9/23/2015

My Brothers,

It has been 75 years since the NC Zeta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon was originally chartered and today I’m pleased to share with you that the chapter is not only still in existence but it is on the road to being stronger now than it has ever been in many years; gaining momentum each and every day. For those alumni who have not followed what has occurred over the past several years, let me briefly get you up to date.

Since we re-colonized in 2008, the fraternity has been active on campus but has not always been motivated to achieve charter status. About two years ago the National Board of Directors set a deadline of this past December to submit a chartering petition for review. Despite some herculean efforts in the 8 months prior to the deadline, the chapter was determined by the Board to still not be at a chartering level. In January, the National Board of Directors rejected the chartering petition submitted by the chapter and decided to discontinue the colony. This decision resulted in the email Wake Forest University sent out announcing the closure of the chapter that you may have received. The chapter President and another member of the Executive Board were not about to give up the fight and so they appealed the decision to the National Board and were allowed to make a presentation to them in March. After careful consideration the National Board thankfully granted a one year extension of the colony conditioned on a proper membership review of the undergraduate members. This review was conducted this past August and the chapter active membership reduced to about 20 members. The executive board was shifted around slightly and a dedicated Regional Director who only manages a handful of chapters seeking chartering compared to regular RD’s was assigned. Since the review, the guys have dug down deep and chapter operations have really taken off in a positive direction and are growing stronger every day.

A chapter can only be as strong in the long run as it’s volunteers and mentors and this is now the area of focus we need address so that the chapter can have not only a successful chartering petition but have a foundation for another 75 years of excellence on the Wake Forest campus. Over the past few years the AVC has consisted of dedicated group of 2-3 WFU SigEp alumni and a couple of volunteers from other chapters. We recognize this is simply not adequate and we need help.

Today’s AVC has many responsibilities including:

- Providing continuity by maintaining a long-term perspective. Today’s AVCs must focus on the mentoring of undergraduates, the cultivating of alumni volunteers, managing assets, and maintaining corporate health to ensure long-term viability of the chapter.

- The volunteers on the AVC are responsible for advising and counseling the undergraduate leaders of the chapter. Effective mentors will help to shape the direction of the chapter in recruitment, member development, leadership development and fiscal health.

- The AVC maintains a dialogue with chapter alumni. Strong, alumni-focused communications, combined with annual alumni events, help build a lasting affinity for Sigma Phi Epsilon. The AVC also has regular communication with parents, university officials, local SigEp alumni and community leaders. Quarterly meetings with the Greek life office help ensure that the chapter can utilize university resources to reach its goals. By developing and engaging a network of support, the AVC can recruit
new volunteers and donors to better support the chapter.

- The AVC is entrusted with the protection and growth of the chapter’s assets. Each chapter has a scholarship fund with the SigEp Educational Foundation, through which tax deductible donations may be made. AVCs that own or manage real estate should also have a plan for both regular operations and capital improvements.

- Finally, the AVC is responsible for maintaining the health of the corporation. As an independent, non-profit corporation, there are regular and annual responsibilities to the members of the corporation, the state and the IRS.

I can say honestly that the present AVC has not been able to meet all of the needs of the chapter. So that is why we are asking for each of you to consider becoming a member of the AVC or volunteer in some way. This chapter needs your assistance and I appeal to this Brotherhood of SigEp's that we can come together and remember what enticed you to join SigEp to begin with. I know that my experience in SigEp will always be a part of my college life that was important in the molding of who I am today and the friendships that I still have. This chapter now has many of the ingredients it needs for a successful chartering campaign and it is now time to ensure the foundation exists for long-term growth and prosperity. In the upcoming inaugural newsletter, the SigEp Deacon, you will find more information about AVC operations and the many opportunities, both large and small, that exist for you to get involved and become a part of the relaunch of our chapter. The chapter needs all of us right now. I have no doubt we can succeed, not only in chartering, but I believe, together, we can redefine what a fraternity can be and accomplish at Wake Forest University. I look forward to sharing in this journey with you.

Fraternally,

George Newman
President
Alumni and Volunteer Corporation of the NC Zeta Chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon