



Chapter GPA and Alcohol Free Housing

Hopefully the start of the spring semester finds each chapter proud of their academic performance for the past fall. As you may know, the Fraternity has certain expectations regarding scholastic performance.

Sigma Nu's [Risk Reduction Policy & Guidelines](#) contains provisions concerning chapter GPA and Alcohol Free Housing (Section III – S, T, and U). To summarize, if your chapter falls below the all-men's GPA, then the chapter house is to be alcohol-free. If the chapter achieves a GPA above the all-IFC and below the all-men's average, the chapter is permitted one event with alcohol at the chapter house.

This policy was passed by Grand Chapter to promote a distraction-free living environment for those chapters that need to improve academically. These sanctions take effect immediately upon the release of your institution's grade report. If at any time your chapter meets these standards, simply notify the General Fraternity to return to good standing.

Trademark and License Policy

Did you know several years ago the High Council adopted a *Trademark and License Policy*? If not, then let's discuss what that policy is and why it was created.

The *Trademark and License Policy* outlines the appropriate ways to publicly use the Fraternity's insignia and name. It should be noted that the name "Sigma Nu" and "ΣΝ" are registered trademarks, meaning inappropriate use can result in legal action.

Unfortunately, the Legion of Honor's image has been tarnished over the years by inappropriate t-shirts, YouTube videos, Facebook photos, etc. Does a picture of a Sigma Nu beer pong table really align with our values of Love, Honor and Truth? Or does it promote binge drinking, which creates the most negative publicity for the Fraternity? Most concerning is a majority of these inappropriate displays of the Fraternity's name and insignia come directly from our members.

Let's all be mindful of the image we portray for the Fraternity. Before putting up a Sigma Nu-related post, video or photo, ask yourself, "Does this align with our values and principles?" Also, make sure you check out the [Trademark and License Policy](#) to ensure you understand what is and is not permitted in terms of using the Fraternity's name and insignia.

Bystander Behavior – Why Aren't You Intervening?

Most chapter misconduct issues can be resolved at the local level if only a few chapter members would step up and do the right thing. The irony is, in most cases, the majority of chapter members feel the inappropriate behavior or activity should be stopped, but fail to do anything about it. This is typical bystander behavior.

Bystander behavior occurs when someone witnesses a problematic behavior or activity and does nothing to address it. While some may argue there is no excuse for not doing the right thing, psychologists have found that common barriers exist which prevent intervention. (continued on page 2)

Best Practices Library

“*There is no honor in mediocrity.*” These words were spoken to hundreds of Sigma Nu members at the 64th Grand Chapter in Boston by Regent Robert Durham. Regent Durham elaborated on this theme of the biennium, saying that if Sigma Nu Fraternity was built upon the principle of honor, then we all have an *Obligation to Excellence*.

Everyday, the General Fraternity works to provide innovative and relevant resources to assist chapters in achieving excellence in all its forms. And with this continued commitment to our organization’s vision - *Excelling with Honor* – the General Fraternity has been working diligently to help chapters come ever closer to our ideal state. Since Grand Chapter, we have brought you new resources, such as the [Social Planning Guide](#) and [We Have A Situation](#). We have overhauled existing resources, updating all Officer Manuals and revamping the online experience of LEAD. We have even taken all the resources ever developed for officers and compiled them on the [Officer Resources Page](#), where any officer can easily access everything he may need.

Despite compiling these resources in one convenient location, members continued to ask us a particular question. Put simply, that question was, “What do other great chapters do?” Finally, the General Fraternity is proud to announce the completion of the [Best Practices Library](#) – a new resource that provides members with best practices gathered systematically from the very best chapters across the country.

These best practices were identified through the work of [Task Force Hopkins](#), an ad hoc committee of respected alumni volunteers appointed by the Fraternity’s High Council (board of directors), and Fraternity staff. If you want to know what the best Sigma Nu chapters do to achieve and maintain excellence, the Best Practices Library is where you find out. This marks a great achievement in providing a resource that bridges the gap between our chapters, enabling them to learn from each other on a more consistent basis.

Regent Durham said it well: “We want to study the Fraternity’s very best chapters, the ones that excel in most or all areas of operations, and learn from them the practices that make them excellent. We want to then share those practices with all other chapters. The work of the Task Force will create an even more specific roadmap to excellence.”

View the Best Practices Library [here](#).

Barriers to Intervention *(continued from page 1)*

Dr. Alan Berkowitz, the psychologist behind the groundbreaking “ResponseAbility: Transforming Values Into Action” video, has identified five barriers to bystander intervention:

1. Social influence
2. Fear of embarrassment
3. Diffusion of responsibility
4. Fear of retaliation
5. Pluralistic ignorance

To learn more about these barriers and ways to promote bystander intervention, check out the [“ResponseAbility” video](#). This video was developed by Beck and Company, which was founded by Brother Mike Dilbeck (Lambda Epsilon). Your chapter’s leadership consultant can also facilitate a workshop on bystander behavior during your next consultation.