

October 26, 2012

Chris Keller  
President, Phi Beta Sigma  
612 North Johnson Street  
Macomb, IL 61455-6919

Dear Chris:

This letter serves notice of the decision flowing from judicial board hearing held on October 10, 2012.

Hearing panel members recommended the following findings: not in violation of Code 9 (vandalism/damage to property) and in violation of Codes 15 and 23 (hosting unregistered social event and failing to comply with an administrative directive). Based on these findings, panel members recommended that Phi Beta Sigma be placed on Probation through May 15, 2013. As a condition of probation, the chapter would be subject to a full and complete member review. It would be prohibited from hosting any social events that would require registration under the WIU Greek Life Social Event Management Policy.

I have reviewed the board's recommendation. Board members regarded it as uniquely coincidental that vandalism promoting "Project XXX" began to appear in high traffic areas of campus in mid-April. Immediately, it was suspected that a Greek-letter organization was behind the damage. An on-campus administrative "investigation" was initiated. Meanwhile, Macomb Police monitored social network chatter to discern potential problem areas for April 28, 2012, the date of Wheeler Street 2012. As various sources of information were checked out, Wheeler Street became linked to an event at 809 West Calhoun known as Project XXX. Tweets and Facebook messages encouraged participation. YouTube videos produced by you outlined plans for the event Project XXX, to be held at 809 West Calhoun Street, a residence commonly recognized as the "Sigma Crib." You received a visit from Macomb Police and University representatives on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and acknowledged that such an event had been planned. The event was subsequently held at Skateland, the party registered under a fictitious fraternity name.

Unlike the hearing panel, I find that the vandalism was clearly linked to persons

associated with Phi Beta Sigma. I find that there was sufficient corroborative information to give the anonymous e-mail probative value. The Project XXX party as originally conceived and planned was clearly a chapter event. Your presence and that of Angelo Jones meant that at least half the chapter members were involved. The event was never registered with the Office of Student Activities. Its content as promoted via social media was clearly unacceptable. While you apologized for the tone and content of your third video about the event, the attitude of contempt for local law enforcement and the University was duly noted.

The sanction recommended by the hearing panel has been rejected. I have decided to impose a minimum 5-year suspension of Iota Chi Chapter. In addition to the vandalism associated with, planning, promoting and hosting Project XXX, the Sigma Crib proved to be a nuisance during the year. The property was regarded as a source for drugs, and three residents, including one chapter member, faced drug charges after a search of the premises. Should Phi Beta Sigma choose to re-colonize after that period, it will be done per Greek Life guidelines for new organizations. No current member may be associated with a future chapter of Phi Beta Sigma.

Western Illinois University chapter of Phi Beta Sigma does retain the right to appeal this decision. Such appeal must be filed in writing and received in the Office of Student Judicial Programs by November 2, 2012.

Should you have questions regarding this matter, contact Mr. Sheridan at 309-298-2436.

For the University,

Earl Bracey  
Associate Vice President for Student Services

cc: Dr. Biller  
Mr. Sheridan  
Ms. Comerford  
Ms. Janisz  
Mr. Katz  
Mr. Booker