



April 2, 2020

Dear Chapter President,

As a campus we know this is not the spring semester we all hoped for. The move to remote delivery of classes and the cancellation of so many events, including Greek Week, is a disappointment. We appreciate your leadership during this time, and we look forward to working with you in the coming months to help maintain our strong Greek Life system. As we all navigate this new environment, we want to take a moment and remind all our chapter leaders about your responsibilities.

To date, our student organizations have responded to the call to not host events or bring together large numbers of people at one location. However, this has not been the case at all universities. Across the nation, we are seeing Greek organizations lose their campus recognition based on hosting events in violation of emergency orders. In addition, there are instances where students gathered in large numbers and became exposed to the COVID-19 virus. We want to thank you for cancelling your events this spring and respecting President Vargas's message to all students on March 13th and Dr. Skinner's message on March 18th to Greek chapter presidents and advisers, asking our organizations to cancel events. You can review both of these messages at the University's COVID-19 website at <https://semo.edu/sealerts/covid19/> under *Campus Advisories and Alerts*.

In addition to the action taken by many of you, many of our Greek Life organizations' headquarters have issued directives to cancel events and shift your chapter operations to a virtual environment. In their correspondence with the University, many national organizations are asking for the campus to alert them if their local chapters are not following the direction of local or State public health officials. I am thankful we have not had to take this step with any of our groups, and we appreciate the rapid steps you took to cancel events for March, April and May.

We want to remind you that Governor Parson's Executive Order 20-02 declaring a State of Emergency in Missouri does impact your chapter. Under this Executive Order, the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services has issued a limit on gatherings of people. "In accordance with the guidelines from the President and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, every person in the State of Missouri shall avoid social gatherings of more than ten (10) people. For purposes of this Order, 'social gatherings shall mean any planned or spontaneous event or convening that would bring together more than ten (10) people in a single space at the same time.'"

As a campus, we continue to work with our students to help mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. We are asking for your help, both related to formal recognized events and the informal ones where people gather at an off-campus house. Based on the direction of the campus, your organization's headquarters, and from the Governor of Missouri, we want to remind you to not host events and to avoid permitting people to gather at any off-campus homes in which your members reside.

We wish you and your chapter membership a safe and healthy spring semester and we look forward to seeing your members again next fall! If you have questions or if we can be of help, please contact us.

Regards,

Debbie Below
Vice President
Enrollment Management and Student Success
dbelow@semo.edu

Bruce Skinner
Associate Vice President
Student Life
bskinner@semo.edu