



WISCONSIN
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

May 17, 2016

Mr. Blaine Ayers
Executive Director
Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity
1856 Sheridan Road
Evanston, IL 60201-3837

Mr. Ayers,

I am writing to follow up on a decision communicated earlier today by the university's Committee on Student Organizations (CSO) to suspend the Sigma Alpha Epsilon "Wisconsin Alpha" chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

I have read the complaint that serves as the basis for this action and I am deeply disappointed in the chapter's failure to address persistent reports of discriminatory behavior, as well as the national body's inability to address discrimination within its chapters. These type of actions are in direct contradiction to the values SAE purports to uphold, as well as our institutional commitment to diversity and inclusion here at UW-Madison.

I understand that your organization attempted to address these issues across all chapters in the wake of the Oklahoma incident, but clearly incidents such as these persist within SAE. It suggests that your efforts to address an intolerant and discriminatory culture have not been effective. The conduct in this situation must not be repeated.

As you may be aware, the CSO is requiring the Wisconsin chapter to take part in additional training on diversity, inclusion, discrimination, mental health, and general health and safety. It is critical that the national organization demonstrate leadership in working with the Wisconsin chapter to ensure that it advances your [vision for diversity and inclusion](#), which calls upon members to recognize the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

To this end, I would like both you and the SAE chapter president to visit with me in Madison before the current suspension is lifted to explain how your organization and the local chapter will prevent a recurrence of these issues and bring about lasting change.

Sincerely,

Rebecca M. Blank
Chancellor

Chancellor Rebecca M. Blank
Morgridge Friends Distinguished Chair of Leadership

Bascom Hall University of Wisconsin-Madison 500 Lincoln Drive Madison, Wisconsin 53706
608-262-8967 Fax: 608-262-8333 TTY 608-263-2473