The International Foreign Language Honor Society

Phi Sigma Iota

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on November 11, 2025

Attendance

Present: Cody Hanson (president), Kristi Bond (president elect), Cynthia Klima (first vice president), Junko Agnew (second vice president), Cassio de Oliveira (secretary), and Pauline Lanzine (administrative director).

Call to Order

The meeting was held over Zoom. President Cody Hanson called it to order at 3:19PM EST.

Approval of Minutes

The motion (Bond/Agnew) to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2025 long meeting passed unanimously, as amended, with one abstention (Lanzine).

Old Business

Revisions to the Scholarship Application

Hanson presented his edited draft of the scholarship application form. De Oliveira/Klima moved to approve.

De Oliveira questioned the need for high school information on the application form. Bond concurred and suggested that the high school class rank field be replaced with GPA. Klima also concurred and argued that high school performance is not always indicative of academic excellence in college. Agnew concurred. Hanson committed to removing the high school information fields from the form.

Hanson highlighted the fact that the application instructions will now allow up to two applications per chapter, rather than one, in the interest of growing the applicant pool. Bond asked whether there will be guidelines for the Scholarship Committee to rank applicants when there are multiple applications from the same chapter. Agnew suggested that there should be a rubric for ranking applicants in order to ensure an equitable selection process.

Bond, seconded by de Oliveira, moved to table the motion to approve the draft in order to allow the Scholarship Committee to be consulted on this matter. The motion to table passed unanimously, with one abstention (Lanzine).

The Forum Newsletter

Hanson plans to issue the newsletter by January 1, with a deadline to submit materials to Lanzine by December 19. Hanson will contribute a presidential farewell and suggested that Bond write a self-introduction as incoming president. Hanson will also review and include a student piece written for *The Forum*. Klima suggested a section on what past scholarship recipients are doing nowadays, and will try to interview one of her former students/scholarship recipients. Bond suggested a section written by a chapter advisor or president whose chapter has enjoyed student interest and a significant number of inductions. Lanzine said she can reach out to thriving and active chapters to ask if they would like to contribute a piece.

PSI Sticker Design

Lanzine circulated two potential designs for a PSI sticker to be sold on the merchandise form. The board chose the one with white lettering.

New Chapters

Lanzine suggests giving gifts (a charter, framed or not, and perhaps a banner) to newly formed chapters and having a template of a press release that new chapters could use to publicize their formation to their home institutions and local media. Bond says the template is an item that can be worked on at the next meeting in 2026.

2027 Convention Discussion

Hanson reminded the Board that, per the society's bylaws, the next PSI Convention shall take place in 2027, and suggested that the long Executive Board meeting could take place simultaneously in the same location. This would require the Convention to be moved to September, when the long Board meeting is scheduled to occur. In view of the costs to PSI of having the Board meet in person, the Board expressed preference for a virtual meeting.

New Business

ACHS Findings Review

Bond attended the ACHS meeting and reported on the membership statistics presented at the meeting. Lanzine clarified that PSI is a "small" honor society on the cusp of becoming a "medium" society. The ACHS report highlights the fact that small and large honor societies face different sets of challenges. Bond also pointed out that PSI's dues are lower than both the mean and median for honor society dues. Bond said that the Board may want to focus in the future on how to get students involved in chapter leadership as a way to drum up engagement. Hanson thanked Bond for attending the meeting as a PSI representative.

Passing of Dr. Santiago Vilas

Hanson reminded the Board of the email circulated by Lanzine regarding Dr. Vilas's passing. Dr. Vilas was a professor of Spanish at Louisiana State University, and one of the PSI's scholarships is named after him.

Kristi Bond's Term as PSI President

Bond's new term as president starts on January 1st.

Spring Meeting Dates

Bond will contact all incoming Board members in order to schedule the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:45PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassio de Oliveira