



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Mark E. Timmes
Chief Executive Officer
(ph.) 704-907-8586
(fax) 704-504-0880
mtimmes@pikapp.org

Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity responds to unsubstantiated and anonymous allegations against its Lambda chapter at the University of Georgia

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— An investigation was launched by Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity and University of Georgia officials after an anonymous letter was sent to school officials, purportedly from the parent of a recently initiated member of the chapter. The letter makes unsubstantiated allegations against the fraternity for gross hazing violations.

Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity has issued an interim suspension of all activities at its Lambda Chapter at the University of Georgia pending final disciplinary resolution.

“The authenticity of this letter is highly suspect and appears to be a fabrication or hoax designed to instigate a furor along the lines of the Duke Lacrosse scandal of 2006,” said Mark E. Timmes, Chief Executive Officer of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity. “After a thorough investigation interviewing new members from the class in question, brothers, officers and parents, it appears the allegations are unsubstantiated and we do not believe them to be true.”

Because the fraternity takes any and all allegations seriously, it launched its own investigation, and in the course of that investigation, it determined other violations of fraternity policy had occurred. Those have been addressed with the university under its discipline process. The action taken is not due to the unsubstantiated allegations in the anonymous letter, and to the fraternity’s knowledge, no student needed medical attention as a result of this behavior.

“Hazing of any kind, even minor incidents is unacceptable and is not representative of the values and leadership principles of Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity,” said Timmes. “Such conduct is counter to Pi Kappa Phi’s commitment to leadership development among its members.”

Through Pi Kappa Phi’s discipline process the fraternity will determine appropriate sanctions for the chapter and individuals actually involved in the behavior. These sanctions may include educational programming, suspension or closure of the chapter and does not exclude expulsion of individuals.

The fraternity is cooperating fully with the university in their discipline process. “We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the university on a fair and reasonable outcome as Pi Kappa Phi recognizes its shared role in the higher education mission,” said Timmes.

The Lambda chapter of Pi Kappa Phi was founded on January 16, 1915, at the University of Georgia and has initiated more than 1,700 members over its history. There are currently nearly 100 members in the student chapter.

Pi Kappa Phi’s commitment to leadership dates back to its founding on December 10, 1904, at the College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C., where our founders exemplified leadership in the classroom, on the athletic field, in campus politics and within the community. Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity was founded on the premise of campus leadership—by men who made the choice to lead. Today, on more than 150 campuses across America, Pi Kappa Phi has broadened its commitment to building men who are leaders by choice.

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