

CANDIDATES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE (ELECT TWO FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM)



Karen Gorton PhD, RN, FNP, MS



I am seeking election for a four-year term on the Governance Committee of Sigma. I have been a member of Sigma since 2002, and had the honor to serve Sigma at the chapter, regional and international levels. These service experiences have helped me gain insight into member experiences, chapter operations, strategic visioning and the need for Sigma to be representative for all members

If elected to the Governance Committee, I will strive to ensure that we monitor bylaws compliance, make appropriate recommendations for bylaws changes to meet the needs of chapters and to oversee issues of member and chapter eligibility. As Sigma continues to intentionally grow, we need to ensure that we are using best practices in our foundational documents for governance - the bylaws. Attention to detail and relatability are important skills for members of this committee. I believe that I have these skills and will seek to use them to provide quality outcomes. As a committee member, I will be open to different viewpoints, opinions and seek to learn via discourse with my colleagues. I will strive to be a collaborative and engaged member as we seek to provide the best opportunities for Sigma to continue for another 100 years.

In the past biennium, many changes have occurred globally, impacting our members in unforeseen ways. As an organization, Sigma has striven to make changes to meet the needs of our diverse membership. Presently, the majority of our members work in the clinical setting and Sigma has responded to this with many resources for nurses on the website and The Circle. When conditions change around the world in varying ways, it is imperative that our bylaws provide guidance, reflect our historical values and provide

the opportunity for change.

Sigma has been able to respond because our foundational document, the bylaws, has provided a framework for operations at both the chapter and international levels.

I believe it is imperative for the Governance Committee to continue providing members with a foundation which allows for nimble, judicious and forward thinking. For example, at the last biennial convention, it was approved to allow electronic voting for the House of Delegates. This change allows us to hold our current House of Delegates in a hybrid format - which addresses some of the current constraints of our delegates. As we continue to move forward as an organization, I want to support Sigma in continuing to integrate innovation, yet respect our history.

I have had additional nursing leadership experiences outside of Sigma, as a faculty member, academic administrator, team leader/staff nurse as well as experiences within the Athletic Training environment. I believe that all of these experiences have taught me to be a better listener, team member and leader. The Sigma Experienced Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy and the Leadership in Academic Nursing Program have bolstered my leadership strengths. I would welcome the opportunity to use my experience to serve the members of Sigma as a member of the Governance Committee.