



LAMBDA CHI ALPHA
Chi Zeta Chapter at the University of Illinois

June 19, 2019

Dear Alumni Brothers,

On June 6, 2019, our Board of Directors was stunned by the unexpected outcome of an appeal of the extended probation penalty relating to the hazing incident at our chapter last year. We must now report that our chapter's charter has been revoked for the next two years with no opportunity for further review or appeal. We are writing to give you as much information as possible now, and we will work to keep you fully informed of all future developments in our plans and actions to assure a long future for Chi Zeta at Illinois and our new chapter house on Armory.

As you were recently informed, over a year ago a hazing incident occurred at the chapter house which was reported by our alumni association to the University's Board of Fraternal Affairs (BFA) and the supervising dean of the Greek system, as well as the staff at Lambda Chi Alpha International (Intl). Intl imposed immediate sanctions that extended the probation originally ordered for the violations in 2014, in addition to a full member review as well as multiple required educational sessions that were followed completely over the past year.

But it was not until April of this year that the BFA was able to schedule our hearing. As reported in the recent *Chi Zetagram*, their decision was that the chapter was following the corrective actions that BFA considered would remove any culture of hazing at the chapter. Their only penalty was to continue one more year of the Revocation in Abeyance status and the chapter educational sessions long term. Intl added no additional terms to that. This was a penalty we felt we could deal with and announced so to all of you.

However, a BFA decision can be appealed for reversal by the Dean of Students on grounds including insufficiency of penalty, requiring a hearing before a Faculty Senate Committee who has the final say regarding discipline of individual students and student organizations under their broad authority by University rules. The Dean appealed our BFA ruling and the Faculty Senate Committee held a meeting on June 6, where they overturned the sanction and instead revoked our charter for two years, effective immediately. During the spring semester of 2021, we may file our formal request for University recognition for reopening in fall 2021.

Their stated reasoning was that this was a fraternity that, while on the Revocation in Abeyance probation, committed a hazing violation. Nothing accomplished by the chapter in the past year changes that in their opinion. If a violation occurs the only next step is closure of the chapter by taking away University recognition of our chapter. LCA Intl cannot maintain or support a chapter that is not recognized by its university.

The alumni board was very surprised by this decision, as were our colleagues at Intl. In advance of the committee hearing, as a precaution in view of the serious risk of the situation, legal counsel with experience before the Faculty Senate Committee was hired to be present at the meeting to advise our chapter leadership representative, High Pi Steve Parsons. As well, BFA Chair Todd Salen gave strong arguments at the committee meeting for maintaining recognition of Lambda Chi Alpha on campus and upholding the BFA decision. Our lawyer stated she had no need to add to or advise Steve Parsons during the hearing in view of his excellent presentation. But under University rules and process there is no appealing the decision of this committee. We considered the option of civil litigation asking a Federal court to overturn the committee's decision but determined that our chance of success would be very slim and the cost expensive. Brothers, please know that nothing more or different could have been done.

Naturally, the alumni board is extremely disappointed, especially considering all the tremendous efforts the chapter, alumni, and LCA Intl have invested in the process. That the penalty is usually four years provides little comfort right now. Plans are in place to stabilize the near-term economic future of our new chapter house as a boarding house providing room and meals for the former active chapter members (who can still move in this fall) as well as seeking



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other students as renters to keep the house full. We will keep our kitchen crew and a live-in house director. We believe this will meet the financial needs of the House Corporation as we prepare to recolonize in the fall of 2019.

It goes without saying that there is much to do. We will continue to keep you updated on this over the next several weeks with frequent emails. If you have not received emails from the alumni association this year, please be certain we have your preferred email address; send it to **contact@chizeta.com**.

Yours in ZAX,

The Officers of Chi Zeta Alumni Association of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity