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Beta Theta Pi Fraternity



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July 7, 2020

Dear Brothers, Parents and Friends of Beta Theta Pi:

Today, I write you with unfortunate news regarding the closure of the Fraternity's treasured Delta Beta Chapter at the University of Arizona. Originally founded in 1959 and for many years operating as the only Beta outpost in the state, the chapter has most recently been home to 87 undergraduate members and pledges.

The path that ultimately led to this decision culminated in 2018 when incidents related to hazing and alcohol resulted in a probationary period for the chapter as well as a membership review. Since then, Delta Beta has struggled to uphold the Fraternity's Risk Management and Substance-Free Housing Policies, creating a dangerous pattern of behavior in its new member program and during social events.

In February, the chapter's executive board and General Fraternity officials initiated a rare second membership review after a new investigation found continued hazing – including new member activities with alcohol and servitude – and unsafe social events throughout the spring 2020 term. Half of all brothers and pledges immediately and voluntarily resigned their memberships, and by the end Delta Beta was left with 20 members we hoped would guide the chapter forward. Unfortunately, all of those men notified the Administrative Office of their decision to disaffiliate soon thereafter.

There is no doubt the behaviors that started the chapter down this path spanned several years and represented a level of operational risk not acceptable for any Beta chapter, much less one with the spirited pride of Delta Beta. It's also true that this trend defied multiple interventions from the university, alumni and General Fraternity.

The Code of Beta Theta Pi, Article III, Section 6(B)(7) of the Constitution defines a Disbanded Chapter:

- **(3) Definition of a Disbanded Chapter:** A disbanded chapter is one (1) the charter of which has been suspended and (2) the members of which have been ordered to disband. Said members shall be designated as Alumnus Members, although other disciplinary or superseding action may be taken with respect to the members as provided in the Laws. A disbanded chapter may not continue to operate as a chapter of Beta Theta Pi for any purpose and is not to be counted as a chapter of the fraternity.

As chief volunteer on the Fraternity's Board of Trustees, I want to assure you that it is extraordinarily and emotionally difficult any time a chapter must be closed, particularly for the more than 1,000 living Delta Beta alumni. Our primary mission as an organization is to positively develop young men and build strong Beta chapters across North America. As it stands now, our chapter in Tucson was not willing to provide the robust Beta experience the Fraternity, its members and the Arizona community deserve.

I hope the following points provide clarity for chapter alumni during this time:

- Although the chapter will be disbanded, the Delta Beta charter will remain suspended and in care of the Board of Trustees.

- Administrative Office staff, Delta Beta alumni and the university are already working to identify a reasonable timeline for the chapter's successful return to campus.
- Alumni and Administrative Office staff are discussing short-term strategies for the chapter house and place a high priority on protecting the asset for future chapter use.

Again, I want to express on behalf of the Fraternity's leadership our shared disappointment in this news. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the matter further, please email Director of Chapter Services [Erin McHale](#) or call her at **800.800.BETA**. I am staying in contact with her and the rest of our Oxford staff as we move through this process.

Yours in ___kai___,

S. Wayne Kay, Virginia Tech '73
General Secretary

cc:

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