



University of Pittsburgh

Division of Student Affairs

738 William Pitt Union
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260
412-648-1006

February 1, 2018

Dear Students:

The University of Pittsburgh Police has concluded its investigation into a Jan. 18, 2018 incident that resulted in the hospitalization of a student due to alcohol consumption. I am writing today to make you aware of the investigation's findings and our University community's continued response.

Pitt Police report that the student, who has since recovered from the incident, was attending off-campus activities hosted by the Sigma Chi fraternity during recruitment week. The police investigation found no evidence of criminal hazing and determined that the underage student voluntarily drank to excess on the evening of Jan. 18 before being assisted and transported to the hospital by concerned students. Absent new information, Pitt Police do not intend to press criminal charges against any individual or organization involved.

With the police investigation complete, the University's Offices of Student Conduct and Fraternity and Sorority Life will now review the incident and address any fraternity and sorority life or conduct policy violations in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct, as appropriate. Sigma Chi fraternity will remain on interim suspension during this process.

After learning of the incident on Jan. 18, I asked our fraternity and sorority student leaders to generate an action plan that reaffirms their community's commitment to the values of fraternal organizations and helps to ensure that fraternity and sorority life on our campus is an enriching and safe experience for all involved. These student leaders are also identifying areas of growth, partnerships, policy implementation and educational programs to create a culture change and enhance their organizations.

I will be meeting with these student leaders later this week, and we will continue working on their proposed action plan. Until meaningful progress is made on the plan, all Pitt fraternities and sororities will remain under modified interim social probation.

As Pitt Panthers, we have pledged to be responsible as individuals and also to each other. While this incident is associated with one of our fraternities, alcohol emergencies can involve anyone in our community. I am thankful for the students who intervened to seek medical attention for their classmate in need. I also believe that this incident serves as an important call to action: Together, let's recommit to practicing vigilance and demonstrating care and compassion for all. After all, the strength of our community lies in our commitment to one another. Please be safe.

Sincerely,

Dean Bonner