



Dec. 12, 2018

Dear Fraternity and Sorority Life community:

This email is to share important information with you regarding the closure of the Kappa Sigma fraternity chapter at the University of Iowa. The Kappa Sigma International Fraternity voted to revoke the charter of the Beta-Rho Chapter and the UI has removed the chapter's status as a registered student organization for violating international fraternity and university policies on alcohol and hazing.

As a result, the fraternity and students who were members will not continue to operate as a recognized fraternity or a registered student organization at the UI. Failure to comply with this directive is a violation of the UI Code of Student Life and could result in disciplinary action for individual students. An accused student organization may appeal its decision by filing a written notice of appeal to the Office of the Dean of Students ([dos@uiowa.edu](mailto:dos@uiowa.edu)) following the receipt of the decision. Please visit <https://dos.uiowa.edu/policies/discipline-of-registered-student-organizations/> for more information about the UI's registered student organization discipline procedure.

We have completed the investigations involving the other Interfraternity Council fraternities placed on temporary suspension for allegations involving tailgates. The associate dean and executive director of the Iowa Memorial Union will be following up with individual chapters tomorrow to share the outcomes. Following the conclusion of the meetings, we will provide additional information to you.

Our mission at the UI is the success of our students, and we haven't made these decisions easily. As you know, the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils decided to enact a moratorium on events with alcohol in May 2017 after the death of an IFC chapter member. We've spent more than a year working diligently on how we can best support and partner with you. We also continue to invest in programs, initiatives, and planning to help shape the FSL culture in a way that is safe and in alignment with our values.

In Spring 2018, we started a pilot program for all IFC and PHC chapters in good standing with their respective council and the UI Office of Student Accountability to be allowed to host up to three registered social events. In August 2018, we also started the process to develop the FSL 2020

Strategic Plan to help provide a clear path to continue reinvigorating and refining the FSL culture we want to have at the UI, keeping our mission of student success at the forefront.

The Strategic Planning Work Group is preparing to share draft recommendations with me by the end of the year to complete deliverables related to:

- Risk management, health, and safety
- Peer accountability and transparency
- Continuous improvement and assessment of programs and initiatives
- Recruitment and membership processes
- On-campus housing options
- Relationship with regional and inter/national fraternity and sorority officials
- House director support and development

We hope to begin implementation of the recommendations next semester and look forward to sharing more with you at that time.

As I've shared before, the UI has a rich fraternity and sorority life culture, and we will not allow the positive impact of most of the community to be overshadowed or undermined by the actions of a few. Any chapter that refuses to abide by our policies will be held accountable.

I appreciate your shared passion for a community that values the health, safety, and wellness of all its members. I welcome you to contact us if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Shivers, PhD  
Vice president for student life and  
interim chief diversity officer