



29 October 2014

Ms. D'Laney Thelke
Chairwoman, WGC Judicial Committee

Dear Ms Thelke:

As the investigating conduct officer for the University, I am writing to formally request a hearing before the judicial committee of the Women's Greek Council of the University of Wisconsin-Platteville.

The charges that the Dean of Students Office wishes to bring against the leadership and membership of the Zeta Beta Chi sorority, a local social sorority and registered student organization at UW-Platteville, are conduct standard violations by this group during the pledge process of Spring 2013. The offenses involve multiple violations of the University of Wisconsin - Platteville Greek Life Policies & Procedures, specifically the following:

IV. Risk Management, C. Hazing Awareness Management:

2. c. Hazing is defined as any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment, or ridicule. Such activities may include but are not limited to the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form, creation of excessive fatigue; physical and psychologist shocks; quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the Chapter house; wearing public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games or activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with academic achievement, fraternal law, ritual or policy or regulations and policies of UWP, or applicable state law.

These charges are also supported by Wisconsin State Statute (948.51):

1. In this section "forced activity," means any activity, which is a condition of initiation or admission into or affiliation with an organization, regardless of a student's willingness to participate in the activity.
2. No person may intentionally or recklessly engage in acts which endanger the physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with any organization operating in connection with a school, college or university. Under those circumstances, prohibited acts may include any brutality of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, forced consumption of any food, liquor, drug or other substance, forced confinement or any other forced activity which endangers the physical health or safety of the student.

Specifically, it is alleged that during the Spring 2013 semester, pledges were subject to the following:

1. Activities not consistent with academic achievement:
 - a. Meeting very late at night or very early in the morning



2. Creation of excessive fatigue:
 - a. Meeting very late at night or very early in the morning
3. Mental or physical discomfort:
 - a. Interrogation for two hours (included crying)
 - b. Being blindfolded for long amounts of time and not being able to talk
 - c. Being blindfolded and asked to drink an unknown liquid
 - d. “Reviews” at the end of I-Week in which members wrote in pledge’s book the reasons they believed pledges would fail or why they weren’t liked
 - e. Took phones away from pledges, not allowing use of social media and only 10 minutes/day to contact friends and family
 - f. Told they could not wear makeup, use hair products, hair tools, or hair accessories
4. Morally degrading or humiliating game and activities:
 - a. Being made to drink alcohol
 - b. Being made to have sex with men in a specific fraternity
5. Scavenger Hunts/Quests
 - a. Being made to search for a brick and/or zebra in house. The brick did not exist.

I am respectfully requesting a formal hearing on this matter. It is my understanding that a hearing has been scheduled for Wednesday, November 12 at 4:30pm. I will represent the University of Wisconsin – Platteville in presenting the case against the Zeta Beta Chi sorority.

My understanding of the WGC Judicial Committee protocols includes the provision you notify the President of Zeta Beta Chi in writing of the hearing date, at least one week prior to the hearing date.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please let me know if you need any further information from me at this time to begin the disciplinary process. Extensive documentation in support of the conduct charges will be presented at the scheduled hearing.

Sincerely,

Kate Demerse
Assistant Dean of Students

Electronic copies to:

Dr. Laura Bayless, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
Ms. Sherry Nevins, Dean of Students
Ms. Valerie Wetzel, Assistant Director, Pioneer Involvement Center
Ms. Sabina Burton, Advisor to Zeta Beta Chi
Dr. Melissa Gormley, Advisor to Zeta Beta Chi