

Fraternity and Sorority Life
Open Forum
December 4, 2018
Q&A

Fraternity Conduct

Assuming that leadership is not an issue, would it be possible to incorporate the fraternity leadership (active, alumni and or national) in the conduct process?

- Chapter student leadership, alumni and national offices are now always included in communications regarding a conduct issue. They are included in meetings, emails, phone calls and more. We believe this creates a collaborative process within student organization conduct.

Chapter Accountability

Will residence halls and university apartments be held to the same standards as Greek organizations? If an individual, or just a few, violate "chapter obligations," will the fraternity be held accountable? If so, what will the penalty be, and how is that comparable to dorm and apartment discipline?

- Yes, students living in residence halls and university apartments are expected to adhere to the rules set forth in the [University Standard of Conduct](#) (Collected Rules and Regulations of the University of Missouri, Chapter 200: Student Conduct). A violation of these rules could result in disciplinary action taken by the university up to and including expulsion from the university.
- We always look at individual actions first. If we believe an action was independent of the larger chapter, discipline will focus on the individual. However, if the evidence indicates that the chapter has violated the Standard of Conduct or covered up a major violation, the chapter will be held responsible. We will work with the national office and our local alumni to ensure we can identify the problem before sanctioning a chapter.
- The University Collected Rules and Regulations give guidance as to what is an organizational conduct matter ([CRR 200.010](#)).

What are the new policies for self-reporting hazing?

- Self-reporting hazing, and the limited amnesty afforded chapters who do so, has been the philosophy of the Office of Student Accountability and Support for some time. The ["Rights of Those Who Report"](#) clause of the hazing policy at the University of Kentucky is an example of a well-articulated self-reporting policy that the University of Missouri could use as a model. This can help further individual student accountability before it becomes a chapter issue. For more information, please see [Draft Recommendation 2](#) (Develop policies to encourage self-reporting of hazing incidents).

Will there be penalties for rogue conduct by an individual or few?

- Penalties will follow University Collected Rules and Regulations guidelines for all students, which range from a verbal warning to expulsion.

Freshmen Housing

If a Greek house misses a "chapter eligibility" standard between now and 2021, (for example, grade average below all men or all women average for one semester or year) does that disqualify freshmen from living in house? If so, how long? What if an individual or a few are caught with alcohol in their room? Will they be disqualified? How could one regain good standing after that?

- The recommendation is that chapters must comply with all the eligibility standards for three consecutive semesters before they will be in good standing. We have discussed using the previous two semesters as the benchmark prior to implementation.
- The current recommendations are focused on a shift in behavior of our fraternity and sorority life community for the better. Each standard will continue to be evaluated by the Fraternity & Sorority Life Advisory Board moving forward to ensure they are both challenging and achievable for chapters.
- Several chapters already meet the 2021 eligibility requirements and other chapters can begin working toward the requirements.
- Individuals or several members caught violating policy does not constitute a chapter violation.

How will alumni advisors be trained on these new policies, specifically on the freshmen living in the houses? How will you educate chapters about the implications of having older members living in the house versus relying on freshmen living in those facilities?

- The Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life has made a commitment to hosting regular trainings and providing regular communication with all chapter advisors regarding any changes to university policy or procedures.

Pledging/Rush Process

For the pledging process, why do we want to go down to six weeks instead of eight? For example, Homecoming is an incredibly important tradition but it takes a lot of time within chapters. Will it be possible to adjust the pledge process depending on the semester?

- We will work closely with our student leaders and their national offices as we evaluate safety and consistency in the pledging process. It's important to note that the university typically receives more reports of hazing at Homecoming compared to other times of the year. The purpose of the shorter pledge process is to prevent hazing, and best practices across the country have indicated that shortening the pledging process is a significant factor in reducing the risk of hazing.

What is the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life going to do to educate incoming freshmen about how to be a good member of a Greek organization?

- First, we are expanding training and education for the Greek Ambassadors outreach program to strengthen and improve recruitment, which will include educating potential new members about participation in values-based organizations.
- Second, we have added training for chapter leadership and advisors. We recognize that a team-approach is needed to reinforce these values to potential new members.

Rush is Saturday to Saturday. Does that mean students pledging during Rush week must live in the dorm?

- This one-day change applies to Panhellenic Association sororities whose pledges reside in university residential housing during that week. This change should not affect any living arrangements in Greek housing.

Next Steps

You indicate that these proposals are evolving — a work in progress. Will the conversations and discussions remain open through next semester before finalizing anything?

- We are committed to making the Mizzou fraternity and sorority life the best in the country, and we recognize that achieving that goal will require incremental steps. We will begin making some changes now that have community consensus. Other recommendations require additional work to make them operational. We will continue to seek feedback from the Mizzou community in making these decisions

How do we submit comments to the university?

- Please send your concerns and suggestions to: mudeanofstudents@missouri.edu