

Delta Sigma Phi



Off-campus 'darty' held

Delta Sig members host a party with 'dozens' of attendees.



First tips received

Three separate tipsters submit reports of party to university, including pictures.



Fourth tip

A fourth tip about Delta Sig's partying is sent to UK.



Conduct office involved

UK's Office of Student Conduct follows up on tips by emailing Delta Sig.



Delta Sig report

As requested by the OSC, Delta Sig's president submits a report of the Sept. 19 party.



Conduct hearing

OSC holds a hearing with Delta Sig members to investigate the conduct violations.



Case outcome

In an email, UK's OSC finds Delta Sig responsible for two violations of the Code of Student Conduct.



Probation ends

Provided they meet all restorative action items, Delta Sigma Phi's probation ends.

Delta Sigma Phi

Multiple tipsters reported Delta Sigma Phi to the university following an off-campus 'darty' or day party on Sept. 19, 2020. All of the tipsters were concerned with how potential spread of COVID-19 from the party would reverberate through campus.

"It was significantly over the COVID Guidelines and they hung a banner making fun of COVID," said a tip reported through UK's incident reporting form. The tipster attached a picture of the banner, which read 'Darty SZN', that also showed alcoholic containers.

A second tip said students were partying at an unidentified Greek house off campus and vehemently decried the fraternity.

"The university needs to answer for this. The students in this photo have a blatant disregard for COVID precautions (made obvious by the sign hanging in the background) and therefore are putting the campus community and Lexington as a whole at risk. There are easily 30+ people in this photo, and I'm sure far more at the same party, none of whom appear to be wearing masks," the tip read.

Two more reports were submitted on Sept. 21, one via the incident reporting form and one emailed to UK president Eli Capilouto.

“Delta Sigma Phi hosted an outdoor day party with dozens of students, none of which were wearing masks or being socially distanced. This not only puts the attendees of the party at risk, but it also puts any person that those have come in contact with at risk as well,” one report said.

“Our numbers are only low because UK is not retesting, and this is putting every student at risk when they have classes they are required to go to on campus, like me who has [redacted] could die from COVID,” said the student who emailed Capilouto. The student also claimed this was the third party they saw on the redacted individual’s Snapchat in the last two weeks.

The Office of Student Conduct first reached out to Delta Sigma Phi on Sept. 22, the Tuesday following the alleged party, requesting a summary of the event in question.

“I am going to use total honesty to ensure that this is resolved as quickly as possible. I figured the best way to give you the true story of what happened that day was to give you the timeline of events,” the chapter president said in his summary.

According to the president’s timeline, Delta Sigma Phi began the social gathering on Friday, Sept. 18, when four members decided to have “no more than 10” people over for a “day drink.” Those members invited their neighbors, also members of Delta Sigma Phi, but no executive members were invited.

The “Darty SZN” banner was made by a member’s girlfriend and hung on Saturday morning, when the members started hanging out in their backyard around 11:30 a.m.

“At about noon, one of the members invites his friend (who is not associated with greek (sic) life). Our member specifically requests his “friend” to not bring anyone,” the event summary said. Within 30 minutes, “unassociated and uninvited” people were showing up to the house.

An invited person showed up just before 1 p.m. and told a fraternity member that that he told one of his friends about the “day drink” and sent him the address. The address was then sent into a Groupme with unassociated members and labeled as ‘Come one, come all.’”

The chapter president said at that point he was called and the residents of the house began telling people to leave. He also called Delta Sig’s vice president, who said he would go over and “help get it under control.” When the vice president arrived at the location around 1:30 p.m., he found only the house residents, according to the event summary.

Based on the event summary, the Office of Student Conduct pursued two violations and scheduled a conduct hearing for October 5. The hearing was later pushed to Oct.14 and Delta

Sigma Phi found responsible for both charges.

The OSC found the charges attributable to Delta Sigma Phi because non-members learned about the party through members and communications connected with the fraternity or “otherwise formed a reasonable belief that the conduct or activity was affiliated with or endorsed by the RSO,” according to an email sent to Delta Sigma Phi four days after the hearing.

Delta Sig was also responsible because the residence belonged to Delta Sig members. The OSC acknowledged that the event was intended to be smaller, but “was shared with non-members of the organization who began arriving and contributed to the event growing larger than intended.”

Delta Sig faced two violations for threat of harm and failure to follow COVID-19 safety protocols. Threat of harm applies to any behavior that injures or could reasonably be expected to injure another person.

“In the picture attached to the incident reports, alcoholic containers can be seen being held by individuals in attendance. The picture also shows that individuals in attendance are not wearing face coverings and are not physically distant. The number of individuals in the picture exceeds the number permitted for social gatherings,” states the Sept. 25 emails sent to the fraternity.

Former fraternity council president and Delta Sigma Phi member Parker Tussey told the Kernel the university did not provide enough guidance for fraternities to hold gatherings.

“The actions of few of my organization ended up being the downfall of the total, the totality of the organization, and having bad apples sometimes it hurts, but you can't let that get to every single apple,” Tussey said in an interview for a student government campaign.

According to Clement-Montgomery, both she, Turner and an FSL staff person met with each chapter to discuss “what compliance looked like and what we expected from them.” The fraternities that did not comply were in the minority, Clement-Montgomery said.

In his summary, the chapter president acknowledged that he did not report the event to university offices or provide enough guidance to Delta Sigma Phi.

“The event never got out of hand and I believe it was handled appropriately so I never contacted FSL or Student Conduct. Looking back, that was a mistake. I should have reported the event to both. I should have taken more action and given more education to our members.”

Delta Sigma Phi is one of two fraternities to have their status as an organization revoked due to violations of COVID-19 guidelines. The fraternity's revocation lasts until May 6, 2022.