The International Foreign Language Honor Society

Phi Sigma Iota

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on March 31, 2026

Attendance

Members Present: Kristi Bond (president), Cynthia Klima (first vice president), Junko Agnew (second vice president), Hildegard Rossoll (secretary), and Pauline Lanzine (administrative director).
Guest: Maria Rippon (Scholarship Committee)

Call to Order

The meeting was held over Zoom. President Bond called it to order at 5:04 PM EST.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Klima/Bond) to approve the minutes of the November 11, 2025, meeting was passed unanimously.

President's Report

Recruiting New Chapters

President Bond stated that she is compiling a list of foreign language departments in the US in order to identify those without a Phi Sigma Iota chapter. The recruitment effort will also entail the creation of special materials, such as a requirement checklist.

Press Releases

Press releases can help raise the visibility of Phi Sigma Iota and its chapters. Bond shared drafts she created: one for reporting on initiation ceremonies and the other for announcing the creation of new chapters.

Administrative Director's Report

Pauline Lanzine reported that she is busy filling orders for the Spring induction ceremonies. As a result, supplies are dwindling down quickly.

She has also received two applications for new chapters.

Old Business

Scholarships

For this agenda item, the Board was joined at 5:12 p.m. by Scholarship Committee member Maria Rippon.

Collegiate Member Applications

Two applications per chapter

Up to now, chapters were allowed to submit only one scholarship application each year. Today, the committee unanimously passed a motion (Bond/Klima) to raise this number to two applications. When chapters nominate two applicants, the faculty advisor is expected to rank them. The new policy is likely to generate more applications and thus increase competition.

High school information

A motion (Bond/Agnew) to remove the high school information fields from the application was passed unanimously.

Application materials in a single pdf document.

Scholarship applications can be difficult to navigate if they contain multiple attachments. Therefore, Agnew recommended asking future applicants to combine all materials into a single pdf document.

Transcripts

Agnew added that applicants should be asked to provide unofficial transcripts because these are easy to include in the single pdf file she proposed. Unofficial transcripts will be reliable enough, given the chapter advisor's endorsement that accompanies each application. An official transcript would then be requested only from the actual scholarship recipients when they are notified of their award. This arrangement would save unsuccessful applicants the considerable expense of providing the official copy of their transcript.

Professional Member Applications

The following motion (Bond/Agnew) was passed unanimously: Professional members will be allowed to apply only once within a 10-year period, and scholarship funds cannot be applied towards tuition and living expenses.

Scholarship Decision

The Board decided to delay one scholarship decision because the application file was not fully accessible at the time of the meeting.

> **Note:** On April 1, 2026, the Board voted by email in favor of awarding the scholarship.

2027 Convention

Phi Sigma Iota bylaws define "convention" as an "Assembly of Delegates." The term "delegates," in turn, refers to the voting members of the National Board and all the chapter advisors. According to the bylaws, the time and place must be announced "on the Society's website at least one year in advance."

Time and place

The 2027 Convention will take place in the Fall semester. Like our previous convention, it will be held online.

Promoting attendance

The committee brainstormed ideas for facilitating a strong convention turnout. Suggestions included: (a) Pointing out that attendance may qualify as professional development. (b) Inviting student officers. (c) Emphasizing that participating student officers may earn credit towards professional service requirements at their schools. (d) Asking professors to excuse class absences caused by student officers' convention

attendance. (e) Issuing participation badges to verify attendance. (f) Developing a list of reasons that will motivate advisors and student officers to attend the convention.

Convention theme
Bond proposed that the conference be on the theme of leadership.

Convention format
The convention may consist of one or two keynote speakers, potentially additional presentations, and breakout sessions into smaller groups.

Keynote speaker(s)
Bond suggested Dave McAlpine. He is professor emeritus at the University of Arkansas, served as ACTFL president, and coauthored *The Keys to Strategies for Language Instruction*. A second potential speaker would be her brother, who has held leadership positions in industry.

Speakers will receive an honorarium of around $250 if there are two presenters, or $500 in the case of only one keynote address.

Other presentations
There may be a call for additional papers. Presentations by graduate students may be included.

Press Releases
Bond asked board members to provide email feedback on the drafts for the press releases she presented earlier during the president's report.

Meeting Dates
The next meeting will take place on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. EST.

Bond announced the following agenda item: How can we help foreign language programs, especially at smaller colleges, to get students to take upper-division courses and to motivate them to join our honors society?

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned around 6:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Hildegard Rossoll