August 13, 2020

Dear Fraternity and Sorority Members,

We are looking forward to welcoming you back to campus in the coming days. Our staff has been working with your chapter officers throughout the summer to help them find new and creative ways to make your Greek experience meaningful in spite of the restrictions both the City of New Orleans and the University have in place. While we all know this year will be different, we are committed to helping you make the best of it and to keeping our community safe.

We are proud of the work so many of you have done in recent weeks to address racial injustice in this country, and yet we know there is still much to be done to dismantle the systems of oppression and exclusion inherent in many of our organizations and practices. In the coming days we will be communicating with you about diversity, inclusion, and equity initiatives we are expanding as well as initiating within Fraternity and Sorority Programs.

Today however, we are contacting you in order to be crystal clear about the University’s expectations of you related to COVID safety. By now you should have seen the University’s new COVID policies. As members of fraternities and sororities, you have all pledged to hold yourselves to a higher standard than your non-Greek peers. Therefore you should set an example for the rest of the campus community by adhering strictly to these policies. It is our individual and collective ability to follow these guidelines that ensures our health and safety, as well as the ability to stay on campus.

We want to highlight a few points that are especially important for all fraternity and sorority members to understand:

- Face coverings and social distancing are both essential whenever you are outside of your individual residence; one does not replace the other.
- On-campus residential students may only have one guest, who must be from the same residence hall. Off-campus students may not visit residence halls. This means no parties in rooms or suites.
- All Recognized Student Organizations (RSO) must adhere to the following gathering-size limits: 25 people indoors, 50 people outdoors, whether the gathering is on or off campus. (Note: an indoor/outdoor event will not increase capacity; it will still be capped at 50 people.) These numbers are based on the city’s guidelines.
- Individual social gatherings (i.e., something not hosted by an organization) are limited to 15 people. Either hosting or attending a gathering in violation of this provision will lead to Student Conduct charges that could result in suspension or expulsion.

In addition to these university-wide policies, the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Programs has instituted the following policies applicable to your organizations:

- EVERYTHING chapters do must be registered, including many things you wouldn’t have registered before, such as small meetings and events without alcohol. This will allow us to support contact tracing efforts should they be necessary.
- We are not approving any parties at chapter houses. As always, we will use the reasonable person standard to determine if a gathering was a party; if it looks like a party, it’s a party. If a
**party takes place at a chapter house, the chapter will face a serious Student Conduct outcome, which may include organization suspension or expulsion. Members responsible for such parties may also face similar individual consequences.**

- Alcohol may only be consumed at chapter houses by residents who live there, who are of age, i.e., no brothers-only or “brothers and a couple of friends” gatherings with alcohol are allowed.

We will not tolerate unregistered parties, especially during these crucial first few weeks. The University is instituting a High Priority Period (look for communication about this soon from the Dean of Students), during which violations are treated more seriously than usual. It doesn’t matter if it’s at a chapter house, a “satellite” house, a house where a few members live, a suite in Irby, the Fly, etc. Again, the reasonable person standard determines whether an unregistered party was a chapter event; if it looks like a chapter event, it’s a chapter event. **An unregistered chapter party – especially one where attendees are not complying with our public health expectations – will likely lead to suspension or expulsion of your organization.**

There have been numerous reports across the country in recent weeks about COVID outbreaks tied to fraternities and sororities. Faculty, staff, and students, as well as neighbors and community members, are very comfortable reporting their concerns about your chapters under normal circumstances. They will be much more vigilant now when they are concerned not just about noise and trash, but also about their health and safety.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to a member of our staff. Our advising assignments are listed below so you will know the best person to contact:

**Anthony Ciliberto, aciliberto@tulane.edu**
Delta Tau Delta; Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc.; Delta Xi Nu Multicultural Sorority; Kappa Kappa Gamma; Phi Kappa Sigma; Phi Mu; Sigma Chi; Sigma Delta Tau; Interfraternity Council

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Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.; Chi Omega; FIJI; Pi Beta Phi; Sigma Alpha Epsilon; Tri Delta; Zeta Beta Tau; Panhellenic Council

**Liz Schafer, lschafer@tulane.edu**
Alpha Epsilon Phi; Alpha Delta Pi; Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.; Gamma Rho Lambda; Kappa Alpha; Kappa Alpha Theta; Zeta Phi Beta, Sorority, Inc.; Zeta Psi; Multicultural Greek Council; National Pan-Hellenic Council

Best wishes for a safe, healthy, and rewarding fall semester!