



3 May 2011

### **Dean of Students Office denies reinstatement of Sigma Tau Gamma**

The Illinois State University Dean of Students Office has denied a request by Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity to return to ISU as a registered student organization in good standing. The request was heard and reviewed by an ad hoc committee that offered its recommendations to Associate Dean of Students Rick Olshak.

On April 25, 2011, Associate Dean Olshak denied Sigma Tau Gamma's request on the basis that:

1. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma failed to engage in the development of a comprehensive plan of action that would insure the organization's viability on campus.
2. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma failed to take advantage of resources available to them to engage in deliberative long-term planning.
3. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma could not adequately explain a discrepancy over whether or not a new member class was conducted in violation of a previously-issued restriction.

As a result of the denial, a set of requirements was issued for future requests for readmission, and indicated that no further requests would be considered prior to January, 2012. The requirements include:

1. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma must complete all previously issued sanctions and secure Interfraternity Council (IFC) support for its next request.
2. A detailed organizational plan must address the organization's goals and process for achieving those goals.
3. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma must establish an advisory board.
4. Sigma Tau Gamma must engage in a comprehensive membership review in conjunction with both its national organization and the Dean of Students Office.
5. Sigma Tau Gamma is restricted from representing itself as an organization affiliated with the University, and is prohibited from the use of University space or participation in University events.
6. The men of Sigma Tau Gamma must issue an apology regarding the organization's continuance of new member recruitment despite being prohibited from doing so, its lack of honesty in addressing the new member recruitment process, and for its conduct at the 2011 March Madness event.

Finally, the decision also established conditions that would apply to the organization if it is able to successfully apply for reinstatement In the future. These conditions included:

1. Once reinstated, the organization would return to the University on Disciplinary Probation for a period of 18 months.
2. Once reinstated, the organization's leadership would be required to participate in probationary review meetings for the duration of its probationary status.
3. Once reinstated, and in the event that a chapter house is ever established, the organization must hire a professional, live-in house director.

The decision concluded by indicating that the University wished to see a functioning Sigma Tau Gamma on campus, but that the group was not close to being prepared to return to the University. The decision noted an unhealthy "revolving door" of organizations moving from good standing to suspension and then repeating the cycle, noting that the University would no longer tolerate organizations that were not committed to upholding the values both of their national organizations and of the University. The decision cited the ability of other organizations to return from suspension and become thriving organizations, but noted that the men of Sigma Tau Gamma had not done the work necessary to reach this threshold and gain restoration of their status.

For additional information, contact Community Rights & Responsibilities at (309) 438-8621.

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