



February 12, 2007

Dear Members of Fraternities and Sororities,

Fraternities and sororities have been an integral part of campus life at The Florida State University since 1904. These organizations exist on founding principles that foster friendship, scholarship, leadership, and service. Being a member of a fraternity or sorority is one of the most meaningful experiences that enhance your educational, personal, intellectual, and social development. Members of the Greek community are expected to learn, value, and integrate the activities and rituals that are unique to their organizations into their lives. As a new member or initiated member, you may feel both personal and social pressure to earn or prove your membership, which may result in participating in or agreeing to perform actions that would be considered hazing.

In light of recent alleged incidents involving chapters of our Greek community, we want to reiterate the expectation that hazing will not be tolerated within our Greek community. Hazing is illegal and not congruent with Greek values or the Seminole Creed. The Student Conduct Code defines hazing as "any group or individual action or activity that inflicts or intends to inflict physical or mental harm or discomfort or which may demean, disgrace, or degrade any person, regardless of location, intent, or consent of participant(s)" (*see Section 5, (d) of the Student Conduct Code for the definition*).

When a chapter allows hazing to be perpetuated, it undermines the ideals of the Greek community. In addition, individuals and organizations are affected in ways that are detrimental to their success at Florida State University. Many Greek members have worked very hard to keep hazing out of their chapters and we applaud you for these efforts, but we need to work as a community to abolish hazing from every chapter.

We are committed to working with you to attract more Florida State students to the Greek community, to develop a plan to eliminate hazing, and to promote responsible behavior throughout our University community. If you need resources related to your involvement as a member of the Greek community, please feel free to contact the Office of Greek Life staff by visiting our office located in A4300 of the University Center, visit our website at [greeklife.fsu.edu](http://greeklife.fsu.edu), or e-mail us at [greeklife@fsu.edu](mailto:greeklife@fsu.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary B. Coburn".

Mary B. Coburn  
Vice President for Student Affairs

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Courtney Barry".

Courtney Barry  
Assistant Dean of Students & Director of Greek Life