



# SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Student Life & Leadership  
Division of Student Affairs

Dr. Randy Timm, Dean of Students  
Student Life & Leadership  
Phone 619-594-5221

Conrad Prebys Aztec Student Union  
5500 Campanile Drive, MC 7440  
San Diego, CA 92182

December 5, 2018

*This is a confidential document.*

## THETA CHI FRATERNITY DECISION LETTER

Thank you for meeting with Caryl Montero-Adams, Assistant Director of Student Life & Leadership for Fraternity & Sorority Life, on November 19, 2018. In the Informal Conference, allegations of policy violations were discussed. Specifically, the group discussed a social event that reportedly occurred on September 28, 2018, and a reported social event that occurred on August 28, 2018. The September event led to the Interim Suspension of the chapter on October 3, 2018. The reports resulted in alleged violations of the Alcohol policy.

During the conversation, outgoing President \_\_\_\_\_, incoming Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ and Advisors Michael DiPirma and Gene Lamke represented the fraternity. Student Life Advisor for Fraternity & Sorority Life, Matthew Garcia was present along with a representative from the Interfraternity Council, President Jacob Mahony. In addition to the reported incidents, the group discussed the status of the chapter.

### Review of Chapter Status

During the Informal Conference, Caryl Montero-Adams reviewed the University status of Theta Chi, which was Interim Suspension with the University.

### Review of Alleged Policy Violations

During the Informal Conference, a review of the initial incident reports occurred, along with information found during the course of the investigation. The specific alleged policy violations were discussed in detail:

### Alcohol Allegations

During the Informal Conference, the group reviewed an incident report from September 2018 that outlined two students who were transported from the residence halls for their level of intoxication and one student who was arrested for Driving Under the Influence. Reportedly, one individual was a new member of Theta Chi, one individual had been with a member of Theta Chi, and one individual was reportedly coming from Theta Chi. The group discussed that in conducting investigative meetings and conferring with the Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities, there was no additional link established between the fraternity and the transported students.

During the Informal Conference, the group discussed a report that detailed an alleged satellite house of the fraternity where a large social event occurred on August 28, 2018. Reportedly, the fraternity hosted an event at the satellite house. During the course of the investigation, it was determined the individuals residing at the reported satellite house were not members of the fraternity. Additionally, it was found that the chapter misused a status in the University roster system and



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that the individuals who reportedly hosted an event at the satellite house in August were no longer members of the international fraternity.

## Discussion

During the Informal Conference, Theta Chi, the Interfraternity Council and Fraternity & Sorority Life staff engaged in dialogue around the roster management and risk management. Specifically, it was discussed that the chapter was labeling some former members as “inactive” in the University roster system, despite the individuals no longer having membership within the international fraternity. The group discussed the importance of roster maintenance, different statuses within the system, and accountability of members.

## Decision

Based on the information gathered during the investigation, including reports, investigative interviews, and discussion during the informal conference, the preponderance of the evidence was not established to hold Theta Chi responsible for the alleged policy violation. Therefore, I have found Theta Chi not responsible for the alleged Alcohol policy violation. There is no further action that must be taken by the fraternity at this time.

Although not a founded violation of the University’s alcohol policy, it is recommended that the chapter review the internal accountability measures (ex. Standards/Judicial Board) and membership rosters.

Thank you again for taking the time to meet with Caryl Montero-Adams in the informal conference. We hope that the outcome of the incidents will contribute to the success of Theta Chi at San Diego State University.

Respectfully,

**Dr. Randy Timm**

Dean of Students

cc:

Christy Samarkos, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs

Caryl Montero-Adams, Assistant Director, Student Life & Leadership for Fraternity & Sorority Life

Matthew Garcia, Student Life Advisor for Fraternity & Sorority Life, Student Life & Leadership

Tara Dunn, Director of Collegiate Services, Theta Chi Fraternity

Michael DiPirma, Alumnus Advisor, Theta Chi Fraternity

Gene Lamke, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Theta Chi Fraternity

Jacob Mahony, President, Interfraternity Council

Alexander Franks, Vice President Judicial Affairs, Interfraternity Council





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October 10, 2019

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## THETA CHI FRATERNITY: NOTICE OF INTERIM SUSPENSION

The University is investigating recent reports of:

**Allegations of Alcohol, Dishonesty, Harassment and Abusive Behavior, Hazing, and Healthy and Safety policy violations within Theta Chi Fraternity at San Diego State University.**

Theta Chi received a Notice of Investigation on Friday, October 4, 2019. Following the receipt of additional allegations, it has been reported that Theta Chi has participated in behavior necessitating the University to take immediate action for the safety of members and the campus community. Reportedly, Theta Chi has participated in hazing behaviors that have jeopardized the physical safety, mental health, and dignity of new and initiated members in an ongoing capacity.

Given the seriousness of the matter, I am placing Theta Chi on **immediate interim suspension** pending the outcome of a University investigation. Once information is available from this investigation, the Assistant Director of Student Life & Leadership will make a recommendation to me regarding the continued campus recognition status for Theta Chi. The Interim Suspension is in effect immediately with an outcome or update of the investigation to be given on or around Friday, December 13, 2019.

While on Interim Suspension, the chapter is expected to cease all activities. No chapter members may host or participate in any chapter-related function, regardless of location. The chapter may coordinate meetings, with prior permission from the Office of Student Life & Leadership, to communicate information with members. The requests must be made two weeks in advance and have a member of the Theta Chi International Headquarters staff or Student Life & Leadership staff present for the entirety of the convening.

Given the concerns for the fraternity, Theta Chi may host **no** new member education, new member activities, or initiation events, on or off campus. During the course of the Interim Suspension, the San Diego State University chapter may have **no** communication with new members. Communication from Theta Chi may only be sent to new members by the Theta Chi International Headquarters staff. Additionally, no other student or organization, including but not limited to the Interfraternity Council and College Panhellenic Association, may communicate with new members on Theta Chi's behalf. No member of Theta Chi who serves on the Interfraternity Council executive board may act on behalf of Theta Chi or use their position to influence the investigation.



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All members of Theta Chi will be expected to fully cooperate with the investigation and review process. Be advised that providing false or misleading information, concealing information, instructing others to provide false information or conceal information, attempting to obstruct the investigation, or **attempting to threaten or intimidate witnesses or others involved in the investigation** will result in judicial referral of all students involved and possible sanctions on the organization.

Within 48-hours of the receipt of this letter, Theta Chi must submit the following documentation to me via email:

- An overview of the new member process, beginning with recruitment through the time of initiation
- The names and roles of active members who are or were involved in the new member education process during the Fall 2018, Spring 2019, and Fall 2019 terms
- The dates, times, and locations of every meeting/event/convening, both formal and informal, with new members (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019) both before and after initiation
- The dates, times, and locations of installation and initiation events for the Fall 2018 and Spring 2019
- A roster with two added columns that denotes the big brother and little brother of all members
- Screenshots of all electronic communication in the form of group messages for each of the new member classes (Fall 2018, Spring 2019, and Fall 2019), including, but not limited to, emails, GroupMe messages, group texts/chats, etc.

If you have any questions about the interim suspension, the investigation or the review process, please contact Kevin Araujo-Lipine, Assistant Director of Student Life & Leadership for Student Organizations & Activities.

Respectfully,

Caryl Montero-Adams  
Director, Student Life & Leadership

cc:

Dr. Randy Timm, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students, Division of Student Affairs  
Matthew Garcia, Assistant Director, Student Life & Leadership for Fraternity & Sorority Life  
Kevin Araujo-Lipine, Assistant Director, Student Life & Leadership for Student Organizations & Activities  
Dr. Lee Mintz, Director, Center for Student Rights & Responsibilities  
Tara Dunn, Senior Director of Collegiate Services, Theta Chi International Headquarters  
Michael DiPrima, Alumnus Advisor, Theta Chi Fraternity  
Gene Lamke, Faculty/Staff Advisor, Theta Chi Fraternity  
Steven Plante, President, Interfraternity Council  
Lee Abed, Vice President Judicial Affairs, Interfraternity Council