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University of Arizona sanctions fraternity for conduct violations

TUCSON, Arizona – University of Arizona officials have withdrawn university recognition of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity chapter following a finding of multiple violations of the Arizona Board of Regents Student Code of Conduct.

Effective immediately, the fraternity, more commonly known as FIJI, must cease all activity on the UA campus through April 2019. A withdrawal of recognition is initiated when an organization is deemed to present a substantial risk to the members of the university community.

The investigation, conducted by the UA Dean of Students Office, found that chapter members engaged in hazing, provided alcohol to minors and conspired to not cooperate with University officials and University police. The violations occurred while the chapter was under probation and a suspension that prohibited events with alcohol.

"The University of Arizona has high standards for our students and no tolerance for unacceptable student behavior," said Kendal Washington White, the UA dean of students. "The probation period was their opportunity to remedy the situation and they did not take it. The withdrawal of recognition is the most serious punishment the University can enact on a student organization, but we will not hesitate if we find it’s needed."

Students implicated in the investigation now face individual charges before the Dean of Students Office, White said. Possible penalties include educational and monetary sanctions, suspension or expulsion from the UA, depending on the seriousness of any offenses.

The chapter was given the opportunity to respond to the findings as was a Graduate Trusteeship that had been created by FIJI’s national office. The Graduate Trusteeship was allowed to respond because it had dissolved student chapter leadership and taken over operations and oversight.

The national office will be able to propose a plan in April 2019 to reinstate the fraternity. If no active members are present at the UA at the end of the 2017 spring semester, the fraternity could ask the University for an additional review to determine if they could start over as a recognized student organization with all new members.

Media Note: A copy of the letter issued to FIJI is available here http://uanews.org/sites/default/files/Fiji-Finding-Notification.pdf.
The UA maintains an online listing of Greek organizations under judicial review to help students and families evaluate fraternities and sororities. It can be found at http://greek.arizona.edu/standards/chapter-conduct-and-judicial and is updated each semester.

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