



Dear Zeta Rho Brothers:

Grand Praetor Sam McClure (Justin Teeuwen resigned due to a career change) appointed me chapter advisor for Zeta Rho Chapter of the Sigma Chi International Fraternity. My goal is for Zeta Rho to restore the luster of the White Cross by becoming a Peterson Award Chapter.

As a founding brother of Zeta Rho, I witnessed and participated in the solutions to numerous challenges that threatened the existence of Zeta Rho. The chapter suspension and the COVID-19 virus are the latest challenges that threaten the existence of Zeta Rho.

CHAPTER SUSPENSION

The suspension of Zeta Rho was a “wake-up” call that something was wrong. Sigma Chi International Fraternity has developed specific policies and procedures relating to the suspension and possible expulsion of its chapters that must be followed. The conditions set down by CMU to be restored to being an on-campus organization must also be followed.

As chapter advisor, I will:

- Communicate the conditions of the chapter suspension (Sigma Chi and CMU) to the Zeta Rho executive board.
- Not interfere with the decision of the e-board as long as those decisions are not immoral, illegal, or violate the policies, Ritualistic statutes, and constitution of Sigma Chi International Fraternity.
- Keep the Zeta Rho alumni apprised of the stages of the Zeta Rho suspension as appropriate.
- Hold monthly Chapter Advisory Committee meetings (second Thursday of the month, 7:30 pm (EST))

As Zeta Rho alumni:

- If you are assigned to a chapter officer, advise him – do not tell him how to do his job. Being a chapter officer is a learning experience. Do not tell him, “When I was....., we...”
- No one learned to drive a car by watching someone else.
- If you have questions about the chapter and/or the Fraternity, contact the chapter advisor. This prevents the spread of rumors.
- If you do not understand or agree with a decision or policy of the Fraternity, contact/vent with the chapter advisor not with the undergraduates.
- The pledge program Preparation for Brotherhood (P4B) is five weeks long. Prior to The Ritual is the Ritual Bridge. After initiation there is a four-week (one meeting per week) Ritual for Life (R4L). As a result, the new initiates have a better understanding of the meaning of The Ritual and its implications for life not just their college years.
- Appreciate the changes from the time you were an undergraduate until today. When I was at CMU, we used a pencil and a slide rule to solve chemistry problems, today they use computers.

COVID-19 VIRUS

Like the colleges and universities, the Fraternity did not have any prior experience dealing with this type of virus. To adapt to COVID-19, the Fraternity has made the following provisions:

- Following all university, local community, state, and federal guidelines in preventing the spread of the virus.
- Virtual chapter meetings
- Virtual chapter reviews (piloting)
- Questions about the Fraternity’s COVID-19 policies go to sigmachi.org or contact me.

ZETA RHO CHAPTER CONCLUSION

- Zeta Rho’s strength has been the diversity of its brothers. We do not look alike, dress alike, think alike, or act alike.
- This factor has produced some “lively” discussions, but the bonds of brotherhood have always prevailed.
- Review the history of Zeta Rho Chapter of Sigma Chi (Parets). Send me a text and I will send you a copy.
- Review the history, values, and teaching of the Fraternity in The Norman Shield.
- Participate in R4L to re-new and re-fresh your understanding of The Ritual.
- Only when we encompass The Ritual and The Charge do we understand what it means to be a Sigma Chi and how it guides us throughout our life not just our college years.

To paraphrase John Graham, Q.C., 46th Grand Consul and installing officer of Zeta Rho as the Zeta Rho chapter advisor: “I will do what is right, not be one of the good old boys.” “Because something has been done for 15-20 years doesn’t make it right.”

With your help and guidance, Zeta Rho will again become the pre-eminent Greek organization at CMU.

It’s great to be a Zeta Rho Sig!

IH, Tom

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