

MEETING WITH PANHELLENIC PRESIDENTS

October 5, 2017 at 4:00pm

Attendance

- Mark Rosenberg (President)
- Breny DaParre Garcia (Associate Vice President, Institutional Relations)
- Natalia Quintero-Riestra (PC President; Sister of Delta Phi Epsilon)
- Sasha Santti (President, Alpha Chi Omega)
- Victoria Echavarria (President, Alpha Omicron Pi)
- Gaby Millan (President, Alpha Xi Delta)
- Lauren Shepard (President, Delta Phi Epsilon)
- Cecilia Pablos-Aguirre (President, Phi Mu)
- Audrey Carballo (President, Phi Sigma Sigma)
- Jazmin Camilo (Sigma Kappa)

Background

This meeting was called by Dr. Rosenberg after receiving notice of a possible “boycott” on Tau Kappa Epsilon by the members of Panhellenic Council.

Minutes

- The initiative for a public statement against TKE’s actions began after a conversation between two presidents; they then sought support from other chapter presidents.
- One president felt that Dr. Rosenberg received the email “prematurely” as edits were still being made.
- Several of them shared frustrations that there are often no repercussions for fraternities simply because of student conduct “technicalities.”
- One president believed that the TKE incident was just the straw that broke the camel’s back because these types of issues have been ongoing in the community.
- Though it was addressed at the town hall, one president raised her confusion on how this situation is different from the Pike incident. She also believed that, while events/meetings like the town hall are good resources, they are not solutions. She also couldn’t understand how a chapter advisor could let this happen.
- As a follow up to the prior statement, one president confessed that this type of behavior does happen, but she felt leaders have the responsibility to regulate it and asked who was regulating TKE.
- One president felt that this boycott was Panhellenic’s way to block TKE from thriving (i.e., have them learn a strong lesson that this type of behavior will not be tolerated any longer). Another president rebutted stating that she struggled with the decision – especially with philanthropic events that are open to the public – and is still having conversations about it with her chapter.

- Dr. Rosenberg shared: “You may be right in wanting them to close, but will it affect change? You all need to decide if you want to be right or effective.” Dr. Garcia added: “Your email stipulates this ‘boycott’ is until Fall 2018. What happens after you all end your terms and/or graduate? Will your chapters continue supporting your stance?”
- Dr. Rosenberg and Dr. Garcia both emphasized that we weren’t discrediting their decision, but challenged them to think about both short and long term goals / challenges. Dr. Rosenberg shared: “You did what I asked you to do at the town hall – to take accountability. But I recommend that you start with the end in mind. What do you want from this?”
- The latter perspective changed the conversation around the table. They all started sharing their own worries about this action fizzling out, and how it is already affecting chapter sisters that have friends or significant others within TKE, etc.
- Dr. Rosenberg closed by asking them to think about: (1) Dual discourse – “If you are condemning this behavior from them, are you condemning it from other chapters including your own?” (2) Expectations – “Be action-oriented, but think hard about what is doable and manageable.”