

November 25, 2014

Shaun Ellis
President, Beta Phi Pi
Student Organization Center
University Union

NOTIFICATION OF JUDICIAL ACTION – JUDICIAL BOARD

This letter serves notice of the decision flowing from the judicial board hearing held on November 14, 2014. At the outset of the hearing, you entered the following pleadings on behalf of the organization: In Violation with respect to Codes 2, 5, 9, 21 and 23, and Not in Violation of Code 20. After reviewing all available information, panel members reached findings that matched your pleadings.

The only contested charge was whether cannabis had been possessed or consumed during the social gathering at 405 West Murray and, if so, whether the chapter was responsible for same. While Nick Katz testified to observing cannabis stems and smelling cannabis during a walk-through of the facility on Monday, September 8, the board concluded that did not provide a direct link to the social gathering in question. I agree and accept the findings reached by the hearing panel.

During the hearing, Beta Phi Pi members spent much time talking about the compromised structure of 405 West Murray, alleging that the floor lacked adequate support prior to the event. One member observed that the floor was noticeably wobbly when only 9 people would perform step practice. Members contended that approximately 70-80 people actually attended the event; this contrasted sharply with the 200 attendees estimated by responding police. When asked why the fraternity would risk conducting an event with even 45-80 guests on an "unstable floor," chapter members did not furnish an explanation.

In considering sanction alternatives, the board focused on the alcohol, Social Responsibility Policy and nuisance party ordinance violations; the structural damage that occurred; and the potential for multiple serious injuries or deaths. Greek Life overseer Nick Katz provided an affirmation for the good working relationship that Beta Phi Pi has maintained with the Office of Student Activities. Nevertheless, in underscoring the seriousness of the numerous violations involved in this incident, Mr.

Katz recommended that the chapter be Suspended.

When considering sanction alternatives, the hearing panel considered the relative severity of the violations, organizational record, and the recommendation from Greek Life. Board members recommended that the organization should be suspended at minimum through March 15, 2015, with stipulations imposed as conditions for reinstatement. Upon reinstatement, the chapter would be on deferred suspension status. I agree that Suspension is warranted; however, I regard the duration to be insufficient. The chapter shall have its recognition terminated at minimum through May 15, 2016.

Beta Phi Pi does retain the right to appeal this decision. Such appeal must be filed in writing and received in the Office of Student Judicial Programs by the deadline date listed on the enclosed judicial action form. Instructions explaining the appeal process are included. If an appeal is not filed, this decision will take effect. If an appeal is filed, the Vice President for Student Services will consider the appeal and render the final decision.

Should you have questions, contact Director of Student Judicial Programs Tim Sheridan at 309/298-2436.

For the University,

Earl Bracey
Associate Vice President for Student Services

ec: Dr. Biller
Mr. Sheridan
Ms. Janisz
Mr. Katz