

From: studentaffrs@bsu.edu
Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:00 PM
To: Royer Engle, Ro Anne
Subject: Social gatherings pause lifted for Greek life

Dear Campus Community,

Ball State University fraternities will take another positive step forward Feb. 1 as a result of solutions developed and implemented by fraternity members following a pause in social activities.

In late October, the presidents of all 13 Interfraternity Council (IFC) fraternities agreed not to host any social events with or without alcohol until after Jan. 31, 2018. Ball State's Panhellenic Association (PHA) issued a statement of support a few days later.

The pause came when student leaders met with University administrators, seeking assistance after realizing their organizations were awash in negative publicity that

diverted public attention from all the important efforts conducted on a daily basis by members of the Greek community.

During the pause, fraternity members reviewed their policies and conducted a series of intense educational programming sessions designed to make campus safer and allow students to focus on the core missions of their organizations. This included six Alcohol Skills Training and ten Sexual Assault/Bystander Intervention Training sessions attended by more than 800 individuals.

In addition, The Interfraternity Council (IFC), Panhellenic Association (PHA) and National Pan-Hellenic Council (NPHC) governing councils and chapter presidents have started conversations about safety at social events. The scope of the IFC Social Evaluation Team has been expanded to provide greater oversight of events.

In an effort to continue proactive efforts, presidents from the IFC, PHA, and NPHC, have joined with chapter advisors and alumni to form the Task Force on Greek Culture. It is being created and will include members of all Greek organizations. Every semester they will review policies and procedures and provide educated feedback on risk management practices – including social trends and behaviors.

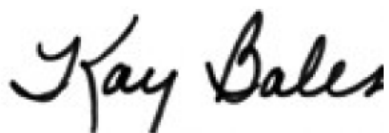
The goal is to be proactive in ensuring Ball State University is a safe community. And, it's working. During the pause, there was a sharp drop in reports filed by the Office of Greek Life related to alcohol, fighting, hazing, excessive noise or sexual misconduct. There were 51 reports between August 1, 2017 and Oct. 23, 2017. That number dropped to 12 from Oct. 24, 2017 to Jan. 24, 2018. During that same time period, there were no complaints regarding alcohol, hazing, or sexual assault.

In the last six months, there has been a great deal of attention by the media as universities eliminate or significantly curtail Greek life. Because of our students' perseverance and determination, we have created a model that is being adapted

by colleges and universities across the country.

As we move forward, we are reminded of the ideals we have committed to as a Ball State community through the Beneficence Pledge, "to act in a socially responsible way" and "to value the intrinsic worth of every member of the community." Our work toward achieving a diverse, inclusive, and civically engaged campus community will continue in the weeks, months, and years to come. We value a campus community where all of us live and learn in a supportive and caring environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay Bales". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Kay" and "Bales" being capitalized and prominent.

Dr. Kay Bales

Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Services