

# Pi Kappa Alpha



## Conduct violation

Pi Kappa Alpha hosts an event over capacity limits.



Aug. 28  
2020

## Tip received

Initial tip about Pike party submitted to UK via incident form.



Sept. 8  
2020

## Conduct office involved

UK's Office of Student Conduct sends first email about conduct investigation to Pike.



Sept. 11  
2020

## Pike report

Pike's president submits a requested event summary to the OSC.



Sept. 21  
2020

## Conduct hearing

OSC interviews Pike members in a conduct hearing.



Sept. 23  
2020

## Informal meeting

OSC and Pike meet to explain the charges Pike received and make a restorative action plan.



Sept. 21  
2021

## Probation ends

Pike's probationary period ends, provided they fulfill all restorative actions.

## Pi Kappa Alpha

Pi Kappa Alpha, known as Pike, was on disciplinary probation but has now been restored to full status as a student organization. Pike was charged with two violations of the student Code of Conduct: misuse of alcohol and failure to follow UK's Covid-19 guidelines.

Pike was initially reported to the university on Aug. 28, 2020, 11 days after the start of classes. A tip submitted to UK's incident reporting form stated that an off-campus party was being held and alcohol was potentially being provided to new members of Pike.

The initial tip named a specific member of Pi Kappa Alpha, who in turn notified the chapter president that he was being investigated. Case notes later showed that about 20 people attended the gathering, double the capacity limit.

The Office of Student Conduct's first communication to Pi Kappa Alpha about the alleged incident was on Sept. 8 and stated that members of the fraternity, including the recruitment chair, asked the residents of the off-campus location on Grosvenor to host a party "to meet potential new members."

According to the chapter president, Pi Kappa Alpha requested that members “at minimum” keep a guest list of any gatherings at their own residences in case “we get accused by other people of being negligent or that someone tests positive for COVID-19.”

The email from the OSC says that 15 to 20 people attended the BYOB party, sans masks, with both fraternity brothers and potential new members consuming alcohol.

“A predetermined guest list was used in order to know who was present in case someone tested positive for Covid-19,” the email said, and the hosts had a driver to take students from residence halls to the off campus site.

As requested by the Office of Student Conduct, Pike’s chapter president wrote an event summary of the reported party.

“I was COVID positive at the time of this event and was in quarantine and did not have knowledge of this event before it happened until around 11:30 that night,” the summary said.

The chapter president follows up by saying Pi Kappa Alpha worked diligently “since day zero” to adhere to COVID-19 protocols, including redoing the rush schedule more than 10 times and telling fraternity brothers “they can also expect that there would be absolutely no social events of any sorts and that they need to follow state guidelines for all events.”

The event on Aug. 28 began with chapter members asking the resident of the Grosvenor address if they could come over and invite some rushing students so they could “enjoy time off of school.”

At the same time, the COVID-positive chapter president was on a Zoom call with chapter members and rushes. The president was notified of the event at 11:05 p.m., when a brother texted him about picking up rush shirts to take over.

“Upon arrival, [redacted] realized that the event was over the 10-person capacity limit by about 5 people and immediately called me,” the event summary said. Chapter members agreed the event needed to be shut down and called sober members to pick up the active brothers and potential new members.

The host then said he would not agree to having people over again to avoid a risk like that. According to the chapter president, he then opened an internal investigation into Pi Kappa Alpha to see if members were being negligent. This J-Board investigation concluded that because the event was not intended to break capacity limits, and because the capacity was broken for only about 45 minutes, the chapter was not at fault.

“Our brothers invited a few of the PNMs (potential new members) over to hangout and the PNMs brought their friends which is what ultimately led to things getting out of control,” the

event summary said. The chapter president also emphasized the difficulty Pike's executive board faced in planning rush events that semester.

"I both have been vocal in not only IFC meetings but also in the IFC group chats to encourage other chapters to quit hosting events because it is not fair to the chapters who are working 10x harder to follow the rules," the chapter president said in his summary.

Cases notes from the Office of Student Conduct obtained via an open records request show that Pike's officers were aware of the gathering.

"The chapter's recruitment chair had been aware of the gathering and had stopped by to drop off ping pong balls," the case notes state.

A conduct hearing was held on Sept. 21, 2020 to evaluate whether Pike was responsible for the violations. An email sent to Pike following the hearing confirmed that individuals brought alcohol to the event, which was not registered as BYOB with the office of Fraternity & Sorority Life.

When asked why the fraternity did not register the event as BYOB, fraternity representatives said they did not think it would "rise to the level of something that needed to be registered."

The chapter president stated he wanted to clear the name of the chapter "...but also provide closure to [redacted] who generously was trying to help the chapter out and has unfortunately been the scapegoat for an event that was genuinely not his fault, and was taken care of internally and has not happened since."

Pike's conduct investigation concluded with the Office of Student Conduct setting six standards the fraternity must meet as part of its restorative action plan, including an event safety plan.

"When you form a friendship with people, the natural reaction you have is to want to hang out with them and be able to do things that college students do, no matter how dumb that might be in the midst of a global pandemic," the chapter president's summary said.

Pi Kappa Alpha's probation ended on Sept. 21, 2021. The fraternity has not responded to the Kernel's request for comment.