

The Executive Council of Gamma Alpha Lambda

Written by Ari Cunningham

Every leadership board is worth far more than the sum of its parts. Each officer is important, but none would be able to perform his or her duties without the help of the others. Likewise, Gamma Alpha Lambda could not function without a cooperative executive council. Gamma Alpha Lambda (GAL) is a national Christian sisterhood which was founded at Missouri State University in 2003. An effective leadership team can be developed when each prospective council member has an understanding of every position.

General Information

The executive council (the primary leadership group of the organization) is made up of six officers:

- President
- Vice President of Membership
- Vice President of Rush
- Vice President of Public Relations
- Treasurer
- Secretary

The table below summarizes each of the positions, the duties for which it is responsible, and the approximate amount of time it requires each week.

<i>Position</i>	<i>Duties</i>	<i>Hrs./Wk.</i>
President	Presides at all meetings. Supervises all GAL Programs. Maintains GAL documents. Coordinates leadership and executive meetings.	10 hrs.
V.P. of Membership	Performs duties of president in absence of the president. Manages membership statuses. Takes attendance at all meetings.	6 hrs.
V.P. of Rush	Plans and delegates all rush events. Oversees rush committee. Guides incoming pledges and educates them about the organization.	12 hrs.
V.P. of Public Relations	Assists president with university and local communications. Maintains communication with alumni and parents.	6 hrs.
Treasurer	Collects dues and payments. Pays bills. Keeps record of all transactions. Makes purchases on behalf of the organization. Reports chapter budget to the National Executive Council.	7 hrs.
Secretary	Records minutes at all meetings. Creates a monthly calendar of events. Oversees the following of all by-laws. Sends information for the newsletter.	6 hrs.

Each of the six officers is responsible for different areas of management in the organization. Some positions require more time than the others, but the roles are equally important.

(Source: Gamma Alpha Lambda, Inc. *Chapter Manual*. Springfield, MO, 2010. Print.)

As the table demonstrates, participating in the executive council is a time-consuming commitment. As explained in the *Chapter Manual* provided by Gamma Alpha Lambda, Inc., each of the executive council members is responsible for performing these duties as well as holding two office hours each week, attending all sisterhood meetings, attending all leadership and executive meetings, and

attending 70% of all GAL events. These requirements are accounted for in the table. Some positions are more demanding than others, but all of them are crucial to the organization's function.

President and Vice President of Membership

While the president of GAL does not spend a great deal of time planning events, she does put in hours going the extra mile for the organization. Leadership chairwomen do the planning, but the president makes sure the events happen. She is also responsible for making tough ethical decisions when GAL members do not follow the code of conduct.

The vice president of membership is also required to make some difficult decisions. If a member does not meet the requirements, it is the V.P. of membership who declares her inactive and, if necessary, removes her from the organization. This officer is second-in-command in the sense that she would become president if the current president became unable to perform her duties.

Vice President of Rush and Vice President of Public Relations

Unlike the previous two positions, the vice president of rush position is a planning-intensive one. This officer is responsible for organizing and implementing informational meetings, social and service events, rush workshops, big sister pairings, and rush retreats. She is also in charge of integrating each rush class with the greater organization.

The vice president of public relations also plans a few events, although usually nothing as extensive as those of the V.P. of rush. This officer will plan alumni dinners and activities as well as events for members' families. She is also in charge of getting Gamma Alpha Lambda's name into the public sphere. In the past, this officer has hosted a benefit concert for our philanthropy: Potter's House.

Treasurer and Secretary

The treasurer has a less intensive position, but it is no less important than the others. She is in charge of anything financial in the organization. She develops the budget and is responsible for sticking to it as much as possible. She also distributes funds to the other executive and leadership officers. She must make sure all members pay their membership dues and other fees on time.

Like the treasurer, the secretary plans no events and does not have to make any tough decisions. Her main task is to record what happens at every sisterhood, leadership, and executive meeting. However, she also keeps track of GAL's by-laws and makes sure they are being followed. If there is a problem, she must bring it up with the rest of the executive council.

Conclusion

Beyond these basic requirements, each member of the executive council is held to a high standard of conduct and personability. She must follow the code of conduct in order to act as a role model to the organization, and she must become familiar with each member of the organization. Most importantly, she must do anything she can to make Gamma Alpha Lambda the best it can be.