Office of the Vice President and Dean of Students  
Division of Student Affairs

August 20, 2020

Dear Chapter and Council Presidents, Officers, and Members of our Tulane Greek Community,

Welcome home to Tulane. As you navigate campus life in our new COVID-19 reality, I hope your first two days of classes are going well. My goal this semester is to create the safest environment possible so that you can attend these classes on ground all semester. To create this reality – our ability to stay safely on campus together – will take all of us.

For me, that means listening, learning, and continuously enacting and enforcing practices and policies to keep our campus safe. If you have ideas on how to improve this process, please let me know. In the meantime, one of the practices I am enacting is reaching out to you directly. I am writing to ensure each of you has taken the time to read, consider, and commit to Tulane University's expectations for our individual and collective behavior. I am concerned that you may have read these messages but not fully considered them in order to fully commit to following them.

**Choices**

My concern stems from reports we have received describing the behavioral choices members of our community are making that are in direct conflict with the expectations of Tulane University and Fraternity & Sorority Programs (FSP). These expectations were most recently stated and shared in a message from FSP staff to the entire Greek community on Friday afternoon and again today in a message from Dean Woodley to our entire Tulane community. The choices of our members have led to one chapter being placed on interim suspension as well as individual students receiving interim suspension. To be clear, COVID conduct cases will be adjudicated through both chapter and individual charges.

I am extremely grateful to those of you who are choosing to do all the right and hard things – modeling COVID safe behavior, reinforcing the university's COVID policies and practices, and holding your friends accountable when they aren’t creating a safe environment. I have spoken with many of you who are frustrated by this last choice, the stressful and exhausting choice to hold your peers’ accountable because you know their choices threaten your safety, our campus and city communities’ safety, and our collective chance to stay on campus together.

I have also heard your frustration with the behavior of your peers who have chosen to affiliate with an underground fraternity. If you are aware of any gatherings or activities of these unrecognized groups, please report them via the online concerns report. When making a report, especially if you choose to remain anonymous, please submit as much detail as possible – screenshots, pictures, names, addresses, etc. These details are crucial to our ability to act upon the report.

As I work with the FSP team to shut down these underground activities, we ask for your partnership in this process. The outside world does not distinguish differences in our chapters or in their recognition status. We are seen as one community, therefore their behavior as well as the behavior of other chapters and members directly impacts us all. It is in your chapters’ best interest to hold your peers accountable. We see and experience this collective impact on our campus and in the national news (Colleges Closing: Coronavirus clusters have been linked to fraternities, sororities, ..., NYT, August 19, 2020).

**Care**

These expectations are in place in order to take care of each other and our community. If you, or someone you know, is diagnosed with COVID-19 we are here with multiple support structures in place to support you. The most immediate way to access this help is to complete the COVID-19 Reporting Form. Completing this form initiates our university support structures and will connect you with a member of our Campus Health team to coordinate your care. In
addition, a Case Manager will contact you to offer support and initiate professor notification to ensure your academic success during this stressful time.

Together we are creating a new campus environment. This environment is shaped by our individual choices; it is also shaped by our care and concern for each other. In addition to myself and the FSP team, we want to be sure you have resources to support your academic, social, and mental health during this unprecedented time:

**Campus and Recreational Activities**
- LBC Activities: [Activities and Programs](#)
- Campus Recreation Activities: [Campus Rec Virtual Activities](#) and [Campus Rec Workout & Group Exercise](#)
- Student Organization and Department Activities: [Student Org Events](#)

**Support and Well-Being**
- Newcomb-Tulane College has produced [Learning Toolkit](#) to help students navigate the fluctuations this semester
- Campus Health has expanded resources through their telehealth options, to learn more link here: [Telehealth Appointments](#) and here: [Counseling Center Virtual Resources](#)
- Counseling Center has increased both individual and group counseling opportunities. Specifically their weekly groups offer opportunities to develop skills and strategies to manage anxiety and stress, all of the groups can be found here: [Counseling Center Group Opportunities](#)
- The Case Management staff are available to support students through a variety of challenges that arise: [Case Management](#)

This represents some not all of the resources and opportunities designed for your success, please reach out to let me know how I can further support you, your chapter, and your council. I look forward to our collective choices and care for one another that will create the safest environment for our learning and growth. I also commit to you that care will show up as clear accountability and consequences for those who consciously choose to not join us in this effort.

Thank you,

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