the executive council but not followed up with. I will not micromanage but make sure that I am accessible or provide the necessary resources for success of whoever is taking the initiative.
3. **Transition and Planning Ahead** – On top of usual executive transition meetings, I believe that it is important, as archon, to meet/conference with each executive before the semester starts and create a plan for the upcoming semester before it starts.

OTHER POSITION IDEAS

It is the archon's job to understand all aspects of the chapter and act as a resource to other executives as they work to better the chapter in their own ways. Here are some ideas that I would offer to other executives should they want ideas unique to their position. My goal in offering these is to show my support and consideration of these positions, not for implementation by myself or to dictate what they do.

- » **Vice Archon** – More/Earlier advertising, seek out legacies in this region (of other chapters' alumni)
- » **Treasurer** – Dual signed checks for financial responsibility, football concession fund raisers
- » **Secretary** – More community/greek outreach
- » **Warden** – Develop traditions, implementation of academic program
- » **Historian** – Regional Alumni involvement (not just from our chapter), class notes library
- » **Chaplain** – Subrituals off campus, exploration of better church
- » **Push America** – Campus involvement, disability awareness

STRENGTHS

- Active listening
- Reliability
- Ability to plan for future
- Personal connection with bros. and chapter
- Recognition of issues (don't overlook)
- Approachability, accessibility
- Communication and social skills

I promise you that even as Archon, I will not know everything. However, one quality that is unique to me is my willingness to learn from and work with others. I do not, in life or the fraternity, brush anyone or anything off and truly believe that there is something to learn from any situation. I have the fortitude to lead, but the determination to listen and collaborate. I am not afraid to ask for help when needed or engage in a situation that is imminent.

CHAPTER OPS

Chapter meetings are primarily the venue for us to accomplish tasks. On top of the necessary business, I think it is also important to make brotherhood a priority through:

- » More Brother Bios
- » Trivia/Joke of the Week
- » Pass the Gavel

I also believe that chapter is not necessary every week. I think that by stressing the importance of the phone tree and email, many things can get done more efficiently. If it's not a busy Pikapp week, I would rather offer a dinner or other fun event (bowling, movie, etc.).