

Hello to all,

Dear Chapter Presidents and invested alumni constituents of the fraternity and sorority community,

Last evening I met with the executive officers for the Interfraternity and Panhellenic Councils. I informed them that I have come to the conclusion that our collective community response to risk management has been failing. I made this conclusion due to some decisions recently made by chapters and council leaders, the recent transport of new members due to alcohol incapacitation, and the emergence of unregistered social events, most notably at senior houses. Risk Management practices and policies are in place for two particular reasons: (1) to support your mission of friendship through making sure people make smart decisions and do not hurt themselves and (2) to address the legal implications that come with social host responsibilities.

As I hope you aware, the University of Illinois has a vested interest in the value-added experiences that fraternities and sororities bring to our campus. As your liaison between the administration and the students who lead this community, I can tell you the university is invested in aiding your organizations to maximize their potential and continue to have an important role in providing services such as friendship, leadership development, academic support, service to the community and a wonderful social experience. I will also tell you that the university has placed in your hands the responsibility to self-govern and to monitor the safety of your members and your guests. These privileges do not come unconditionally. In order to maintain them, our community needs to prove we can handle the responsibility. At this time, I must say I am not sure we can. I will also say that there are threats to preserving this; most notably is an increased awareness by local authorities that fraternity and sorority social event management is beginning to break down and not be monitored in the manner they would want it to be.

In light of this, I have provided the IFC and Panhellenic leaders with some action items that need immediate attention. I have asked them to create a plan to assist chapters in ensuring policy awareness and implementation, particularly around the area of B.Y.O.B. (bring or buy your own alcohol). In addition, I have asked them to assist chapters in creating systems to monitor the safety of members and guests at social events. I have given them a deadline of October 19th to provide some next steps. At that time, they will submit to me their plans and we will then begin the process of enacting that plan. In the interim, I suggest all chapters continue to work on policy adherence and safety issues as you currently do or as you think would be even more effective.

I have informed the council officers that I attend an annual conference from November 27th through December 4th. At this conference I will have the opportunity to meet with national organization representatives. If progress is not evident by the time I attend this conference, I will meet with national representatives to discuss next steps. This may include the decision to place a moratorium on social activities until the community demonstrates a renewed commitment to understanding and enacting policies and practices to ensure safety. **I do believe this will not be necessary however since I have faith that the councils and you all as invested leaders will rise to this occasion.** True leaders commit to courageous acts when the times call for it. Our community has those leaders and you will rise to this occasion.

I am your advocate and I am your ally. I am a staunch supporter of your movement, but I am concerned with the current state of the community. As an institutional representative, I cannot support the current reality for a majority of social activities on this campus. I am completely committed to assisting IFC and Panhellenic and EVERY chapter in developing strategies to make this process as easy and positive as possible. I have lots of ideas that with minimal work can be implemented while still allowing everyone to continue to enjoy a vibrant social experience.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks for your attention to this email.

Dan