



Costantino Colombo, *Dean for Student Life*

Dear Parent of Technology Chapter brothers,

I am writing on behalf of President Reif, Chancellor Barnhart, and others at MIT who received messages from parents of Technology Chapter members.

Some of you have written with questions about how DU International reached the decision to suspend Technology Chapter, MIT's role in that decision, and the support MIT can provide the students affected by DU International's decision. I hope this message addresses your concerns.

We believe that DU International will reach out to you separately with additional information, but our understanding is that DU's investigation was conducted over a day and a half by two of their headquarters staff. They interviewed new members of Technology Chapter, the current and past presidents, and the pledge educator. Also, two students joined the alumni association president at the DU Board of Directors meeting on April 4 to state their case. Based on the totality of their findings—including the relationship between Technology Chapter and DU International—the DU Board of Directors voted to suspend the chapter until spring 2016. We have been told DU International followed their published policies on investigating and hearing a chapter discipline case, and that Technology Chapter may appeal the decision at DU International's fraternity convention in July.

There have been questions about MIT's role in the investigation and decision to suspend. Sharing information about possible hazing or other unsafe conduct is an expected standard operating protocol of the North-American Interfraternity Conference, of which DU International is a member. It is therefore MIT's practice to provide information of this kind to a fraternity's headquarters. However, beyond providing information about the initial complaint and obtaining a room for DU's investigators to use for their interviews, I understand MIT had no involvement in DU International's on-campus investigation. After completing their investigation, DU International informed MIT it had recommended to their Board of Directors to suspend Technology Chapter.

After MIT received the initial online complaint about hazing at DU, MIT did conduct its own investigation. Staff from the FSILG Office and Office of Student Citizenship interviewed the current and past chapter president, pledge trainer, and new members. Our own internal findings are that the chapter served alcohol to underage students, violated MIT policies regarding unregistered events and alcohol, forced new members to engage in various inappropriate activities, engaged in sleep deprivation of the new members, and treated the new members in a manner that was not in accordance with MIT's expectation for the treatment of new members in any student organization. Some of this conduct could rise to a finding of hazing. In addition, over the last few years, there have been other complaints about DU as well as a troubling pattern of behavior by DU that has resulted in responses by the Boston Police, and a number of sanctions imposed by the student-run

Interfraternity Council Judicial Committee. For these reasons, MIT supports DU International's decision to suspend Technology Chapter.

Once DU International suspended Technology Chapter, Technology Chapter ceased to be a recognized MIT student organization, and therefore a recognized housing option. The alumni corporation, as owners of the House, are working with MIT to determine the best course of action for the House so that DU International can return as an MIT recognized organization after the suspension.

At a chapter meeting on April 20, Bob Ferrara '67 of the FSILG Office listened to questions and concerns from the men, and has shared that information with MIT. We understand this is difficult for you and your sons, and as a parent I sympathize with your concern. I want it to be clear that MIT supports your son. There is no doubt that members of this fraternity are smart, caring, thoughtful men who are valued members of the MIT community. And it is clear that some are having a tough time right now. The Institute offers [Mental Health and Counseling Services through MIT Medical](#) to help with the emotional effects of the situation, and [Student Support Services](#) for academic support. The Housing Department has ensured that anyone affected by the closing of Technology Chapter who wishes to live on-campus next year will have housing. They have also offered assistance to those who would prefer to live off-campus.

If you have any specific concerns relating to your son's housing or academics, please contact Bob Ferrara at [rferrara@mit.edu](mailto:rferrara@mit.edu) or [\(617\) 253-7945](tel:(617)253-7945) to help you.

Sincerely,

Costantino Colombo  
Dean for Student Life



MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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