The International Foreign Language Honor Society

Phi Sigma Iota

Member of the Association of College Honor Societies

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting on September 19, 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).

Guests: Alberto Lopez (Occidental College) and Mirna Trauger (Scholarship Committee)

Call to Order

The meeting was held over Zoom. President Bond called it to order at 10:08 AM EST.

Approval of Minutes

A motion (Bond/Klima) to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2026, meeting was passed unanimously.

Administrative Director's Report

Pauline Lanzine presented the tax report. A motion to approve the report (Bond/Agnew) was passed unanimously.

Lanzine then presented a document itemizing the profits and losses incurred between April 2025 and March 2026. Our profit and loss report showed a -$10,588. Due to the 26% drop in memberships our income was greatly effected and we had to replenish the inventory of supplies.

1. Fewer initiates (down from 1068 in 2024 down to 787 in 2025) meant less income from sales (instead of an expected $47,000 only $23,000).
2. Purchases of pins ($5,000), cords ($3,000 to 4,000), banners etc. The replenished inventory should last about three years.

Agnew suggested that, to increase revenue, we need to recruit more members. To this end, Bond has been reaching out to universities without chapters and Lanzine has been contacting inactive chapters. Lanzine has recruited two inactive chapters in her efforts to date. We are hopeful that this trend in the decline of membership will improve, however, trends are reporting less as institutions are either cutting back or closing their language departments.

Finally, Lanzine presented the proposed budget and was approved.

Lanzine is researching the need for PSI to do an official audit as a requirement to abide by ACHS Bylaws. The last audit was done in 2021. Estimated cost for this audit is $2,000. To $4,000. There may be other ways to fulfill this requirement.

Guests

Around 10:45, Bond welcomed guests Alberto Lopez, the new faculty advisor at Occidental College, and Mirna Trauger from the Scholarship Committee.

President's Report

Press Releases

Bond stated that Phi Sigma Iota needs more publicity. She showed press release templates that are expected to go on our website. This way, advisers will be able to inform university newspapers and other outlets about chapter activities.

Scholarship Process

Bond briefly touched on the scholarship process, recapping the decision at the last Board meeting to simplify the scholarship process by (a) having applicants send all their applications materials in a single pdf document and (b) creating an online form.

Efforts to increase chapter activity

Bond is compiling a list of all foreign-language departments in the United States. About 650 universities are offering foreign language programs; she was able to identify around 200 of these with the help of AI. Many foreign-language programs have recently closed or are closing.

The goal is to send out invitations to the chairs of these departments. Trauger suggested dividing this work up among the board members in order to facilitate a more personal approach, which may be more effective.

The following questions were raised:

- What kind of message do we want to send in these invitation letters?
- Do we want to include a flyer?
- Should we reach out to TESL programs?
- How do we make the case for an inclusive honorary to departments that already have chapters for single-language honor societies? Some foreign languages are not eligible for membership in PSI. Speaking to this question, Klima pointed out that PSI's inclusive scope presents a good fit with national trend towards Global Studies programs that serve as an umbrella for multiple language programs.

Lanzine suggested reaching out to the advisors of existing chapters.

To understand why chapters have become inactive, Bond suggested the creation of survey. Next Fall will be a good time to release the survey because of the conference.

Agnew proposed the creation of a manual for new chapter advisors, perhaps with a month-by-month checklist. Older faculty advisors often retire without passing on their know-how about how to run a chapter. Thus, it is incumbent on the national chapter to fill this void. Bond is planning to put this topic on a future agenda.

Scholarships

Awards in the Past Year

Trauger from the Scholarship Committee reported that nine scholarships were awarded over the past year, with amounts ranging from $1500 to $3500. The pool of applicants was healthy though smaller than in previous years. Only one or two applications were denied due to gaps in the application file (e.g., lack of detail in the proposed budget). Trauger noted that the quality of applications has become weaker. More applicants were asking for money to pay tuition costs.

To make clear that scholarships do not cover tuition, Bond recommended adding a note on the PSI website.

Because of the high turnover of chapter advisors, Trauger suggested reminding Advisors that application fields need to be complete.

Scholarship Money

Due to the extreme decline in memberships, Lanzine suggested the board consider lowering the total scholarship amount. The board considered lowering the scholarship money gradually down to $25,000. This can be achieved by awarding fewer or smaller scholarships.

There was consensus to move the application deadline for scholarships to March 1. This will give the Scholarship Committee more time to review the files. This was voted on and approved.

Google Application Form

Bond shared a draft of the Google form for Applications. The form will make it easier for the committee to work with.

Trauger asked that the form include a statement discouraging AI as well as a check box where applicants confirm that they did not use AI. A statement will be added to the online application form.

In addition, chapter advisor will be required to provide verification by email that AI was not used. Lanzine will review all applications making sure an Advisor has approved their student's application.

Action items:

- Bond will add these items to the form.
- The revised form will be sent to the scholarship committee so they can test it out.

Chapter Advisors will be notified of these changes.

ACHS

Bond reported that ACHS is now offering online "coffee chats."

2027 Convention

The weekends of October 16/17 or October 23 /24 were considered as possible dates. Final date voted on is October 16, 2027.

There was consensus that a Saturday morning would work best.

For good attendance, it is important to communicate about the conference.

Zoom will be the best platform, as it allows for breakout rooms.

Student presentations: Lanzine knows of a student who may be interested in presenting at the conference.

Bond will invite the speakers.

We will need a “tech person.”

Action items:

- Save the date.
- Meet later in the Fall. Bond expects to have the schedule by then.
- Create a Google form for people to register.
- Make announcements by email and on the PSI website.
- Decide on a title, perhaps “leadership.”

Forum

The last issue of the *Forum* was published in February 2026.

Bond suggested moving the publication date to November. This way, the outgoing presidents can introduce their successors while still in office. Next year, the November date will allow us to report on the conference.

Possible content:

- Kristi Bond introducing herself as the new chapter president.
- New resources for chapter advisors.
- New scholarship process
- Call for papers (incl. length restriction)

Pauline will send something out about collecting papers. Deadline: October 26.

Organizational needs of Phi Sigma Iota

Board Positions

We need a new president-elect and a new second vice president.

Pauline will send out a nomination ballot. The email should say by when we need the nominations.

Next meeting

The next Board meeting will take place at 10:00 a.m. EST, October 31, 2026. Agnew will organize the Zoom meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Hildegard Rossoll

Phi Sigma Iota Executive Board Secretary