

Autonomy of Chapters

Within the overall framework of Sigma Xi's Constitution and Bylaws, chapters establish their own bylaws to control their own activities, including procedures for the election of new members.

One aspect of this autonomy that should be kept in mind by chapter officers is that some legal and other protections established for Sigma Xi, as a whole may not extend automatically to chapters. This includes the tax-exempt status of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society. Several chapters, especially those that maintain significant funds from year to year, or have endowments or other sources of additional income, have found it necessary or desirable to obtain tax-exempt status. Chapters wishing to obtain information on tax-exempt status should contact their local office of the Internal Revenue Service. Similarly, third-party insurance protection (e.g., in connection with chapter activities) may be a wise precaution.

Petition for Chapter Status

A group that wishes to establish a Sigma Xi chapter at their institution should contact Sigma Xi Chapter Services at chapters@sigmaxi.org for steps to create a formal petition for chapter charter.

Installation

If the petition is recommended by the Sigma Xi Committee on Qualifications and Membership and approved by the Board of Directors, installation of the chapter will be arranged by the petitioning group in consultation with Chapter Services and the Executive Director. A charter, signed by the Sigma Xi President and Executive Director will be presented at the time of the installation by a representative of Sigma Xi. The chapter will pay \$150 to Sigma Xi for the expenses incurred for the chapter installation.

Mergers and Name Changes

The name of a chapter is stated explicitly in its charter. Chapters may wish to note that the group's name does appear on the membership certificates of individuals elected by the chapter and lengthy names may present problems in putting the chapter's name on the membership certificates. Therefore, groups may wish to select names for their chapters that are as brief as possible. From time to time, however, name changes may be called for, either because of a change in name of the host institution (e.g., a college may acquire the status of a university) or because the affiliated membership believes that the name does not reflect the character of the group (e.g., a chapter based at and named for a particular university may wish to adopt a regional name, if its membership expands to include scientists from other institutions). Similarly, nearby groups may decide that they wish to merge to create one stronger chapter.

Revocation of Chapter Charters

Sigma Xi regional directors, administrative offices and others will provide assistance to chapters that have difficulties in maintaining a desirable level of activity. If such efforts fail, however, there are mechanisms through which Sigma Xi can revoke a chapter charter. It should be noted that a chapter cannot cease to exist by voluntarily surrendering its charter; action by the Board of Directors and others is required.