



# DELTA UPSILON

## INTERNATIONAL FRATERNITY

May 1, 2014

Dear Technology Chapter Alumni:

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that the Delta Upsilon Fraternity Board of Directors suspended the Technology Chapter on April 16, 2014. All operations have been ordered to cease. This suspension is a direct result of the Technology Chapter's violations of Fraternity and MIT policies and local laws. This suspension however, does not remove Delta Upsilon permanently from MIT and the Fraternity has negotiated our return as soon as the spring 2016 academic term. This letter is to inform you of the background that resulted in this incident, review what will be occurring during the suspension and to outline the plans for our return.

The Fraternity's professional staff have been working with MIT administrators and local alumni since MIT made Delta Upsilon aware of serious alcohol and hazing violations in late February. Specifically, the violations were: providing alcoholic beverages to minors, permitting consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors, sleep deprivation, personal servitude and causing mental and physical discomfort. In addition, the chapter conducted a secondary ritual that was secret and not sanctioned by our non-secret Fraternity. Many of these events happened during an event named "Larry Legend" over the Independent Activities Period, or commonly called IAP.

Once made aware of the allegations, the Fraternity's professional staff visited the chapter to begin an investigation. During the investigation some chapter members admitted to the violations while others attempted to deny the activities. At the same time, the MIT staff was conducting a similar investigation.

Throughout the course of the investigation, I was in weekly contact with both the Office of Fraternities, Sororities, and Independent Living Groups (FSILG) staff (including the Dean of Students, Chris Colombo), and the president of the chapter's alumni association, David Latham, *Technology '61*.

A brief timeline of events is below:

- **January 25-February 2:** Secondary initiation week is conducted at chapter house
- **February 8:** Anonymous hazing allegations made to MIT
- **February 19:** MIT notifies chapter officers of investigation. Chapter officers instruct new initiates to not respond to MIT's investigation
- **February 26:** MIT notifies the Fraternity of the ongoing investigation
- **February 26-27:** The Fraternity places the chapter on emergency temporary suspension
- **March 4:** Onsite investigation by the Fraternity's executive director and associate executive director
- **March 13:** The Fraternity issues formal notice for a hearing with the Fraternity's Board of Directors
- **March 19:** MIT provides executive summary to the Fraternity from its investigation

- **April 4:** Board of Directors Hearing
- **April 16:** Suspension Notice to Technology Chapter

Sadly, this is not the first violation by the Technology Chapter in recent years. In the past four years, the chapter has appeared twice before the Fraternity's Standards Committee for alcohol-related incidents. This is in addition to numerous hearings and investigations by the Judicial Committee of the Interfraternity Council.

In addition, the chapter has scored below average in many of Delta Upsilon's operating measures over the past two years. At the time of the investigation, the chapter had scored zero points on the Chapter Excellence Plan (CEP), raised \$0 for the International Fraternity's philanthropy, had only one attendee at Fraternity programs in the past two years (the Fraternity provides six programs per year, and the average chapter sends at least 12 attendees per year), and has not reported participation in any service projects this academic year.

Delta Upsilon is committed to being the premiere men's fraternity on a college campus today and holds its members and chapters accountable to a set of standards. Unfortunately, this current group of undergraduates repeatedly failed to meet those standards and regularly violated policy. Their actions, and inactions, led to this tough decision. We understand that not all the undergraduate members of the chapter may have been involved in the behavior that occurred. Unfortunately, those members not participating in the negative behavior were either unwilling or simply unable to adequately confront their fellow brothers or hold them accountable for their actions.

The undergraduate members will remain in the chapter house located at 526 Beacon Street until early June. The Delta Upsilon Alumni Association continues to hold the lease for the property and is exploring all options. Questions concerning the property should be directed to David Latham.

Delta Upsilon's long-term future at MIT is the Fraternity's top priority. During the investigation, Fraternity staff pre-negotiated a return to campus in the spring 2016 semester in the event the chapter was suspended. Multiple MIT staff members indicated that if the chapter would have appeared before a conduct board, the suspension would likely have been much longer.

Current plans are for the Fraternity's professional staff to be on campus during the spring 2016 semester to recruit new members that would move back into the chapter house in the fall of 2016. As plans are finalized, alumni will be notified of the chapter's return. Everyone involved recognizes the rich history of the Technology Chapter and will work to ensure its prompt return to campus after this suspension. It is critical that your involvement and support continue during this period, during the re-colonization and after the chapter is re-chartered to ensure this does not happen again.

I hope this letter addresses your concerns and questions. If you would like any further details or information, you are welcome to contact Karl Grindel, Associate Executive Director, by telephone at (317) 875-8900 or via email at [grindel@deltatau.org](mailto:grindel@deltatau.org).

Again, please accept our sincerest regrets over the suspension of the Technology Chapter. We hope that you will understand the reasons behind this regrettable, but necessary, action to address the current undergraduate behaviors that violated our Founding Principles, our policies and was conduct unbecoming of a Delta Upsilon member. We look forward to our return to MIT.

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justin Kirk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Justin" and last name "Kirk" clearly distinguishable.

Justin Kirk, *Boise State '00*  
Executive Director