

March 25, 2025

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PHI KAPPA PSI FRATERNITY DECISION LETTER

Thank you for meeting with Kristen Lemaster and me via Zoom on March 10, 2025 during Phi Kappa Psi - California Lambda chapter's Informal Conference. During the Informal Conference, allegations of policy violations were discussed. Specifically, a series of alleged hazing violations, as well as alleged violations of the chapter's probationary and interim suspension periods, were discussed. During the conversation, recent reports of alleged behaviors involving physical assault, vandalism, fireworks, and antisemitic statements were also discussed.

Representatives of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity included Executive Director Ron Ransom, Senior Director of Chapter Operations Ben Sigler, Faculty/Staff Advisor Sam Kobari, and Alumnus Advisor Kevin Fukushima. Given the decision of student members of the Phi Kappa Psi - California Lambda chapter to surrender their charter, effective March 10, 2025, undergraduate chapter members were not permitted to participate as representatives of the organization.

Findings

As discussed during the Informal Conference, the university found that undergraduate California Lambda chapter members indicated hazing behaviors occurred from at least the Fall 2023 term through the Fall 2024 term. Specific hazing behaviors confirmed include, but are not limited to, underage alcohol consumption, humiliation, skits, striking individuals, and activities that resulted in great bodily harm. During the investigation into hazing behaviors within the chapter, the university also identified that undergraduate members and representatives of the chapter furnished false information to university officials, including administrators and law enforcement, about the incident.

In addition to the hazing behaviors, the university found that the chapter engaged in behavior that intimidated members of the campus community in Fall 2024; encouraged members of the campus community to violate university policies during the Spring 2024 and Fall 2024 terms; and furnished false information to university officials during the Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Fall 2024 terms, both during investigative meetings and in discussion about reported behaviors. Furthermore, while the chapter was on an assigned Interim Suspension, Phi Kappa Psi hosted unregistered social events, engaged prospective members and new members, participated in events with other organizations, and continued operations during the Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, and Spring 2025 terms.

The California Lambda chapter's ongoing actions highlight a pervasive sense of impunity within the chapter. This behavior, coupled with the harmful impact of hazing, suggests a deep-rooted culture that disregards accountability and consequences, posing serious concerns for the well-being of the chapter and those involved.

Based on the information presented during the investigation, including accounts from members of the chapter, I have found based on a preponderance of evidence that the California Lambda chapter of Phi Kappa Psi is in violation of the following Student Organization Code of Conduct policies:

(1) Aiding and Abetting. *Aiding, abetting, encouraging, permitting or assisting a student or student organization to do any act that would violate a university policy or applicable law; or that could subject the student or student organization to discipline.*

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

(11-1) Dishonesty, including: *Furnishing false information to an official of the university or of a university auxiliary organization or law enforcement agency.*

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(16) Failure to Comply. *Failure to comply with directions or interference with any university official or any public safety officer while acting in the performance of their duties.*

(20-1) Hazing or conspiracy to haze. *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, 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.*

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

(38-2) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures: *Disruption or interference with the orderly progress of a student organization disciplinary matter.*

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

(38-4) Violation of the Student Organization Conduct Procedures: *Attempting to influence the impartiality of any participant 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, the California Lambda chapter of Phi Kappa Psi is sanctioned to **Expulsion** until **February 19, 2031**. San Diego State University's recognition of the California Lambda chapter of Phi Kappa Psi has been revoked until Phi Kappa Psi is approved to reestablish at SDSU. The Interfraternity Council's (IFC) expansion process follows the North American Interfraternity Conference (NIC) protocol for Responsible Growth and will accept applications from Phi Kappa Psi no earlier than Fall 2029 for a potential future re-establishment. If the fraternity completes the IFC expansion process and is confirmed by the university, a formal invitation letter will be sent to the fraternity headquarters.

In addition to the sanction of Expulsion, Phi Kappa Psi must complete the following stipulations prior to, through, and after the reestablishment process:

Undergraduate members of the California Lambda chapter of Phi Kappa Psi who were involved in the chapter from Fall 2023 through Spring 2025 and who retain their international membership, may not engage with the undergraduate chapter during the first ten years of the establishment. When graduated, the individuals may not serve in advisory roles or have contact with

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undergraduate members for the first ten years. In both instances, the ten year period will begin on the first day of the fall or spring term of the establishment.

Alumni advisors must be confirmed eligible by Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity Headquarters and receive additional training by the Pierce Greek Life Center prior to holding any advisory roles before, during, and after the reestablishment process.

In addition to the violations addressed in the informal conference, the group also discussed the California Lambda chapter's open investigation involving physical assault, vandalism, fireworks, and antisemitic statements. The Phi Kappa Psi headquarters staff has been notified of these incidents and concerns. A separate letter outlining the findings of the investigation will be issued to the fraternity following the conclusion of the investigation.

Phi Kappa Psi headquarters has indicated that SDSU students may not operate under the auspices of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity until the California Lambda chapter is reestablished following the expulsion period. The Phi Kappa Psi headquarters has committed to cooperate with the university to address any actions in the name of the fraternity.

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 or legal proceedings. Individual conduct proceedings are facilitated by the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities and all students associated with Phi Kappa Psi may be held individually accountable for behaviors that violate the Student Code of Conduct.

Respectfully,



Caryl Montero-Adams
Interim Dean of Students

cc:

Dr. Randy Timm, Senior Associate Vice President, Division of Student Affairs and Campus Diversity
Kristen Lemaster, Director, Pierce Greek Life Center
Dr. Lee Mintz, Executive Director, Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities and Office for Restorative Practices
Ben Sigler, Senior Director of Chapter Operations, Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
Sam Kobari, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Phi Kappa Psi
Monte Wise, Alumnus Advisor, Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity
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