

March 18, 2020

Chapter & Governing Council Presidents and Advisers,

As all of us are aware we are all operating in an environment that is changing hourly. In my 20+ years working in higher education the pace of change, including the move to alternative course delivery (i.e. online/video/etc.), is unlike anything I've worked through before. While students have received information today on the campus move to alternative delivery for courses and the cancellation of on campus events, I wanted to send a follow up message and confirm specific items related to our Greek chapters. You can find out the latest message, sent out today, from the campus at <https://semo.edu/sealerts/covid19/index.html>.

Dr. Bruce Skinner

Associate Vice President for Student Life

Can chapters host a meeting or event on the University campus?

No. The University discourages, in accordance with CDC guidelines, chapters from hosting meetings or events. While there may be a need for a small number of chapter members to meet to conduct chapter business, these should be limited where possible. In accordance the campus decisions concerning meetings and events, the University is not able to host chapter meetings, events, or other gatherings. Any meeting your organization had scheduled for the remainder of the spring semester at any University facility or venue has been cancelled.

What is going to happen to students who live in the chapter house on Greek Hill?

All students living in the residence halls are receiving an email from the Office of Residence Life concerning their need to move out of their on campus Greek Hill house. Details on this process are included in the email to residence hall students.

What is going to happen to students who live in the chapter house at Greek Village?

The University encourages any student living in a Greek Village house to return home and vacate the on campus house. The University is in direct communication with chapter housing corporations concerning the Greek Village house.

What should a chapter do with chapter property in the house during the remainder of the spring semester?

Chapters should follow the information being provided by the Office of Residence Life. Just as chapters do in the summer, they should prepare their propriety for storage, including bringing things like letters and furniture into the chapter lounge. Any BBQ grill should not be stored inside the house. Chapter leaders should look for a letter from the Office of Residence Life for additional details. Please remember that this summer we have major utility work planned for the Greek Hill area, so chapters must plan to store important or significant chapter property (like chapters, ritual materials, etc.) at an off campus location.

What is happening with Greek Week?

Both the Blood Drive and Special Olympics are cancelled. The Greek Week executive committee discussing their next step and will update the chapter Greek Week chairs on their decision shortly.

What is the plan for the Five Star Program

The submission by each chapter is still be evaluated and chapters will be recognized for their efforts during the 2019 calendar year. I will provide additional information in the coming weeks on communicating the results of the Five Star Program to chapters.

How should chapters handle Spring recruitment?

Chapters should speak with their headquarters about your organization's process for handling the new member process during this time. The initiation of new members is not governed by the University and therefore your headquarters is the best resource on what options you chapter for the new member process. The University will not be able to host any new member events or meetings or assist in serving as a venue for any initiation ceremony.

How should chapters handle Fall recruitment?

There are not any changes being made by the University, any national chapter, or national governing council related to rush/recruitment.

Will IFC/NPHC/NPC meeting during the spring semester?

I will work with Council officers should they want to meet virtually or via conference calls. I've seen guidance from both NIC and NPC on a national level about council operations and the ability to operate remotely. I strongly encourage our governing councils and chapters to focus on their social media in the coming weeks, as we know there are many in next year's class of student are interested in being Greek.

I know you will have many question in the coming days about many topics, please understand the most pressing issue for the campus right now is the scale up for academic courses and vacating of the residence halls. It may take me some time to get back to you on operational issues that do not impact events/issues in the coming two to three weeks.