Dear campus community,

As you likely know based on communication from the University, some survivors have bravely come forward sharing they have experienced harm from some members of the fraternity and sorority community. We, in the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (FSL) at the University of Utah, alongside many members of the fraternity and sorority community, are saddened, disturbed, and frustrated that these acts have happened in the community. The goal and purpose of fraternal organizations is to provide a place for folx to come together under similar values and strive to be a better version of themselves through their academic achievement, leadership development, campus and community involvement and civic engagement. Unfortunately, some members’ behaviors have countered these values, causing harm to members of the Greek, and campus community. This is not acceptable.

To the victims and survivors that have been harmed by members of the community, please know that we believe you and that we stand with you. Thank you for your courage to come forward. We recognize that for some of you, we may have broken your trust and we’re dedicated to building that trust back and contributing to the solution.

We, FSL and the fraternity and sorority community, acknowledge that we can do better, and learning is part of the process. Making statements is a start, but there must be some action that comes with those statements. We have spent significant time over the past several weeks having intentional conversations with fraternity and sorority leaders, advisors, and stakeholders that were challenging, honest and hard. These conversations must, and will, continue. We did this because, as a collective, we must be better leaders, scholars, and members of not only the Greek community, but the campus and surrounding community, as well.

Moving forward, we plan to adjust and revisit our educational and developmental programming with campus partners throughout the remainder of this semester to make it more intentional and meaningful for fraternity and sorority members. We plan to continue, and build upon, our programming with campus partners, such as the McCluskey Center for Violence Prevention (MCVP), the Center for Student Wellness (CSW), the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action (OEO) and Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS). Through these ongoing partnerships, we aim to further the learning of community members, in understanding our roles in being the leaders, citizens, and people we vowed to be when we said yes to joining our organizations. We are not only addressing this matter from a preventative, educational lens. We are also working with the community and the University on what accountability plans and
measures look like regarding future reports. In addition, we have met with select student leaders outside of the fraternity and sorority community to better understand the perception of the community and the concerns that have been raised. We recognize our plan moving forward must be a holistic approach of understanding community norms and concerns to more effectively center violence prevention as well as address risk management practices, physical, emotional, and mental wellbeing, leadership competencies and relationship dynamics. A detailed version of the FSL Community Action Plan can be found by scrolling left.

As we look to the future, these conversations and education must not, and will not end this semester. We are committed to continuing this education for new members as they join the community, as well as frequent, ongoing education for active members, community leaders and advisors. Acts of sexual violence have no place in fraternity and sorority life at the University of Utah. We are committed to doing our part to create and maintain safe spaces for all who engage.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Cooley
Alpha Chi Omega

Cara Chambers
Alpha Phi

TX Harris
Alpha Tau Omega

Henry Nibley
Beta Theta Pi

Kate Adams
Chi Omega

Alex Jones
Delta Gamma

Ian Neville
Delta Sigma Phi

Cheyenne Aganinta
Kappa Delta Chi Sorority, Inc.

Amanda Hackworth
Kappa Kappa Gamma

James Kratz
Kappa Sigma

Langston Lounsbury
Omega Delta Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Ethan Dinunzio
Phi Delta Theta

Eugene Villarreal
Phi Kappa Psi

Julia Hayes
Pi Beta Phi

Paden Hesse
Pi Kappa Alpha

Jaxton Driggs
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Harrison Payne
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Matthew Phister
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