

## **AU Fraternity Faces Sanctions After Admitting to Hazing**

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Alfred, NY -- Members of Delta Sigma Phi fraternity face disciplinary actions after admitting to hazing pledges this spring. "Alfred University has a zero-tolerance policy for hazing," said President Edward G. Coll, Jr. "We have reaffirmed that policy many times to all our students. We have no option other than to take swift and harsh measures against any group that violates our anti-hazing policy. That kind of behavior will not be tolerated by any group affiliated with this University." Darryl Conte, assistant dean of students, said the University brought charges of hazing against the fraternity after receiving complaints about some of its initiation activities. Summoned before an Alfred University disciplinary hearing panel, the fraternity members admitted to the hazing, including requiring pledges to perform hundreds of pushups on their knuckles; requiring pledges to wear only underwear during some activities in the fraternity house; allowing pledges to consume alcohol on "tapping night"; and verbally abusing the pledges. The chapter leadership openly admitted to the charges. Conte said the University cooperated with the national Delta Sigma Phi organization to determine a series of sanctions to be imposed on the local chapter. First, he said, the University is suspending recognition of the local chapter of Delta Sigma Phi for one full year. "During this period, the organization loses all rights normally afforded to a University-recognized group." The chapter will not be permitted to recruit or initiate any pledges until fall 2001. It also loses its Interfraternity Council (IFC) voting privileges, and the University will not release students from their housing contracts to live in the fraternity house for the duration of the suspension. The national office of Delta Sigma Phi will conduct a reorganization of the local chapter and will remove or expel those members who "are not in alignment with what Delta Sigma Phi values and upholds," said Conte. It is also mandating that all remaining members of the local chapter attend a retreat, to be conducted by a member of the national headquarters staff or its designee, on the purpose and values of Delta Sigma Phi. Furthermore, the national organization has decreed that "The Alfred University chapter of Delta Sigma Phi, in accordance with a National office directive, will now and forever be an alcohol-free living environment. (No alcoholic beverages permitted.)" The chapter has been ordered to "create, in conjunction with national headquarters and Alfred University, a new pledge education process, lasting no longer than four weeks. No new member may affiliate with the chapter until this program has been approved by national headquarters and Alfred University." Delta Sigma Phi's national organization and the University will conduct an evaluation in December to determine the local chapter's progress toward meeting the requirements, Conte said.