

March 12, 2024

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PI KAPPA ALPHA FRATERNITY DECISION LETTER

Thank you for meeting with me and Dr. Lee Mintz, Caryl Montero-Adams via Zoom on February 28, 2024 during Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity's Informal Conference. During the Informal Conference, allegations of policy violations were discussed. Specifically, a series of alleged hazing violations that took place from Fall 2022 to Fall 2023 were discussed.

Representatives of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity included President Jonathan Mehr, Advisor Mark Nicholson, Advisor Jack Sword, and Advisor Brad Shuman. Chief Operating Officer Lance Horner and Director of Services (West), Isaac Sires for Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity headquarters were present on Zoom.

Findings

As discussed during the Informal Conference, Pi Kappa Alpha members indicated hazing behaviors occurred from at least the Spring 2019 term through Fall 2023. The focus of the investigation was the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years. Specific hazing behaviors confirmed by members of the organization during Fall 2022-Fall 2023 include, but are not limited to: Branding, alcohol and illegal drug use, acts of servitude, requiring new members to go to the chapter house with little notice to complete tasks or participate in physical exercise, consumption of odd preparations of food that induced vomiting, deceiving new members into thinking they would be dropped from the fraternity, implementing competitive activities during initiation week with the intention of degrading and humiliating new members, and physical exercise that was both planned and forced as consequences.

The hazing behaviors were confirmed by members to have continued throughout the Fall 2023 term, during which Pi Kappa Alpha was assigned an Interim Suspension. In addition to the hazing behaviors, some fraternity members attempted to discourage individuals from participating in the student conduct process, and furnished false information during the investigation. As a result of these violations, multiple students will receive a recommendation to be suspended from San Diego State University and the California State University system.

Based on the information presented during the investigation, including confirmation of the behaviors by more than 30 members of the fraternity, I have found based on a preponderance of evidence that Pi Kappa Alpha is in violation of the following Student Organization Code of Conduct policies:

***(2) Alcohol.** Violation of applicable law or University policy regarding the use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of alcoholic beverages while on or off campus.*

***(20-1) Hazing or conspiracy to haze.** Joining an officially recognized organization should be a positive experience. New member activities and initiation rituals should focus upon the positive aspects of both the organization and the individual. Abusive behavior toward, or hazing of, a member of the campus community is forbidden.*

Hazing is defined as any method of indoctrination, initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization, or any other organization-related activity, which, regardless of location, intent, membership status or rank of the participants, or the express or implied consent of the participants, causes, or is reasonably likely to cause,

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physical or mental injury, substantial mental or physical discomfort or stress, personal degradation, harassment or intimidation of or to any former, current or prospective student of any educational institution.

(20-2) Hazing or conspiracy to haze. *Hazing also includes any activity that compels a student to participate in any activity that is unlawful, publicly indecent or contrary to the policies and regulations of the university, or any activity that unreasonably and materially interferes with a student's academic efforts.*

(21) Health and Safety. *Conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety of any person within or related to the University community, including physical abuse, threats, intimidation, harassment, sexual misconduct, throwing bottles or objects that could result in personal injury, or where three or more members of a student organization engage in group violence or taunt others to engage in violence.*

(22-1) Illegal Drugs. *Use, possession, manufacture, or distribution of illegal drugs or drug-related paraphernalia, (except as expressly permitted by law and University regulation) or the misuse of legal pharmaceutical drugs at an organization-related event.*

(38-1) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures. *Falsification, distortion, or misrepresentations of information related to a student organization discipline matter.*

(38-3) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures. *Attempting to discourage a person from participating in a student organization disciplinary matter.*

(38-5) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures. *Verbal, written or physical harassment, intimidation or retaliation of any participant in a student organization disciplinary matter.*

(38-6) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures. *Failure to comply with the sanction(s) imposed under a student organization disciplinary proceeding.*

As a result of the violations, Pi Kappa Alpha is sanctioned to **Expulsion** and is not eligible to participate in the Interfraternity Council's (IFC) expansion selection process until **October 1, 2030**. Once eligible, Pi Kappa Alpha will be able to participate in the expansion selection process, including applying and potentially interviewing with the Interfraternity Council. Participating in the IFC Expansion process does not guarantee if or when Pi Kappa Alpha will be selected to reestablish at SDSU. Student organization recognition of Pi Kappa Alpha has been revoked until Pi Kappa Alpha is approved to be re-established at San Diego State University. A formal invitation letter will be sent to the fraternity headquarters once the fraternity completes the IFC expansion process and is confirmed by the university.

In addition to the sanction of Expulsion, Pi Kappa Alpha must complete the following stipulations prior to, through, and after the re-establishment process:

Members of Pi Kappa Alpha who were active during the 2018-19 through the 2023-24 academic years and who retain their international membership, may not engage with the undergraduate chapter during and after the establishment. When graduated, the individuals may not serve in advisory roles and may not have contact with undergraduate members.

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Any further violations by Pi Kappa Alpha of university policy, as an organization or by individual students, during the term of the expulsion may result in additional conduct charges, which may lead to a lengthened period of expulsion and/or individual sanctions.

The content of this letter only reflects the outcome of the organizational administrative investigation. Please be advised that this organizational decision has no impact on individual conduct proceedings. Individual conduct proceedings are facilitated by the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities and all Pi Kappa Alpha members may be held individually accountable for behaviors that violate the Student Code of Conduct.

Respectfully,



Dr. Randy Timm

Associate Vice President for Campus Life and Dean of Students
Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity

cc:

Dr. Christopher Manning, Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity
Christy Samarkos, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Campus Diversity
Caryl Montero-Adams, Assistant Dean of Students for Student Life, Office of the Dean of Students
Kristen Lemaster, Associate Director, Pierce Greek Life Center
Dr. Lee Mintz, Director, Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities
Jack Sword, Alumnus Advisor, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Brad Shuman, Alumnus Advisor, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Dr. Mark Nicholson, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Lance Horner, Chief Operating Officer, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Isaac Sires, Director of Services-West, Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity
Hayden Bost, President, Interfraternity Council
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