May 11, 2009

Dear Members of the Muhlenberg Community:

Today, I am pleased to be able to provide you with a positive conclusion to a saga which began in the spring of 2007 for the brothers and alumni of Phi Kappa Tau - Eta Chapter.

In the summer of 2007 I shared with you some disappointing news about the chapter. A member of the chapter admitted that he both used and sold marijuana from the house to both brothers and non-brothers during two years of residence in the chapter house. As a result of this member’s drug dealing, local criminals were invited into the house, committed a robbery and assault, and subsequently uttered oral threats against the Muhlenberg community. A Judicial Board comprised of three students, one faculty member, and one staff member determined that the chapter had failed to abide by the terms of its 1999 recolonization agreement, and recommended indefinite suspension of the chapter.

On final appeal, I offered the chapter the opportunity to replace - conditionally and provisionally - the sentence of indefinite suspension with a set of sanctions designed to restore ΦΚΤ Eta Chapter to a position worthy of respect and emulation on the Muhlenberg Campus. The sanctions ran over two years, from the fall of 2007 through the spring of 2009, and included ten (10) specific actions requiring completion before the chapter would be considered in “good standing” with the College.

The Committee on Greek Life, comprised of campus stakeholders including faculty, staff, Greek and non-Greek students, monitored the progress of the chapter and provided updates throughout the two year time period; Phi Kappa Tau - Eta Chapter met each requirement within its specified time frame. In April 2009, the Committee recommended that, having completed all of the sanctions imposed in 2007, that the Phi Kappa Tau - Eta Chapter be restored to a position of “good standing” with Muhlenberg College. It is a recommendation that I am most pleased to accept.

The current brothers of Phi Kappa Tau - Eta chapter, as well as their outstanding alumni Board of Governors, are to be commended for the diligence with which they undertook the sanctions as well as for their efforts to rise above this unfortunate incident, demonstrating true fraternal values and community standards. I am happy to welcome them back to good standing in the Greek community at Muhlenberg College.

Sincerely,

Peyton R. Helm

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