

Name: Terence Parker
Position/Title: Associate Dean of Students
Organization/Institution/Employer: Texas State University

Please concisely outline your professional volunteer experience (most recent position first) and any other volunteer experience, both within and outside of the association, that could speak to your qualification to serving on the Nominations and Elections Committee (NEC).

Currently, I serve as the Secretary for Gamma Sigma Alpha National Greek Academic Honor Society, and been a member of the Board of Directors since 2012. I am a current member of the Board of Directors for the Texas State chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). I have served my fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., in various volunteer capacities. Those include Gulf Coast First Vice Regional Director (2019 - 2022), Gulf Coast Regional Director of Collegiate Affairs (2015 - 2019), San Antonio Alumni Chapter President (1995 - 1996 & 2013 - 2014), Collegiate Chapter Advisor (2009 - 2017), and State of Texas Director of Collegiate Affairs (1993-1994). I served on the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Collegiate Women's Leadership Conference (CCWL) from 2018 through 2012. Previously, I served AFA in a few capacities including the Region IV Recruitment & Marketing Team (2006 - 2007), Texas/Oklahoma/Arkansas Area Coordinator (2005), Awards Committee (2000), and Nominations & Elections Committee (1999 & 2001). I served as the Co-Chair of the Southern Greek Leadership Conference (SGLC) in 2001, and the Chair in 2000.

What do you believe are characteristics and qualifications potential members of the board of directors should possess?

The characteristics that I believe a board member should possess is that they have a vision for the organization, dedicated to the mission and progressing the association. They should be strong advocates of the fraternity/sorority movement to ensure that the association is producing something of value for the members. The board member should be committed to advancing the association that will only benefit the collegiate men and women on our campuses. Those who serve on the board should be people of character, integrity, and knowledgeable of the inner workings of fraternity/sorority life in regards to campus professionals, headquarters staff, as well as volunteers. The candidates should possess good interpersonal and communication skills in order to articulate their ideas and goals to their peers on the board as well as members of the association. Last, I believe they should have a willingness to learn.

From your perspective, what/where are the communities of untapped potential within AFA? How would you recommend the Nominations and Elections Committee tap into those areas of untapped potential?

From my perspective, there are a few communities that can be tapped. First, I believe that we have some seasoned veterans in the fraternity/sorority world that have a lot of knowledge, but are untapped. There are some that have been around for quite some time but have not had the opportunity to serve for whatever reason. In order to reach these individuals, utilize relationships. I am a prime example of this. A colleague that I have known for years reached out to me to ask if I would be willing to serve on this committee and a big reason why I said yes is because of the relationship I have with this individual. Another community is volunteers. We have some very talented volunteers, but need to be groomed for potential leadership opportunities. Again, this can be achieved by leveraging relationships.

An important component of Board of Directors and NEC recruiting is ensuring diverse identities

are represented. As a member of the NEC, how will you advance goals of ensuring diversity of perspective on the Board of Directors and the NEC? What salient identities do you hold that may frame your perspective in Board and NEC candidate recruitment and selection?

if selected to serve on the NEC, I plan to be intentional as far as attempting to recruit a diverse pool of candidates for the Board of Directors. i think that it is important and necessary. It is better than in the past but there is still a lot of work to be done. Being that I am an African American male who is a member of a Divine Nine organization gives me a unique perspective. What I mean by that is early in my career in fraternity/sorority life, there were not many professionals who looked like me so I understand the importance of representation. I feel that it is important to recruit potential candidates who are professionals on the headquarters staff of some of the Divine Nine organizations. as well. They could bring an interesting perspective to the table. Last, we should be more intentional about recruiting someone from a HBCU.

What role do you often play in group decision-making? How do you typically work with groups to ensure all perspectives, including those that may dissent from the majority, are heard?

I'm the type who tends to listen to everyone else first in order to get an understanding of the dynamics of the group as well as the thought process of the members of the group. Then I tend to provide my feedback and/or recommendations pertaining to the conversation. I am also the type of person that will ask someone about their opinion if they are overlooked or tend to shut down because of conflict. I value everyone's opinion even if I disagree with it because that committee member may help me to think about something I overlooked and/or may not have as much knowledge about. Also, I tend to be the peacemaker when there is a disagreement among the group. Sometimes you have to be the one that brings everyone back on the same page to move forward in the same direction.