



## Pi Lambda Phi • PA Alpha Delta Alumni Association

### University Relations Committee Meeting with Temple Administration

August 9, 2007  
Temple University

#### **Attendance:**

Ainsley Carry, Ed.D.: Associate Vice President/Dean of Students  
Amy Hecht, Assistant Dean of Students  
Katie D'Angelo, Associate Dean of Students  
Jen Fitzwater, Program Coordinator, Office of Student Activities (Greek Advisor)  
Andrea Caporale, Judicial Affairs Coordinator  
Chris Hopkins, Faculty Advisor, Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity

#### **Meeting Summary:**

To determine the climate of relations between Pi Lambda Phi and the university, I initiated a meeting with Dr. Ainsley Carry, VP of Student Affairs/Dean of Students. I know all of the work and effort that has been going into getting paperwork complete and edited in time to turn in this semester for spring recognition, and wanted to get an idea of what they have in store for us. I simply wanted to pick their brains in an effort to make sure we were on the right path before it was too late.

Dr. Carry invited his two Associate Deans (Katie D'Angelo & Amy Hecht), the new full-time Greek Advisor (Jennifer Fitzwater), Director of Student Activities (Gina D'Annunzio), and the Division's Judicial Affairs Coordinator (Andrea Caporale) to join us in this meeting that lasted approximately an hour and a half. Since Dr. Carry is our old Dean as well as our new Dean, we began by "refreshing" his memory of Pi Lam since he has been gone for seven months. Katie D'Angelo presented a Pi Lam binder that was fairly extensive, well organized, and well documented with everything associated with us going back to 1997, and Andrea Caporale had all of her Judicial Affairs records for all things we were charged with that led to our un-recognition and our new classification of being "dissolved" — a total of seven offenses. Next up was the list of five fairly major offenses that occurred after we were officially "dissolved."

Dr. Carry and Katie D'Angelo both highly recommended that it would be in my best interest as a university administrator and an employee of the Division of Student Affairs to quickly remove my name and title of Faculty Advisor from the efforts of this dissolved organization. They warned that this technical involvement could potentially damage my career in higher education if something crazy were to happen, an occurrence that is currently happening with another administrator with another organization that is not recognized by the university. All it takes is one parent to call the presidents office.

There was a lot of discussion about the term "dissolved," and how it was meant to be the death penalty for an organization. They all agreed that it is really all about the individuals that acted inappropriately and not the organization as a whole. The organization shouldn't suffer from individual actions (i.e. fights, public urination, etc.), but it would suffer for group efforts (throwing large unregistered parties, L & I infractions, hazing, etc.); Pi Lam has been charged with both.

They would NOT revisit rewording our dissolved status, but they may work with us with certain guidelines that must be met in order to start our path back to the university. It is a new initiative to work out those technicalities for future sanctions for any Temple University student organization.

Currently, Greek Life is in a “freeze,” so even if we wanted to turn all of our stuff in for re-recognition it would sit on someone’s desk until this “freeze” is over. There was no elaboration of why there is a freeze or how long it would last, nor did I ask. From what I gathered, there are quite a few new Greek organizations wanting to charter at Temple University and their slate is “full.”

Some other topics discussed:

- I informed the group that they would be receiving a mailing informing them of Chad Cheledens’s removal from the organization.
- I informed the group that our own Reorganization Committee has worked hard in evaluating all undergraduates in determining their future status based on behavior patterns, grades, and financial responsibility.
- The Judicial system is looking to eliminate the “Catch-22” of: “You need to show us that you are doing good things, but you can’t do anything as Pi Lam.” A temporary status is an avenue they may pursue.
- They were pessimistic about our aggressive venture since this has happened before when we went through a very similar process about 8 or 9 years ago.
- They weren’t naïve to the fact that our alumni have a financial interest in our existence because of 2000 N. Broad St. – representing, in their opinion, a conflict of interest. I’ll paraphrase the group’s discussion: “Alum’s will hustle to make sure we stick around, slowly fade away, and when we re-enter trouble zone they come bouncing back to the rescue. What’s to say this won’t happen again in another 8 or 9 years?”
- On the topic of “dissolved,” I asked how they, as a public institution of higher ed, can tell a student who they can and can not be involved with. They responded that they can’t tell students that, but for liability reasons they need to make an effort to distinguish what organizations are truly sponsored by university and which one’s they do not associate with. So they can’t tell a student not to be involved in a non-sponsored student organization, but they can punish them for associating with one for the university’s liability reasons: if they try to reserve space on university property, using university funds, posting their sponsored events on campus property, using Temple’s name in any of their publications, or displaying letters on university property.
- Also discussed: how we own our own home, so we can easily display our letters on our house, how our national is a huge backer of our chapter and that they will continue to support us even if the university doesn’t.
- Our headquarters involvement in this process was another topic of discussion. How past leadership in Connecticut was not very responsive to the university. They have a much greater respect to the way things have been going since Gary has taken over the Executive Director position.
- A piece of that discussion was the verbatim of that word “dissolved” again and how national was well informed of what “dissolved” truly means. The university feels that National failed in either just not caring or not properly disseminating the right information to the Temple leadership.

- It was brought up that an effort to work on making this relationship with the university happen is much better than us operating as an underground fraternity.

Dr. Carry had to leave for another meeting, so there was never an official word on his decision with our organization. Before he left, the discussion was based around outlining some requirements for us to meet as an organization before we can even attempt to turn in the proper recognition paperwork.

### **Meeting adjourned**

### **Observations**

I have emailed the group to thank them for their time and to request what the Dean's decision is for the future of Pi Lambda Phi from the university's standpoint.

This was great open dialogue and a great learning experience for me. They certainly appreciate that there is a sincere effort, but hold their reservations to move on anything too quickly with our thick history of problems. I will be quick to inform you of any word I receive from the administration about Pi Lambda Phi.

Chris Hopkins  
*Faculty Advisor, PA Alpha Delta Alumni Association*  
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