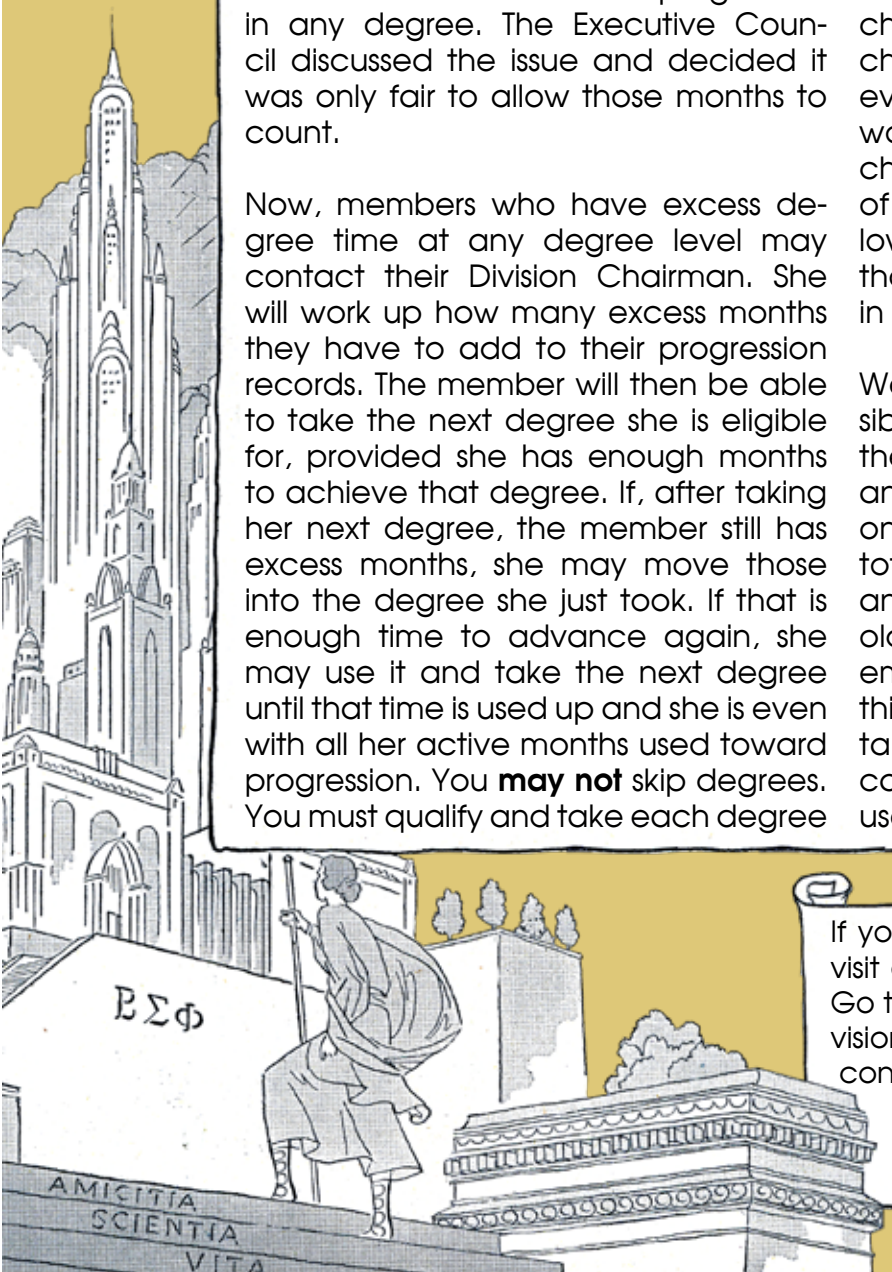
USING EXCESS MONTHS TOWARD PROGRESSION

Now that we are allowing Members-at-Large to earn progression credit by doing independent programs, members have asked us to consider allowing members with excess time in lower degrees to count it toward their progression time. Before the change in rules that allowed members to take any degree in any chapter and get full credit for that time, members who had a higher degree than that of their chapter, or who had no local chapter of a higher degree to move into, built up months that did not count toward progression in any degree. The Executive Council discussed the issue and decided it was only fair to allow those months to count.

Now, members who have excess degree time at any degree level may contact their Division Chairman. She will work up how many excess months they have to add to their progression records. The member will then be able to take the next degree she is eligible for, provided she has enough months to achieve that degree. If, after taking her next degree, the member still has excess months, she may move those into the degree she just took. If that is enough time to advance again, she may use it and take the next degree until that time is used up and she is even with all her active months used toward progression. You **may not** skip degrees. You must qualify and take each degree in order before advancing to the next. You may continue with this process until you have used all your excess months toward higher degrees.

There is no automatic way to handle this for all of our members who have excess months, so you must contact your Division Chairman to determine the number of months you have and how to qualify for each degree until that time is fully used. Remember, the rule when you accumulated those extra months was that only time in the chapter's degree or a higher degree chapter counted toward progression, even though you were doing program work as you would if you'd been in a chapter of your own degree. Because of this, it just seemed appropriate to allow those members with this issue to use those excess months to move forward in the progression of degrees.

We hope this change will make it possible for all members to get the degrees they have long felt they have earned and should have received. Then everyone can determine their degree by their total number of active chapter months, and hopefully any confusion with the old rules will be over. Remember, call or email your Division Chairman to help get this process underway. You will need to take each Ritual in order until you are caught up and your excess months are used.



If you don't know your Division Chairman visit our web site, *www.betasigmaphi.org*. Go to the "contact us" link. This lists the Division Chairmen by state and gives their contact information. If you call, just tell the receptionist your state and she will connect you to the correct Division Chairman.