

BU sorority suspended in alleged hazing

Sigma Delta Tau hit by decision



Boston University has suspended a sorority for the remainder of 2012 and individually suspended some of its student members this week after investigating a recent hazing in which underage women were allegedly forced or encouraged to drink, even to the point of hospitalization.

"This wasn't just one incident," Kenneth Elmore, dean of students, said in a statement earlier this week. "This type of incident, where some sisters in the organization were made to go to a location to drink excessive amounts of alcohol, appears to have been happening for some time. That went into our thinking, as well. It's absolutely unacceptable that students should be coerced or even made to feel they should do things they would not normally do and that are against their will."

The sorority, Sigma Delta Tau, had been temporarily suspended following the reported hazing two months ago.

On March 3, campus police said an intoxicated woman was taken by ambulance from a home on Ashford Street in Allston. About an hour later, police said, three men were found helping a second drunk woman who needed a medical transport.

BU Police said the women, both of whom were treated and released, were traced to a Sigma Delta Tau hazing at an off-campus residence.

The suspension of the sorority means "the organization effectively does not exist," Elmore said. He met with the sorority Tuesday night, the university said.

During the suspension, the sorority cannot use university space for meetings or events and is banned from using the school's name, campus officials said.

The dean, citing privacy laws, declined to say how many students were individually suspended or to give the length of their suspensions or identities. No criminal punishments are expected, he said.

Hazing is a misdemeanor, according to Massachusetts law. It is punishable by a fine of up to \$3,000 and one year in jail.

The March 3 hazing case also involved Alpha Epsilon Pi, an off-campus fraternity BU does not recognize. Members of the fraternity face a court hearing next week in a separate alleged incident in April, the university said.

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