

Communications with University Administration & Staff

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented challenges to how we conduct our daily lives and business. Most relevant for Phi Gamma Delta, it has forced colleges and universities, students, and fraternities to reinvent how they interact within and with each other daily. For all of us, there are new safety requirements and operational restrictions from both our relevant states and our parent college/university that we must adhere to. As well, for reasons both related and unrelated to the pandemic, fraternities are under more public scrutiny than ever before. However, this year has also created opportunities for newly expanded and increased communications and virtual activities.

With all of this in mind, it is important to not just have open and clear communication with your chapter(s) and graduate volunteers, but it is also beneficial and necessary to maintain strong communication with the faculty and administrative staff of your host institution. Doing so enables you to better understand and apply the new requirements, voice your concerns, and address any violations in a cooperative manner. If you have not done so already, we strongly encourage you reach out to the following individuals to discuss your chapter, its needs, and any unique circumstances impacting them:

- (Assistant) Dean of Students: For many institutions, the situation on campus is fluid and changing daily. Discussing both your chapter's functioning, and overall college/university life, can shed light on changes your chapter may have to make to adapt.
- (Assistant) Director of Greek Life: Greek life will need to adapt to the unique conditions on each campus, or risk being left behind or even closed. Recruitment, social and philanthropic events, and other traditional or new activities will need to be flexible in style and form. In some cases, changes may be occurring right up to the day of the event. The Director of Greek Life is an invaluable contact to communicate with in order stay on top of recent developments as your chapter adapts.
- Faculty/Academic Advisor. This person will be able to give additional insights into how the chapter is doing and will be able to assist in identifying and proactively correcting any issues potentially before they arise, particularly with regards to your members' academic performances.
- Other relevant contacts: The above list is not necessarily all-inclusive. Colleges and universities have varied personnel and differing requirements for student organizations and fraternities. Identifying other representatives who may be able to provide insight and assistance with navigating the current campus environment and your chapter's performance, and continuing that dialogue, will put your chapter in a better position to adapt and succeed.

While traditional face-to-face meetings may be limited, you can often host meetings with Zoom, Facetime, Google Teams, Skype, or whatever virtual, video-enabled medium is available. In particular, having an initial video conference call to introduce yourself and open discussion allows both sides to put a face to a name and allows furthermore open communication than may be accomplished over phone or email.

Fraternally,

Bob Schaich (Bradley 2006)
Section Chief Executive Committee Member