



Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity, Inc.®

A PATH OF PRINCIPLES

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Transmitted Electronically via Email

Fraternity and Sorority Members
Western Illinois University

c/c:

Nick Katz, Assistant Director of Student Activities for Greek Life Programs

Michael Smoll, Director of Expansion, Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity

Dear Members of the Western Illinois Fraternity and Sorority Community:

I am writing you today to explain the status of the Alpha Delta chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma at Western Illinois University. By now you may have heard that the chapter has been suspended or closed. Unfortunately this is the reality that is facing the chapter. Please regard this letter as a demonstration of our sincere and long-term commitment to the Western Illinois University community by providing you with the reasoning for the chapter's closure.

There are two primary reasons that we have taken action against the chapter: finances and serious accusations involving violations of the risk management policy.

Finance

The Alpha Delta chapter has an insurmountable debt that includes several years' worth of national dues, risk management fees, and membership fees. Failure to pay risk management fees results in cancellation of the chapter's liability insurance coverage. This coverage is required by Sigma Tau Gamma and Western Illinois University. Our policy requires us to close chapters that fail to pay these fees.

Failure to pay membership fees means that the students of Alpha Delta chapter are not members of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. They have not received membership certificates, cards, or badges for several years. There is a possibility that the chapter has been diverting these membership fees to support their financially unstable housing operation. It is sad that Alpha Delta prioritized a physical structure above their actual membership in Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity.

Violations of the Risk Management Policy

In December of 2010, the Headquarters received what was perceived to be a credible report of extreme risk management policy violations. We conducted the beginnings of an investigation. It is difficult for us to take action against individuals in the Alpha Delta chapter because they are not actual members of the Fraternity. Sigma Tau Gamma would like to be quite clear that we do not tolerate violations of the risk management policy and are making arrangements to pass the information we have on this matter to the University. We hope the University is able to investigate

and take action against any students that have violated the student conduct policies of the University.

Current Status

Because of the failure to pay risk management fees, the chapter has been placed on emergency suspension. Their Omega Financial account has been locked and the University has been notified that the chapter is not to meet or conduct any activities, especially recruitment. I have visited campus and met with Nick Katz, and our chapter leadership.

I have formally recommended the closure of the Alpha Delta chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma and we have filed charges with the national Board of Directors. The information will be reviewed at a meeting of a Judicial Board in Madison, WI at the end of February. The chapter will have an opportunity to speak on its behalf at that time.

A formal decision of the Judicial Board will be required before the chapter's suspension becomes a permanent closure. That being said, it is quite clear to everyone involved, including the chapter, that its days have come to an end. The alumni of the chapter visited recently to remove important memorabilia from the house for storage.

Future of Sigma Tau Gamma

Although the current chapter does not meet the standards of a chapter of Sigma Tau Gamma, we remain committed to Western Illinois University. Our Director of Expansion will be visiting with Nick Katz and the interfraternity council leadership in February at the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values conference in St. Louis. Sigma Tau Gamma will be seeking to re-colonize our Alpha Delta chapter in the next few years. We look forward to committing staff and programming resources to the campus. We have already begun communicating with chapter alumni to form a new chapter advisory board and raise money for future recruitment and member scholarships.

We understand that the interfraternity council and University have processes that relate to the starting of new chapters. We want to operate within these policies, keeping in mind the best interest of leaders and scholars that will be served by the starting of a new Fraternity in two or three years.

Fraternal regards,



Addison J. Schopp

Director of Chapter Development